

# The STEP Programme

STEP was created in 1996 as a 'self-help' project between eight local communities in the rural council area of Dungannon & South Tyrone. With monetary support from The Atlantic Philanthropies and European Peace funds (EUSPR), STEP has looked to work directly with immigrants and migrant communities that are potentially excluded from society. STEP look to provide information, advice, guidance, skills, knowledge and experience that can help migrants or ethnic minorities participate in the following areas:

- The decision-making processes that impact their daily lives
- The socio-economic and cultural activities of the community
- The shared responsibility to protect the rights of others



## Impacts and Successes

STEP is regarded as a good practice model not only for its impact in **advocacy** and **support** for migrant communities but for helping to encourage **social change**

The work of STEP has influenced the development of the **Children's Services Planning Partnership**, creating a **positive impact** on the lives of minority ethnic children through **Belong**

A community-based approach has allowed STEP to **build the capacity** of the wider community, especially when tackling issues related to **diversity, prejudice** and **social inclusion**

STEP has facilitated the development of a **network** of organisations that look to increase the **visibility** and **role** of immigrant or minority ethnic populations across Northern Irish society

## Sustainable Practices

In terms of future sustainable practices STEP is looking to concentrate on developing the following areas:

### Grant Aid

STEP has identified two potential National Lottery funding programmes: Supporting Families and Empowering Young People. If secured this funding will allow STEP to continue its work with some of the most marginalised ethnic minority families across NI.

### Investing in asset-based sustainability

STEP is in the process of bringing together its community-based activities under one roof. This has involved

acquiring physical property assets, at a low price and without debt. With a final investment from Atlantic, STEP purchased a property that has since been refurbished and will be completed in September 2015.

### Community Enterprise

STL is a community enterprise that has provided STEP with business expertise during its asset development phase. STL has maintained an income stream by delivering services, training and development. Once a sustainable income from its asset development activities has been secured, STEP will look to diversify and expand its enterprise model.

Ultimately STEP hopes to contribute to building a peaceful and prosperous community, which protects rights, respects difference and embraces diversity

### STEP

(South Tyrone Empowerment Programme)

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