

# Reports of racism in Ireland

Racism:  
see it  
send it  
end it.

www.iREPORT.ie





## What is the iReport?

The iReport is a human rights monitoring tool which takes the form of quarterly and yearly observatories on racist incidents in Ireland. The iReport observatory compiles its data from information submitted by people who have been subjected to racism, by frontline anti-racist organisations and other organisations that are committed to combating racism, and by the general public. It uses iReport.ie, an online racist incident reporting system which can be found at [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)

iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by ENAR Ireland, which coordinates a network of over 40 civil society organisations in Ireland working in anti-racism (see Page 6 and [enarireland.org](http://enarireland.org) for complete list). ENAR Ireland is the Irish Coordination of ENAR, the European Network Against Racism. ENAR Ireland and ENAR work to coordinate common civil society led responses to racism and racial discrimination at a local, National and European level. ENAR Ireland used to be called INAR, the Irish Network Against Racism.

iReport.ie was launched on 11 July 2013. This, the eighth and ninth quarterly reports, iReport Q9 & Q10, covers the period 01 July to 31 December 2015.

To ensure the analysis of the iReport reporting system is in line with robust international standards of data collection and analysis, and for comparators with relevant international research, ENAR Ireland has partnered with Dr Lucy Michael, Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Ulster. Dr Michael is an authority on hate crime recording systems and on the impact of hate crimes on communities. She is the author of several works in the area including 'Hate Crimes against Students' (2013) and 'Securing civic relations in the multicultural city', (2009). She is a member of the British Society of Criminology, an Executive Committee member of the Sociological Association of Ireland, and the UK editor of the Irish Journal of Sociology.



## 9th+10th quarterly reports of iReport.ie

July-December 2015

# Reports of racism in Ireland

Authored by **Dr Lucy Michael** (Ulster University)







The launch of  
iReport.ie in  
Dublin on 11th  
July, 2013.

At centre are  
comedian Tara  
Flynn (pink top),  
Dublin footballer  
Jason Sherlock and  
singer Maureen  
Aku Disu. Photo:  
Derek Speirs

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# About iReport.ie

iReport.ie is a fully confidential and independent, civil-society based Racist Incident Reporting System. It is used for human rights monitoring, in line with best practise as set out by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the recommendations from the Council of Europe's European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) 2013 report on Ireland. The report generates data that is compatible with the monitoring requirements of UN CERD, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), the ODIHR, and other international Human Rights bodies. As such, the system should be seen as neither an alternative to, nor an extension of, the criminal justice system's own recording mechanisms.

As a non-state monitoring system it fills the gap left by the reporting system of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Integration (NCCRI), when the organisation was all but wound down in 2009. This system, supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland, and embedded in a network of over 40 locally-based organisations, allows for locally gathered information to be fed into, and data to be disaggregated back out of, a centralised web-based racist incidents reporting and information management system. While locally based and sectoral organisations retain locally gathered data, which they use to inform localised and sectoral responses to racism, the national data is analysed and compiled into quarterly and annual reports, and used to inform the public, support lobbying submissions, and contribute to a broader national conversation on racism.

iReport.ie is also a system which makes it as easy as possible for people to self-report racist incidents by using the online form, giving a way for people whose voices are often unheard,

to have those voices heard. In this respect iReport.ie facilitates the inclusion of voices that are often excluded from the national conversation on racism. To facilitate this, the reporting mechanism is designed to be as inclusive of all communities as possible, and one which strives to overcome many of the barriers to reporting that have been identified in ENAR Ireland's own research, as well as in other domestic and international research.

Barriers to recording include: A reluctance by people who experience or witness racism to report to police or other state bodies (our own research suggests that, for a variety of reasons, 5 out of 6 people would not report to Gardaí or official bodies); a reluctance to risk exposing oneself to further victimisation by sharing identifying details; a reluctance to engage in a lengthy legal or other processes; a reluctance to use forms that use complicated technical language and other off-putting vocabulary and; a reluctance to use a reporting system that is lengthy and unwieldy. These barriers mean that people from minority ethnic communities experience racism which goes unrecorded and unacknowledged by the state and wider society.

To overcome these barriers the iReport.ie reporting form guarantees confidentiality, is short and easy to use, is written in plain English, and can be filled in anonymously, if the person so wishes. The system also allows for people to be supported in recording racist incidents by organisations working with those communities most at risk of racism. In addition to this, witnesses and by-standers can also report, as can third parties who have heard of incidents in their communities. In this way iReport.ie is a tool intended to help "Break the Silence on Racism".





# Reporting centres

Organisations which offer support to use iReport.ie include:

**Canal Communities Partnership:**  
01-473 2196  
info@canalpartnership.com

**Cairde:**  
01 855 2111  
info@cairde.ie  
www.cairde.ie

**Cultúr, Trim, Co Meath:**  
(046) 9093120  
joana@cultur.ie  
www.cultur.ie

**Crosscare Refugee Service:**  
01 873 2844  
crs@crosscare.ie  
www.crosscare.ie

**Doras Luimní:** Limerick.  
061 310 328  
info@dorasluimni.org  
www.dorasluimni.org.

**The Integration Centre,**  
Dublin:

info@integrationcentre.ie  
01 6453070 www.  
integrationcentre.ie

**The Jesuit Refugee Service:**  
Limerick: 061 480922  
Dublin: 01 8148644  
info@jrs.ie  
www.jrs.ie

**The Irish Traveller Movement** or any of its  
member organisations:  
01 6796577  
itmtrav@indigo.ie  
www.itmtrav.ie

**The Irish Refugee Council:**  
(01) 764 5854  
info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie  
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

**The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland:**  
01 889 7570  
info@mrci.ie  
www.mrci.ie

**NASC Immigrant Support Centre:**  
021 450 3462  
info@nascireland.org  
www.nascireland.org

**The New Communities Partnership, Dublin:**  
1 8727842  
info@newcommunities.ie  
www.newcommunities.ie

**Offaly Traveller Movement:**  
057 93 52438  
info@otm.ie  
www.otm.ie

**Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Rights centre:**  
01 8780255  
info@paveepoint.ie,  
www.paveepoint.ie

**South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project:**

**SDCC Intercultural Drop-in centre**  
01 464 9306  
E.zuzana.tesarova@  
sdcpartnership.ie

**The National Youth Council of Ireland**  
1 478 4122  
info@nyci.ie  
www.nyci.ie

**The Union of Students in Ireland**  
(0)1 709 9300  
info@usi.ie  
www.usi.ie

**A full list of the 40 ENAR Ireland and iReport.ie participating organisations can be found at:**  
www.enarireland.org/  
network-members/

## Reporting a racist incident

To report a racist incident, go to [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie) and fill out the online form. Photographs, screen grabs and other files can be uploaded as well.

