



**21 August 2018**

**Statement by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust**

**Conflict Resolution Services Ireland (CRSI)**

- **JRCT has no relationship with any armed groups or proscribed organisations**
- **JRCT has worked to end violence in Northern Ireland for more than 40 years. Our Northern Ireland grant committee includes experts from different sections of the community**
- **Our demilitarisation funding is only for those organisations which are committed to tackling the legacy of conflict-related violence and are seeking ways to bring about positive change in their communities**
- **Today's Times reports historic allegations against 4 people associated with CRSI. Three out of four of these allegations relate to periods before the individual concerned became associated with the charity. In the fourth case, the individual's employment with the charity was terminated after his arrest.**
- **Our funding portfolio includes work with groups transitioning from violence in loyalist and republican communities.**

JRCT supports a range of organisations that seek to help deal with the legacy of conflict-related violence in Northern Ireland in order to build a society that is characterised by peace and security for all.

The ongoing peace process in Northern Ireland has required engaging with those previously involved in conflict and now committed to peace, in order to facilitate a transition to purely democratic and peaceful society. Such work has been supported by many funders. To criticise the principle of this work is to criticise the foundations on which the peace process has been built.

CRSI is registered with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission (Charity no. 100220). CRSI works in very difficult circumstances to provide mediation services for those under threat of paramilitary punishment attacks by armed groups. These mediation services are supported by a number of funders, including JRCT.

During a two-year period leading up to their most recent grant, CRSI sought to mediate on behalf of 704 individuals who felt they were under threat of paramilitary violence. CRSI were able to successfully resolve almost all of these cases: protecting lives and reducing harm.

CRSI have also made a significant contribution by their engagement with republicans who are outside of the peace process in efforts to reduce conflict. They have used a variety of peacebuilding methods to work towards this goal.

Notes:

- JRCT has made a total of four grants to CRSI: 2012-2014, 2014-2016, 2016-2018 and 2018-present. The amounts awarded for each grant are as follows: £57,000, £90,920, £120,200 and £120,621. Grants are paid in quarterly instalments and, to date, none of the 2018 grant has been paid.
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust will not be conducting interviews on this issue and will be making no further comment at this time.
- The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust ([www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk)) is an entirely separate organisation from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation ([www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)) and Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust ([www.jrrt.org.uk](http://www.jrrt.org.uk)). To avoid any confusion, any references to this Trust should use our full name.

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