

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Term of Agreement: 1/4/2018 to 31/3/2021

Agreement between:

Foundation (Northern Ireland), 121 Donegall Road, BELFAST, BT12 5JL  
**(NORTHERN IRELAND FOUNDATION)**

and

Transformative Connections, 41 Glen Road, Garvagh, COLERAINE, BT51 5DD  
**(TRANCONN)**

(hereafter referred to as the partners)

### 1. MISSION

The Northern Ireland Foundation is an organisation working for a progressive and outward looking Northern Ireland society, by promoting positive initiatives, developing leadership programmes, and learning through appropriate international research. A key theme of the Northern Ireland Foundation's work is to have local people take responsibility for their own futures, in a setting of a culture of tolerance and reconciliation among all individuals and all identities.

Transformative Connections is an organisation that focuses on the role of technology in promoting peace building and positive social change, through the provision of training, research and consultancy services that empower individuals, groups and organisations to transform their connections. TranConn is interested in what emerging technologies mean for society in the context of areas that supply some of the most complex, physically and socially divided geographies.

The Northern Ireland Foundation and TranConn share values and approaches to conflict transformation. They are committed to developing a deeper collaboration and exchange of knowledge, in order to benefit people experiencing societal conflict and division.

## **2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The Northern Ireland Foundation and TranConn will collaborate in order to promote civic activism in Northern Ireland, in particular, through the establishment of a digital fact-checking platform, "FactCheckNI". The aim of "FactCheckNI" is to have a better-informed public in regards to the political debate in Northern Ireland, based on facts rather than assumptions and misinformation.

Objectives in this regard include:

- To provide a useful interactive tool for accurate information and advice for the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland
- To encourage and contribute to a broader societal debate, and hold public figures, political groups and the media to account
- To promote the importance and need for independent fact checking as a widely valued and utilised mechanism

In pursuit of these objectives, the Northern Ireland Foundation and TranConn will:

- Maintain and market a purpose-built "FactCheckNI" website
- Solicit claims for research from the public
- Ensure the quality of articles to be published
- Disseminate results through multiple social media channels
- Delivery of training to individuals, groups, organisations, which includes schools, seminars, conferences, and other collective gatherings
- Conduct desk and field research to satisfy agreed project work
- Service an advisory group to provide feedback and guidance

## **3. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING**

The following people will serve as the official contacts for each partner organisation:

- Allan LEONARD (Secretary, Northern Ireland Foundation): Tel: 07771 607863 / Email: [allan@mrulster.com](mailto:allan@mrulster.com)
- Orna YOUNG (Co-Founder, Transformative Connections): Tel: 07746 904118 / Email: [orna@tran-conn.com](mailto:orna@tran-conn.com)

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding is for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed at the end of Year 1.

Either organisation may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

#### 4. AUTHORISATION

The signing of this MoU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MoU.


On behalf of the organisation I represent, I wish to sign this MoU and contribute to its further development.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND FOUNDATION

Signed:   
Allan LEONARD  
Secretary, Northern Ireland Foundation

Date: 01 APR 2018

#### TRANCONN

Signed:   
Orna YOUNG  
Co-Founder, Transformative Connections

Date: 01 APR 2018