The form can be filled in by:

- the person who has experienced racism
- someone supporting a person who has experienced racism
- someone who has witnessed racism
- someone who has heard about a racist incident.

### What is racism?

ENAR Ireland uses the definition of Racism as established by the *UN International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)* (1969): 'Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference, based on race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, which has the purpose of modifying or impairing the recognition, the enjoyment or exercise on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, or any other field of public life constitutes racial discrimination.'

### What is a racist incident?

Following the above definition, a racist incident is any incident which has the effect of undermining anyone's enjoyment or human rights, based on their background. ENAR Ireland follows international best practice in adopting the definition set out by UK Lord McPherson in his Report of the Inquiry into the Murder of Stephen Lawrence (1999), namely that a racist incident is: 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

This definition has since been adopted by police forces across the UK (where the Association of Chief Police Officers welcomed it for the 'clari-

ty' it gives police forces). The definition is now also the definition used by An Garda Síochána, the Irish police force. The definition is also consistent with the standards set by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and which are used in the iReport.ie online questionnaire:

### Question 6: Why would you or the person it happened to say the incident was racist?

- Racist language was used
- Language about the person's religion was used
- There did not appear to be any other possible motive
- It was about something else, but racism came into it

Racist incidents (as distinct from racist crimes) include a range of acts which are racist but which may or may not meet the criteria for being considered criminal offences, or which may be deemed by law enforcement to be too difficult to secure convictions with. The data captured by iReport.ie ranges from these kind of incidents to incidents that are unambiguously recognised by law as criminal offences.

It is important to capture the full spectrum of incidents, as patterns of incidents which fall below the threshold of criminality, or would be deemed too hard to prosecute, can have an effect on individuals, communities and community relations that is much more harmful than their 'mildness' might suggest. Patterns of 'minor' incidents can also act as warnings of more serious incidents. For the same reasons, the UK Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), in its guidelines on monitoring incidents recommends that police forces record all racist incidents, criminal and non-criminal.

# July-Dec 2015: Analysis in Detail

Dr Lucy Michael, Ulster University

## Overview

A total of 165 reports were received in this six month period, representing a slightly higher level of reporting than previous periods.

Thirty-seven serious offences were reported. Racist language was used in thirty incidents classified this way. Twenty-three of these were committed by strangers, of those 18 by male perpetrators.

Assault appeared in 25 reports, including 7 with injury. A further 13 cases involved serious threat to harm or kill. No incidents of fire or arson were reported in this period. Damage was involved in 16 (10%) cases, including against business (2), houses (6), vehicles (6), windows (4) and missiles (3). Personal effects were damaged or lost in 6 cases.

## Assault appeared in 25 reports, including 7 with injury. A further 13 cases involved serious threat to harm or kill

Abuse was reported in 88 percent of cases, with 41 cases of repeated harassment (28%) and 38 cases of threat (26%). Verbal abuse was reported in 57 percent of cases. Discrimination in service and refusal of entry were reported in 18 percent of cases. Two cases concerned sexual harassment, and one concerned rape.

*"A group of four men drinking outside a pub started harassing me and my friends as we walked by calling us geishas, making 'chinky eyes' and kung fu noises. They surrounded us and propositioned us for sex using racist language."*

Graffiti appeared in 8 reports, the display of racist symbols or insignia, and other racist materials, in 18 reports, and written abuse aimed at individuals in the form of letters, emails or text messages in 13 reports. Offensive 'jokes' appeared in 22 reports, in all but 4 cases coinciding with other forms of verbal and physical abuse.

Just 34 (21%) reports in this six month period concerned racism in the media, or perpetrated through social media, similar in number, but proportionately less than in all previous periods. This is driven by a higher proportion of reports concerning racism in face-to-face encounters. Analysis of these incidents is offered separately throughout the report, and is simply described as 'media' to cover mass and social media formats. Distinct analysis on each is offered in a separate section below.

## Assault

This period includes the highest number of assaults to date. Racist language or language about the targeted persons' religion appeared in all but two cases. No particular ethnic or religious group was more vulnerable to assault than another.

