



**THEME:**

Building Positive Relations:  
Regional Level Projects

**FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):**

€1,453,225.86

**MATCH FUNDERS:**

The Executive Office &  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

**LEAD PARTNER:**

Politics Plus

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**

Irish Rural Link and NI  
Council for Voluntary  
Action

**PROJECT CONTACT:**

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**Start Date:** 01/10/2017

**End Date:** 30/06/2020



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## SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

### Project Case Study: The Next Chapter

The Next Chapter is targeting women to develop their ideas, build communities and support the transition out of conflict. It aims to improve the representation of women in public and political life and contribute to a more gender-sensitive society in Northern Ireland and the Border Regions of Ireland.

The project will create a network of people to help support peace and reconciliation, mobilising social change in their own communities and nurturing aspirations on a shared future.

*"Spending time, and connecting with, women from both sides of the border creates a sense of community and commonality between women with a wide range of diverse backgrounds and from all different walks of life, enabling them to build relationships no border can impede."*

Amy Farrell, Louth Chapter Member



Over 100 women joined members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Women's Caucus at Parliament Buildings, Stormont to discuss the importance of women leading on the journey from conflict to community co-operation and delivering positive change on issues like good relations and gender equality.



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#### Next Chapter will deliver:

- Ten Chapters groups set up across the region for networking and capacity-building activities for 300 women;
- Capacity Building Training Programme and Coaching Programme for 200 of these women;
- Holding three public events to improve understanding of gender equality in post-conflict societies;
- Coordinating a series of cross-border peace and reconciliation networking events;
- A Research and Evaluation Report.

*"After spending all my life in NI seeing our problems as either catholic or protestant issues, joining this project, I'm seeing for the first time ever Northern Irelands challenges through a gender lens."*

Next Chapter participant



Next Chapter participants at a Peace & Reconciliation Event held at Dáil Éireann with Deputy Chair of Northern Ireland Assembly Women's Caucus Kelly Armstrong MLA. Amy Farrell is front row, third from the left.

#### Key Outputs:

- Participants Entering in Community, Public and Political Life : 35
- Number of women participating in the Capacity Building Training Programme and Coaching Programme : 200