



## CENTRE FOR CROSS BORDER STUDIES

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Dear Sir

The Centre for Cross Border Studies (CCBS) welcomes Jarlath Kearney's suggestion in today's *Irish News* for a joined-up all-island campaign against racism, extending the campaign coordinated by the Immigrant Council of Ireland to include partners north of the border.

We likewise welcome Theresa May's stated support (*Irish News* 16 August) for the continuation of the Peace IV Programme (2014-2020) and her willingness to consider a continuation of the Peace Programme after 2020.

As Jarlath points out, there has already been a spike in reported hate crimes since the 'Brexit' Referendum. The tensions around migration and citizenship issues and hate crimes we are seeing in the aftermath of the referendum are likely to increase both during the negotiations and after Brexit. New challenges resulting from Brexit-related economic, social and political uncertainty and instability will feed and be fed from old tensions and inter-community conflicts.

In the short term, we need additional funding from the UK and Irish Governments to the Peace IV programme specifically to address the inter-community conflict and build cross-community and cross-border relationships. Post-Brexit, a new cross-border programme – preferably an EU 'Peace V' programme, but otherwise funded jointly by the Irish and UK Governments – should be developed in consultation with grassroots communities both sides of the border. Hopefully, the exit negotiations on the outstanding financial obligations of the UK Government will lead to agreement on the continued participation of Northern Ireland in other European cross-border and transnational programmes such as Interreg, Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, Life and Europe for Citizens that have contributed so much to our economy and quality of life in recent decades.

Whether or not the UK continues to contribute to future EU programmes, the Irish and UK Governments must take steps to ensure new and sufficient resources are available for the social and economic development of the border region. On the UK side, these should be new and additional monies; not funded from the 'block grant'.

Yours

RUTH TAILLON  
Director  
The Centre for Cross Border Studies