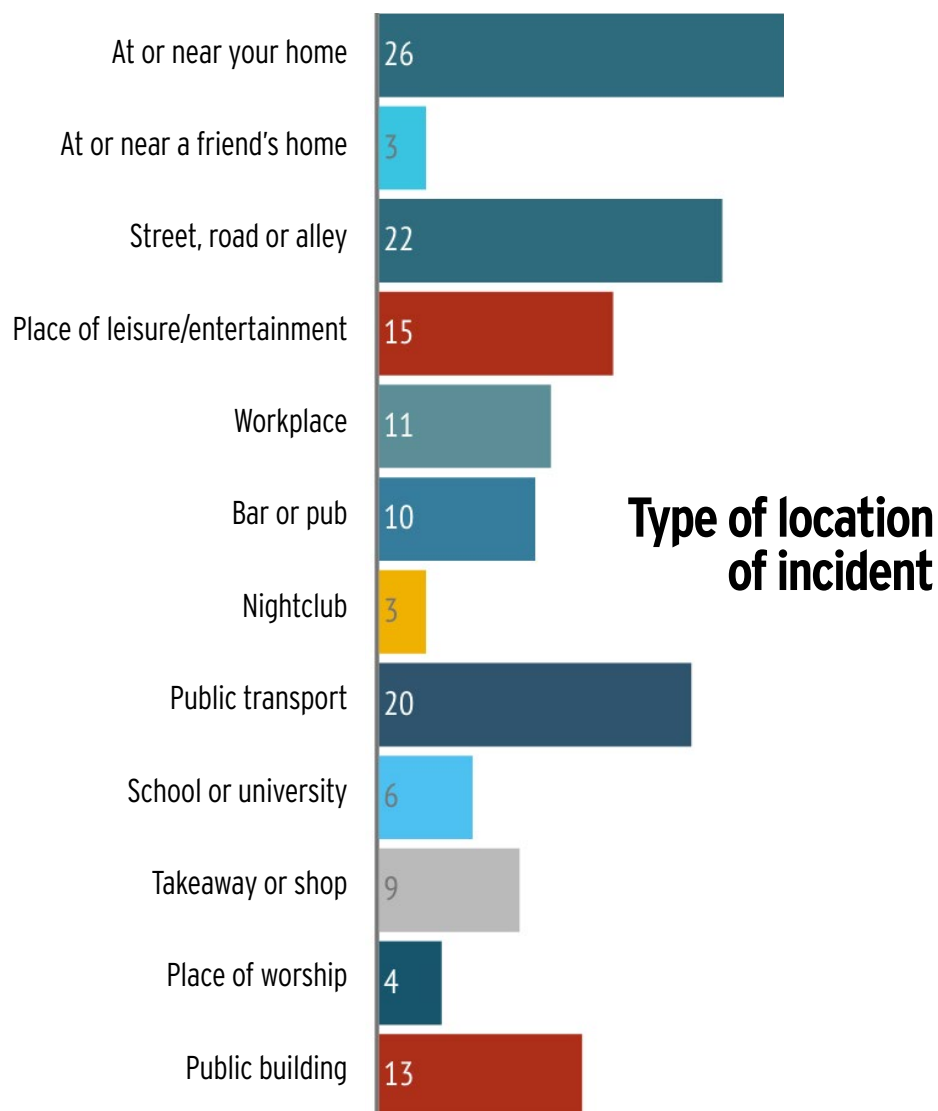
*"Two Irish boys were chasing an Afghan boy, when they caught him, they beat him with a hurling stick and an Iron bar. The boy fell unconscious on the ground, he had no shoes on and they repeated to strike him. The witness said he ran to assist the boy and he was still unconscious and bleeding. He then carried the boy to his parent's house while calling the ambulance. The boy was found to have had broken ribs, broken nose, bruised face and head injury. The victim has constant headaches and cannot go to play outside anymore, because of fear."*

*"Client was pregnant. Ongoing harassment by neighbour escalated. Neighbour verbally abused and then physically assaulted her (punched her in the stomach). Used racial slurs."*

*"My 5 year old mixed-race daughter went to press the button on the traffic light to cross the road for the bus. The lady hit her on the hand and then started screaming 'f---n--' 'disgusting' and 'f--- Indian' at her."*

Thirteen of these cases were perpetrated by strangers, half of these occurring on public transport or at transport stops. But five assaults occurred near the targeted person's home or their friends' home, perpetrated by people who knew them.





### Verbal abuse

The largest proportion of incidents submitted to iReport.ie concerned verbal abuse. Verbal abuse was reported in 83 cases, and was the main form of racist behaviour in 52 cases (32%).

*"She just kept roaring abuse and looking to the other people on the tram to back her up. No one was saying anything one way or another, and I was a bit scared so I called Luas security as I got off."*

Forty of these incidents involved a perpetrator known to the person targeted by the abuse. Eight perpetrators were staff members in public institutions. Two were responsible adults in sports activities for children. Twelve involved neighbours.

Men reported almost twice as much verbal abuse than women across all incidents, and almost three times as much when verbal abuse was the sole form of racist behaviour.

Twenty-two incidents involved verbal abuse described as 'offensive jokes', but an investigation of the content of these statements reveals how harmful these 'jokes' are to the targeted group. In the majority of these reports, the 'joke' was found to be a thin veil for a clearly racist statement, often directly threatening the ethnic group of a person to whom it was told.

*"He made offensive jokes, one such being that all travellers should be rounded up and gassed to death and that it was a shame the Carrickmines fire only killed 10 travellers."*



## Discrimination

Discrimination in service and employment accounted for 36 reports (22%). The reported cases of discrimination result from both direct and institutional racism, enacted by public and private bodies and individuals. Discrimination in this category describes incidents which appear to contravene the Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015 or the Equal Status Acts 2000–2015 (which outlaw discrimination in employment, vocational training, advertising, collective agreements, and the provision of goods and services), or which demonstrate discriminatory treatment by a public body on the grounds of race or ethnicity.

Three cases related to accommodation, one refusal to rent because of a foreign accent, and two cases of illegal threats to evict tenants. One case related to discrimination by a doctor's receptionist. Two cases related to discrimination in the provision of transport, one by a coach driver on a daily basis on the targeted person's regular commute, and one by a taxi driver refusing passage. Two cases concerned discrimination in sport against children: regular discrimination over the course of a year by a sports coach against a young boy concluded in his exclusion from the club when his parents made a complaint, while a sports coach at another club refused to have any Black children in the team he coached despite objections from colleagues.

Three cases referred to employment discrimination. One employee was dismissed when he complained about violent threats from co-workers, "One worker held a knife up, stating 'I will break your nose', 'I will kill you'." One case related to promotion, and one case related to a business' policy on religious decoration in the workplace.

