



CIVIL SOCIETY — what is it and what can it do?

NICVA CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast
Friday 2 December 2005*



Conference agenda:

- 10.00am Welcome
- 10.10am Keynote speech —
What is the role and potential of civil society today?
Professor Nicholas Deakin
- 10.40am Presentation of the NI CIVICUS research
Gordon McCullough, Head of Research, NICVA
- 11.00am Comparative CIVICUS research
Macedonia — parallels in a divided society
Saso Klekovski, Executive Director, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation
- 11.25am Question and answer session
- 11.50am Coffee
- 12.00 Workshops:
How does civil society need to develop in Northern Ireland?
- 1.15pm Feedback plenary
- 1.30pm Lunch
- 2.15pm AGM formal business
- 2.45pm Close of AGM and conference



Civil Society – what is it and what can it do?

Everyone talks about civil society these days — but what does it mean and what role can it play in modern societies? Is it really another name for the voluntary and community sector? Does it have any real influence? This conference will focus on research carried out in Northern Ireland as part of an international research project organised by CIVICUS (www.civicus.org). The findings will give an indication of the dimensions, nature and power of civil society in Northern Ireland. As part of the wider research project these findings will be compared with reports from many other countries around the world. During the conference we will compare Northern Ireland's results with those from Macedonia, another society struggling with division. The keynote speech by international expert on civil society, Nicholas Deakin, will set the context and explore some of the potential that civil society has to participate in governance and societal development.

Who should attend?

The conference is focused on voluntary and community organisations, NICVA members and non-members alike. It is also open to others from the public, private and trade union sectors with an interest in the subject.

How much?

Each NICVA member organisation is entitled to one free place, additional places after that cost £25.

Voluntary and community organisations which are not members of NICVA — £40.

All others — £50.

Speakers' biographies are available at the conference page on the NICVA website, www.nicva.org



BOOKING FORM
Civil Society – what is it and what can it do?

Name(s): _____

Organisation: _____

- NICVA Member — one free place
- NICVA Member — £25 for each additional person attending
- Non-Member, but voluntary or community organisation — £40
- Other — £50

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Any special dietary requirements:

- Vegetarian
- Other:

Please specify any other requirements* _____

Please return this form (with payment if required) to Teresa Flanagan at NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast BT15 2GB, tel: 028 9087 7777, fax: 028 9087 7799, email: teresa.flanagan@nicva.org.

Please note that all payments and/or bookings should be made by **Friday 25 November 2005** in order to secure a place. **No refunds will be made after 28 November 2005.** Please enclose cheques payable to "NICVA". Member organisations may attend the AGM part of the day for free. The charge is made for the conference element of the day only.

* *If you need to request sign language interpretation, please notify us before Friday 18 November.*