

Press Release  
following 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 event

### **EMBRACE Launched 'Word of Welcome' at Belfast City Hall**

On Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> February, in Belfast City Hall, EMBRACE launched a new multilingual 'Welcome' poster as a part of the 'Word of Welcome' project funded by a Belfast City Council Hate Crime & Cohesion grant. The poster displays the word 'Welcome' in 28 different languages spoken in Belfast and is available to local churches and community groups who would like to communicate a word of welcome to people for whom English is not their first language.

A guide book highlighting words and phrases in several different languages was launched alongside the poster and serves to encourage people to learn new phrases in languages spoken by residents of Belfast.

Denise Wright, Chairperson of EMBRACE, launched the poster saying: "A word of greeting spoken or written in the first language of people who have come to Belfast from other countries does much to indicate welcome and a desire to build relationship. To see other languages alongside English conveys a message of inclusion and welcome to *everyone*."

Councillor Marie Hendron, Chair of the Good Relations Partnership, also spoke at the launch which received support from Belfast City Council.

Posters and guide books are available free of charge from EMBRACE. To obtain a poster for your organization, contact EMBRACE at [info@embraceni.org](mailto:info@embraceni.org) or by phone at 0796 992 1328.

*EMBRACE is a group of Christians working together to promote a positive response to people seeking asylum, refugees, migrant workers and minority ethnic people in Northern Ireland. For more information visit their website at [www.embraceni.org](http://www.embraceni.org).*