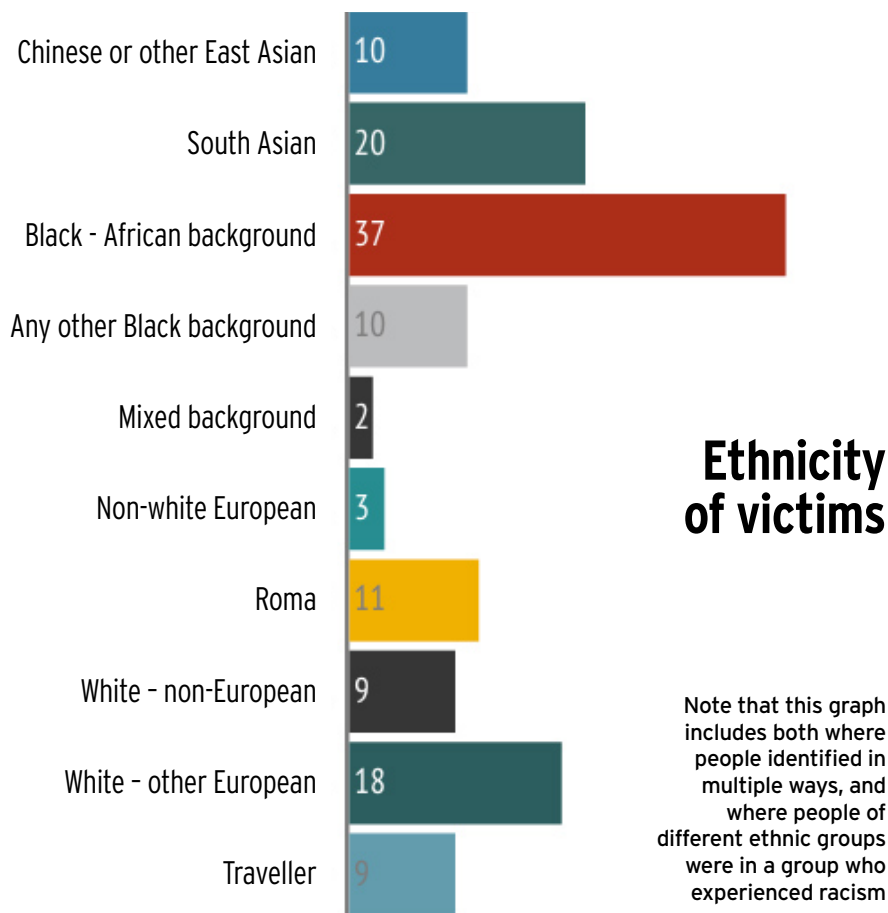
Five cases referred to discriminatory treatment by frontline staff in the Department of Social Protection. The incidents took place in five separate counties, but the common patterns in these cases indicate formal or informal institutional practices which are highly discriminatory, with lines of questioning based on racialised stereotypes, refusal to deal with people with foreign accents, and with family members aiding translation, and undue delays in processing applications.

Five of the incidents in pubs/bars involved the refusal of entry or service. In three of the four reports about refusal of entry in shops, there was an indication that the management had a policy to automatically refuse entry to members of a particular ethnic group.

Six reports related to discrimination by members of An Garda Síochána. These five cases demonstrate a wide range of areas in which direct and institutional racism results in discriminatory action against ethnic minority groups in Ireland. The cases related to improper conduct during immigration registration, an arrest without charge, the illegal search of a house, improper investigation and failure to protect a vulnerable young person due to cultural stereotyping, the disproportionate search in public of a girl wearing hijab without explanation, and Garda advice to a hotel to cancel a wedding without notice.

Two further cases involved members of the Garda National Immigration Bureau at Dublin Airport, where passengers felt that their treatment was discriminatory on the grounds of ethnicity or nationality, and humiliating.

Four reports about discrimination included explicit descriptions of racist language. A nightclub bouncer refused entry because the individual was 'not Irish', an employee was called a 'f- foreigner' by colleagues who threatened violence, a landlord overcharged his tenant for bills, making comments about his skin colour and nationality, and a taxi driver refused to take an individual to a halting site address, abusing the intending passenger with ethnic slurs about Travellers.



It is worth noting that an additional two cases included the perpetrator telling the targeted person to ‘go home’ or ‘back to your own country’. In the first case, the perpetrator was a staff member in a Social Welfare office. The second case involved a private individual who discriminated in the sale of goods. These cases were not described as ‘using racist language’, although it is clear from the case descriptions that the ethnic or racial identity of the targeted person was the motivation for bias.

In 23 of the 36 cases of discrimination, the reporting person stated that they thought the incident was racist because “there did not appear to be any other motive”. An analysis of these cases shows that in three cases the discrimination was directly related to language and accent, two cases targeted a specific ethnic group as policy, and two related to cultural stereotyping by organisations. A further ten cases of discrimination were highly likely to have been motivated by bias against an individual on the basis of skin colour or ethnicity. The remaining cases gave no further indication.

*“A taxi man wouldn’t bring me home, ... called*

*me names. I was told I’m a scumbag. Sult, nacker, a nobody.”*

*“She feels terrible and sad. We lost our trust in Irish public services.”*

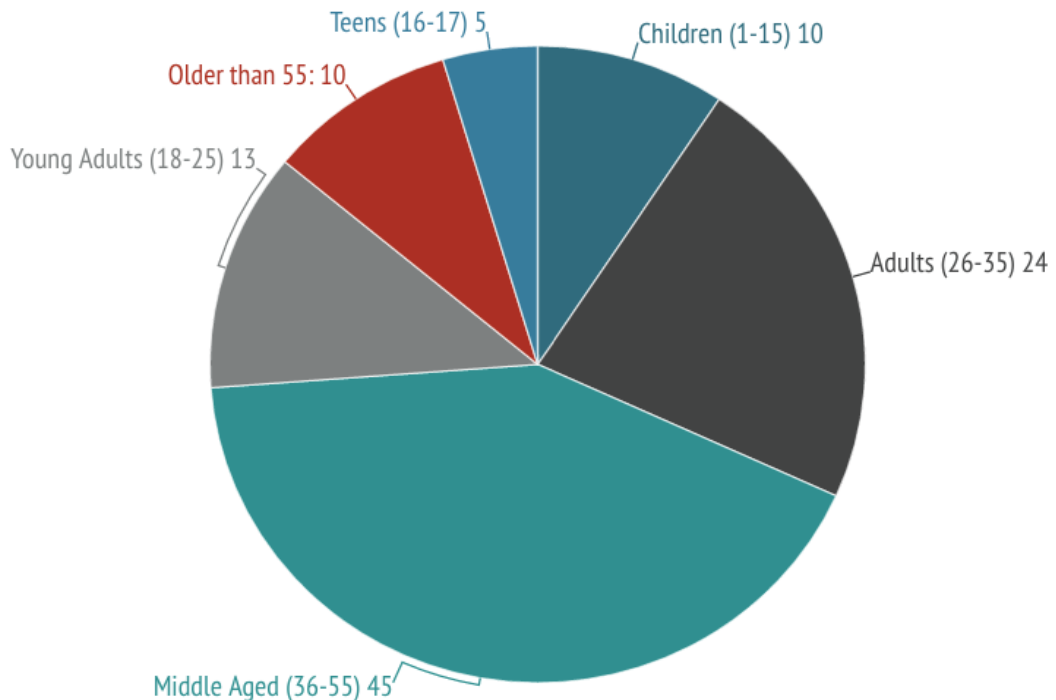
*“I can’t live in peace thinking of what’s going to happen today, [I’ve] been affected economically and mentally.”*

### Location

Physical locations, either geographical and/or specific were provided for 144 reports. Reports in this quarter showed Dublin South and Dublin North together made up 58 percent of incidents, with a further 13 percent in Cork and 4 percent each in Limerick and Galway. The number of reports should not be read as representing real distribution, since reporting patterns reflect the predominant location of iReport.ie publicity, and the presence of local organisations also collecting reports in those other cities. NASC, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre in Cork, for example, reported 10 cases on behalf of clients that occurred in Cork, and 9 from other locations. Canal Communities reported 8 cases, 7 of which were from South Dublin.



