

July 2010

## **JUNIOR MINISTERS LAUNCH CONSULTATION FOR COHESION, SHARING AND INTEGRATION**

Junior Ministers Gerry Kelly and Robin Newton have launched the Programme for Cohesion, Sharing and Integration (CSI) for public consultation today.

During a visit to the North Belfast cross-community project, Common Purpose, Ministers highlighted the urgent need to tackle sectarianism and racism.

Junior Minister Newton said: **“We have all come a long way in the past decade and it is important that we now build on the good work that has already been achieved in shaping a better future for everyone.**

**“We want to build a society where everyone shares in and enjoys the benefits of peace and stability. CSI will address issues impacting on disaffected young people, tackle the conditions that perpetuate urban interfaces and rural segregation as well as addressing those issues facing both established minority ethnic groups and new arrivals within our community.**

**”We look forward to hearing the views of people from right across our society and we would encourage everyone to take the opportunity to either attend a public meeting or to respond in writing. It is important that you have your say on how we can make our society a better place for everyone.”**

Junior Minister Kelly said: **“Events within our community in recent weeks emphasise how important it is for us to work together across Government to support positive change.**

**“CSI will be the catalyst to make a difference to the lives of people and the experiences of communities across our society. We will also provide and expand shared spaces and services and tackle all forms of hate crime and intimidation.**

**“We will work together to build a society where people can live, work and socialise in safe, shared and accessible facilities. We want a future based on sharing, equality, respect and understanding.”**

The public consultation period on the document will run until 29 October 2010.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The public consultation was launched on Tuesday 27th July 2010 and will run until 29 October 2010.

The document is available at: <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index/government-citizens-and-rights/government-1/public-consultations/featured-consultations.htm>

Public meetings will take place at a range of locations throughout September.

Details are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday 01 September	Derry/Londonderry
Monday 06 September	Belfast
Tuesday 07 September	Newry
Thursday 09 September	Cookstown
Monday 13 September	Ballymena
Wednesday 15 September	Enniskillen
Tuesday 21 September	Newtownards
Wednesday 22 September	Portadown

Monday 27 September	Armagh
Wednesday 29 September	Omagh

Written responses to the consultation can be provided using the following contact details

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Or visit our website at:

[www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/equality/community-relations.htm](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/equality/community-relations.htm).

All media enquiries to OFMDFM Press Office on 028 9037 8082. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.