## Age of perpetrators: all incidents



The specific location of incidents was also investigated in this period. Racist incidents and discrimination were most frequently reported at or near home (18%), and on the street (15%), followed by public transport (14%), places of leisure, including sports, hotels and shopping (10%), and at or outside a workplace (8%) or small shop/takeaway (6%). Most of the incidents in bars, pubs and nightclubs (9%) concerned discrimination on entry or service. Four cases occurred near prayer room facilities, and six in schools or universities.

A new category has been added for this report to reflect the rise in reports about racism in public service buildings (9%), including airport security, Garda stations, libraries, post offices, welfare offices and health centres, mainly by staff employed in public service roles.

### Day & Time of Incident

Dates were given for 158 cases, with 130 of these occurring in the July to December period, and a further 18 earlier in 2015. The majority of cases occurred during the day, with less than a third occurring between 7pm and 7am, and just 9 cases occurred on weekend evenings in the whole period.

This may indicate that incidents in the course of daily activities are more disturbing to the targeted person, while only more serious incidents occurring on weekends are reported. The frequency of incidents in the course of daily activities, however, is a reminder of the inescapability of everyday racism for ethnic minorities in Ireland.

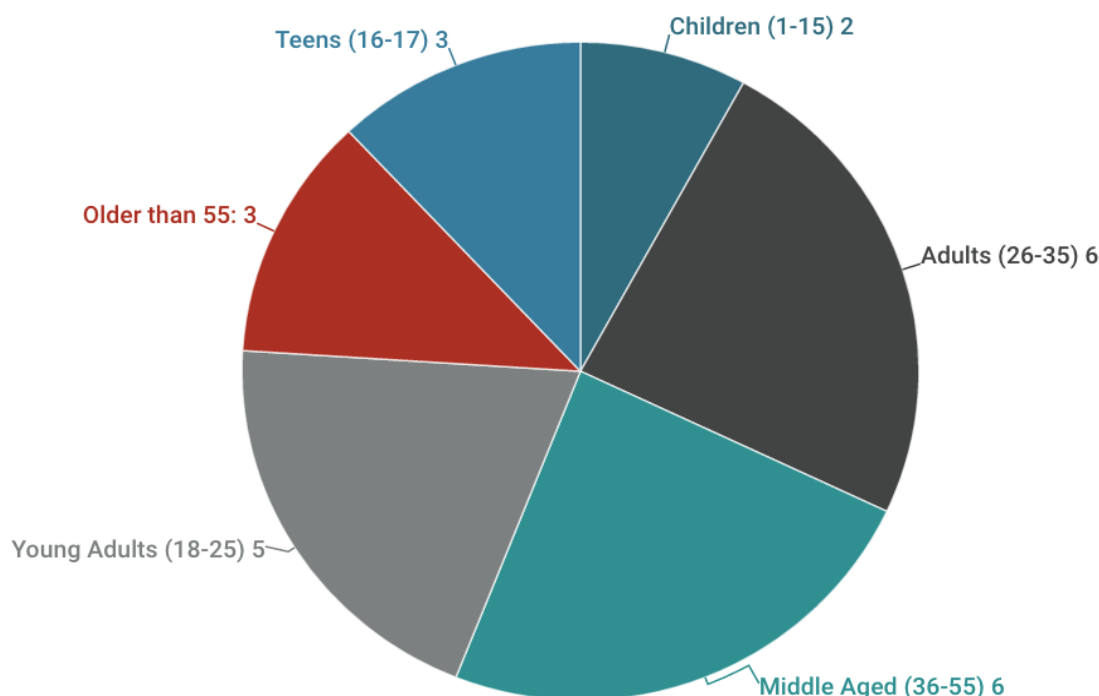
### Age of Reported Victims

Victims in the 165 cases reported in this six month period were again most likely to be in the category of 26-35' years (24%). People over 35 years old were targeted in 36 percent of cases, compared to mixed-aged groups in 17 percent, directly contradicting the pattern in the last analytic period.

Under 18s constitute less than 12 percent of all cases, but demonstrate the particular vulnerability and fear felt by this group.

*"It used to happen for the last 7 years since I was in 6th class in primary school. A man in a black car used to scream: "Go back to your f-- country n--." or "F-- ape n--" or just make monkey noises at me whenever he saw me. Other people could hear him as he drove by and shouted but nobody ever did anything."*

## Age of perpetrators: assaults



*"This incident has caused a serious impact on my son's confidence, ability to take any sports activities. He has started to think that he is different and he should have different level of expectations for himself."*

The kinds of incidents experienced by under 18s involve both verbal and physical abuse (mainly by adults) and shared experience with family when the family's house or car is targeted. Children are also persuaded to perpetrate racist abuse for their parents in some cases.

**People identified as Black under 25 were significantly more likely to be targeted than any other group that age**

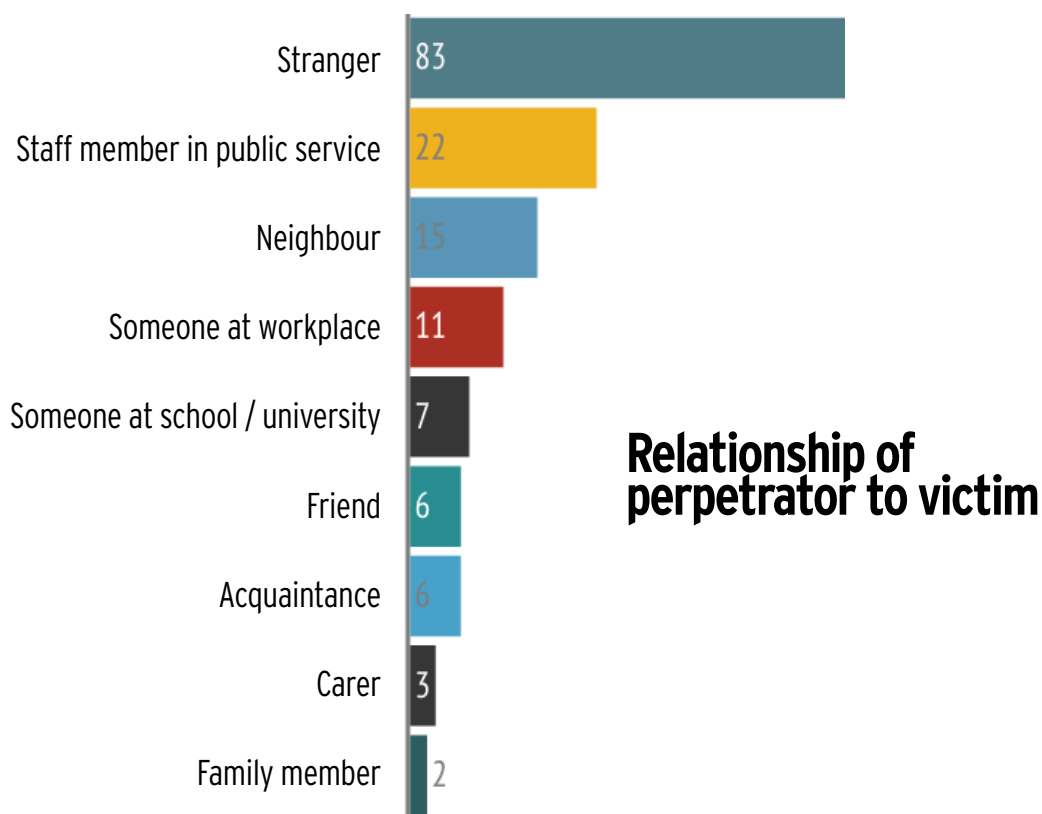
Of the 40 cases concerning people under 25 years old subjected to racism, nineteen involved stranger perpetrators, and 6 involved people in an authority position. Twelve of these involved crimes against them, and 8 of these targeted

people identified as 'Black'. In fact, people identified as Black under 25 were targeted significantly more than any other group of that age for crimes and non-crimes.

### Ethnicity of Victims

The largest ethnic category targeted in this period is, as in previous periods, Black-African. Along with Black-Other, this accounted for 47 of the reported cases (28%). White Europeans (mainly Eastern European) were targeted in 21 (13%) of cases. People described as South Asian were targeted in 20 cases (12%), as in the last period, and Chinese or East Asian in 10 cases (6%). Travellers were targeted in 9 (5%) cases, and Roma in 11 (7%). These figures are highly consistent with previous iReport analyses. Fourteen cases included victims who were wearing clothing identifiable to a religion – of these, eight were single females or female-only groups, and five were female in mixed gender groups.

Discrimination in service and refusal of entry cases mainly affected people identified as Black or South Asian by ethnicity. All of these cases affected single persons or small groups of 4 people or less, indicating that group numbers were not predictive of refusal. A decrease in reports from



Travellers overall in this period is reflected in this analysis, although media reports showed a sharp spike in discrimination against Travellers in the latter half of this period after the death of a Traveller family at Carrickmines due to an accidental fire and poor safety onsite.

## Media reports showed a sharp spike in discrimination against Travellers after the death of a Traveller family at Carrickmines due to poor fire safety onsite.

Forty-nine reports included 'white' of any category as part of the targeted group. Nine of these related to incidents against Travellers, and ten were against groups of people which included visible minorities as well as people identified as 'White'. Just 17 these related to people of a European nationality other than Irish.

Forty cases referred to written abuse or display of racist symbols and of these, 9 were specifically targeted at people identified as 'Black'. Ten targeted Muslims, and 4 were anti-Semitic. Five targeted 'foreigners' and 4 targeted refugees, with two specifically aimed at Syrian refugees. Four targeted Travellers, and 3 included some form of Nazi symbolism.

### Single and group victimisation

Fifty percent of the 165 cases reported in this period involved single victims. This number excludes cases relating to media statements or written abuse. Small groups of 2-4 people experienced 26 percent of cases, and groups of 5-10 people experienced just 4 percent of incidents. These patterns are consistent with previous iReport analyses.

### Perpetrators

The described ethnicity of perpetrators in the 165 reports was predominantly 'White Irish' with White Irish also appearing in a groups of perpetrators with a person or people of Other White or unspecified Other background (77% overall). The next largest group involved 'White - other European' perpetrators (9%). two of the cases involved 'Travellers', and 3 involved Other White. Asian perpetrators were identified in 3



cases, and Black perpetrators in 5 cases. Ethnicity was not identifiable in 21 reports (14%).

Racism was most perpetrated again in this period by people in the 36-55 years and 26-35 age categories, appearing in 27 and 15 percent of reports respectively. These two categories also accounted for the highest proportion of assaults. Perpetrators in mixed age groups were responsible for 17 percent of cases. Under 18s accounted for just 9 percent of reports.

Single perpetrators were involved in 53 percent of reports. Groups of 2-4 perpetrated racism in 21 percent, while groups of 5-10 people were responsible in 5 percent of reports. Incidents involving more than 5 perpetrators were exclusively perpetrated by strangers on the victim.

*"I was walking around Christ Church with my mother and all of a sudden a group of teenagers came and one of them tried to kick my mother's face narrowly missing it. Then they all laughed as they walked away. In the 6 hours we've been in Ireland we've been shouted racist slurs at 4 times so I can't think of any other motives for this individual to do it."*

*"7 youths boarded the bus ... with alcohol and gave the black driver some abuse including using the word n--. When another black man got on as a passenger the abuse and jokes continued. The joking involved pushing the black passenger's head from behind and using the term n-- around another 15 to 20 times."*

Thirteen reported events were believed to have been related to the use of alcohol or drugs by the perpetrator. The targeted person(s) or witness(es) believed the perpetrator to be under the influence of alcohol in all 13 reports, and of both alcohol and drugs in 2 reports. Five of these reports involved assaults, one report involved threat, and one sexual harassment.

### Identifying the incident as racist

Racist language was used by the perpetrator in 56 percent of cases overall, and 39 percent of cases excluding written materials. In the latter, it was accompanied by other reasons for perceiving racism in more than two thirds of reports.

Reports frequently feature multiple reasons for perceiving the incident as racist. Only 19 percent of reports relied solely on the reason that 'There did not seem to be any other motive'. Language about the victim's religion was used in 15 percent of cases. In 73 percent of cases involving crimes, the acts were supported by language which was



racist or referred to the victim's religion.

In other words, most people who experience or witness racism are slow to attribute racism to incidents, and tend to rely on racist language, repeated discriminatory behaviour or being the only ethnic minority present to understand if there is likely to be a bias motive present.

**Most people who experience or witness racism are slow to attribute racism to incidents they experience**

### Institutional racism

Institutional racism describes the discrimination that, covertly or overtly, resides in the policies, procedures, operations and culture of public or private institutions - reinforcing individual prejudices and being reinforced by them in turn<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> This definition, from the Institute of Race Relations, distinguishes between attitudes and acts. This report is concerned with discriminatory practice, decision making and outcomes, rather than attitudes, and their impact on the targeted person(s).

Institutional racism played a part in several incidents involving public servants. Immigration staff were particularly involved in practices which demeaned and even endangered people they dealt with. In other cases, such as those of verbal abuse by public servants mentioned above (see Discrimination), there is clearly an enabling environment which allows staff to believe that they have some freedom to demean members of the public who are ethnic minorities or born outside Ireland.

Tags #BALALLYINN #CARRICKMINES #DUNDRUM #FIRE #TRAGEDY

## Relatives of Carrickmines fire victims turned away from Dublin bar

The men had visited Ollie's Bar looking for Sunday lunch.

Oct 12th 2015, 10:25 PM 120,195 Views 53 Comments

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TWO RESIDENTS OF the Carrickmines halting site were refused entry into a pub in Dundrum on Sunday afternoon, a day after 10 of their relatives perished in an enormous fire in the south Dublin suburb.

The two men arrived at Ollie's Bar, formerly the Balally Inn, for Sunday lunch but were refused entry, *TheJournal.ie* has learned.



The bar before it rebranded.

*"My friend who is an Irish citizen was expecting a visit from a childhood friend, who was travelling to Ireland on a UN Travel Document for refugees, which allows him to travel visa free to Ireland and some other EU countries. His luggage, mobile phone and travel document was taken from him. He is high blood pressure patient and had heart surgery before, he was kept in the custody for nearly 14 hours with no food and drink and no access to his medicines and he was physically pushed at one stage. Later on we found he was sent to hospital when he arrived."*

### Gender

Gender has a significant impact in looking at the perpetration of racism. Male individuals or all-male groups were again involved in three times the number of incidents (47%) as female perpetrators (15%). Mixed gender groups (including institutions) were involved in the perpetration of 12 percent of incidents, excluding written materials.

Victims were slightly more likely to be male (37%) than female (30%). Mixed gender groups were targeted in 9 percent of incidents, while an additional 21 percent of cases targeted a general audience.

### Sexuality and disability

Racist incidents are frequently perpetrated against people who identify with, or are identified in terms of, sexual orientation, transgender experience or disability. In line with international evidence, it would be expected that a number of victims in this period define themselves with, or were defined by, several of these identities. Of the specific victims described in this period, 4 reports included Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual or Transgender as well as describing a minority

ethnic identity. Four of the reports specifically state that the person who experienced racism had a disability.

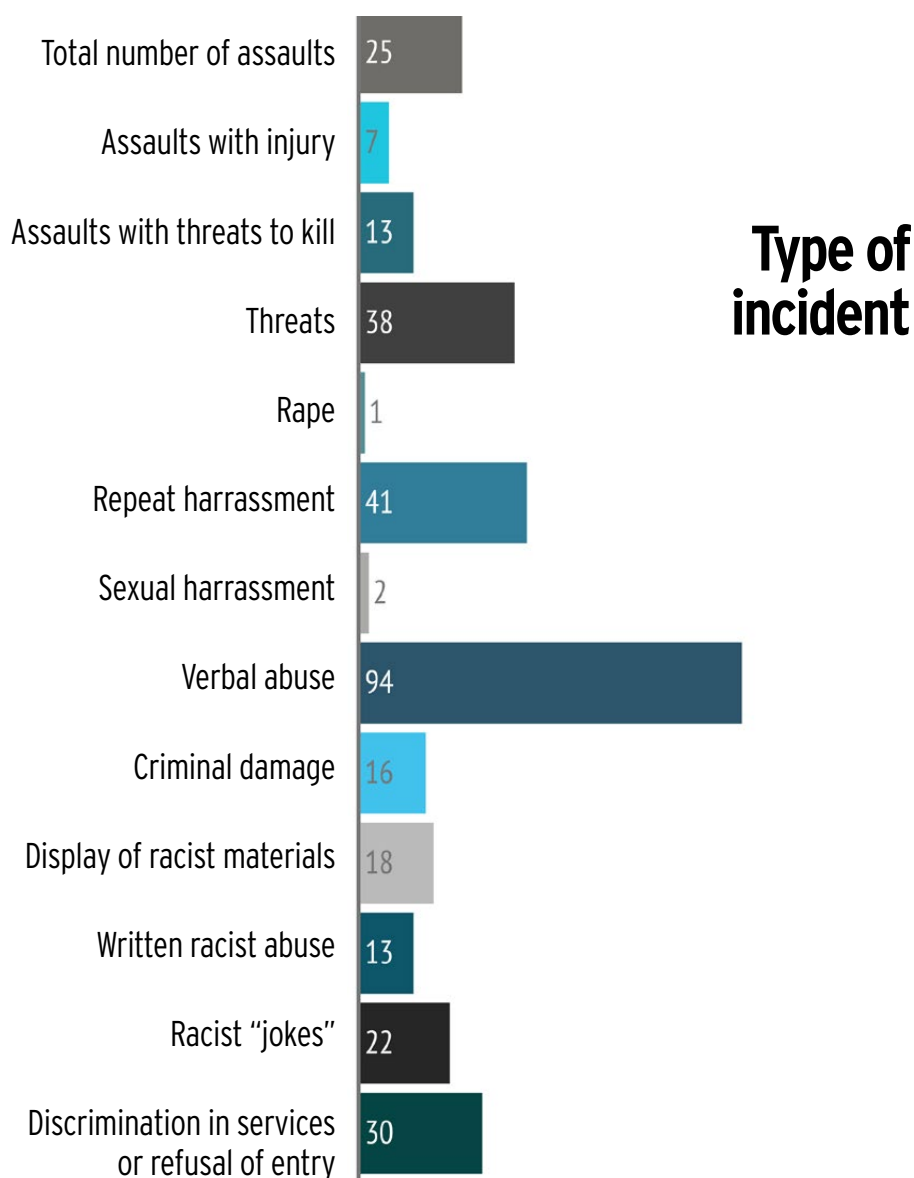
### Reporting patterns - submitting reports to iReport.ie

Forty-three percent of reports were submitted to iReport.ie by the persons targeted, with the highest number of direct reports from Black-African and South Asian ethnic groups. Twenty percent were reported by people who witnessed the incident.

This marks a shift from previous reporting periods, where there was a significant pattern of under-reporting by people identified as Black-African or Black-Other, who were most likely to be victims in incidents reported by witnesses.

The only group which did not report any incidents directly were Roma, who relied on NGO assistance to make reports. Over a quarter of all reports received in this period (27%) were submitted by NGOs or other organisations supporting victims of racism, often for reasons of English literacy.

Bystander reporting is important in helping to document patterns of racism. People targeted by racism on a regular basis cannot be expected to report all of the incidents they experience, as the reporting process itself is time-consuming and can be emotionally demanding. Of the 56 reports from people who had seen or heard an incident, however, just 18 were from family, friends, colleagues or immediate neighbours of the person or people experiencing racism, with the rest submitted by strangers. This demonstrates that bystanders can play an important role in sup-



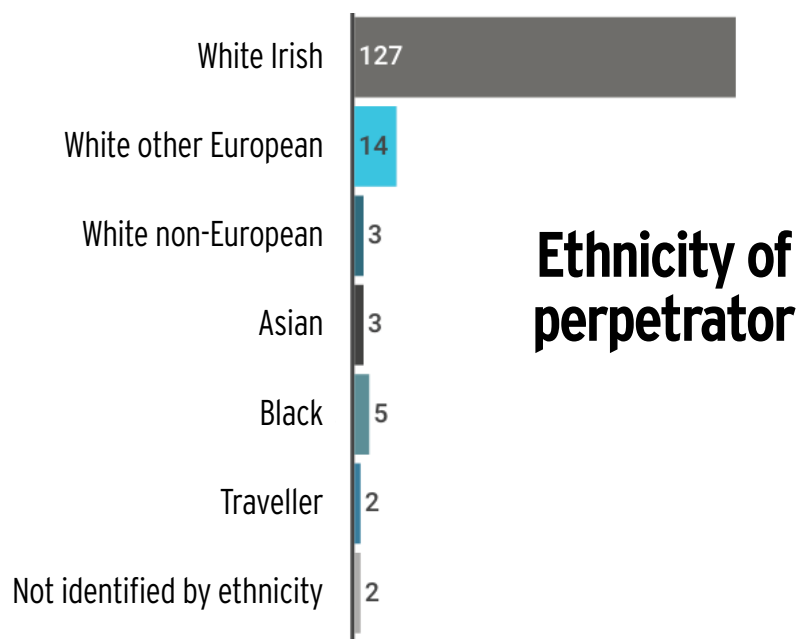
porting our evidence gathering, as well as in any intervention or support they might offer immediately to the targeted person(s).

#### Reporting to police and other authorities

Of all 165 reported cases in this six month period, 56 (34%) were known to have been reported to the Gardaí or another authority or NGO as well as to the iReport website. In 139 reports there was no report made to the Gardaí, and 115 of these described why. The largest proportion (55 reports) did not think the Gardaí would or could do anything about it, 45 thought it would not be taken seriously by Gardaí, and 27 did not feel comfortable reporting to Gardaí. 13 reported previous negative experiences with Gardaí, and 1 with police in another country. 18 did not know how or where to report to Gardaí. 14 feared reprisals as a result.

Twenty eight cases (17%) were reported to Gardaí. Gardaí responses were predominantly reported as being reasonably prompt initially, but most expressed frustration with the outcome. In one case of very serious conflict and extreme violence, Gardaí took more than 15 minutes to arrive at a city centre location, and bystanders intervened to help the victims, unhappy with the delay in light of the risk to the victims. In 13 cases, Gardaí took reports, but there was no follow-up in 5 of these. These 5 cases only relate to incidents reported to iReport.ie at such a time after the event that it was possible to make the statement that there had been no appropriate follow-up. In two cases, no crime number was given, and victims were unable to make claims on their insurance as a result. A serious assault with an iron bar and hurley stick which resulted in the victim having broken ribs resulted in





the two perpetrators being taken into custody for a short time then released. No information was available on the legal outcome of this case. Another assault case concluded in prosecutions (outcome pending at time of report), but with the racist element of the offence excluded from the case.

*“The taxi driver was taken to an estate and forced out of the car by passengers. They told him to give them his wallet, phone and car. He refused to give them the car. Neighbours called Gardaí. They traced his phone with a tracker app and returned it to him. He never heard from the Gardaí again.”*

In the 52 reports we have classified as constituting crimes with bias motives, 17 reported to An Garda Síochána, and 8 to another authority or NGO. Of the 35 that did not report to Gardaí, 14 did not believe the Gardaí would or could do anything and 12 did not believe they would be taken seriously. These related to threat, assault without injury and harassment. Eight said it was too common an occurrence, and these reports related to threat, assault without injury, harassment and sexual harassment. 8 did not know how or where to report to Gardaí. Three reported a previous negative experience with Gardaí. None reported having had previous negative experiences with police in other countries. Four feared reprisals as a result.

Respondents were also asked to indicate what would have encouraged them to report this incident.

<b>You could have reported the incident to a police officer who identified as a member of the targeted social group(s)</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>You could have remained totally anonymous</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>You could have reported the incident to someone else other than a police officer, away from your station, with the understanding that they would pass on the details to the police on your behalf, either anonymously or to take further as your preferred</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>You could have filled in a Self Reporting Form which you could send directly to the police</b>	<b>5</b>

*“I have been subjected to repeated regular racially motivated acts of vandalism to my house and property and break-ins by a group of local white Irish children aged 8-12. When I challenged them, they shouted racial abuse at me. They called me “P-”. When I visited their parents to ask them to control their children, the parents shouted abuse at me. Garda response has generally been slow and unenthusiastic. They often arrived late. I have installed cameras. The pattern persists to this day. I am at my wits end. I am exhausted*

# Racism in media, on the web and in social media

Thirty-one incidents included or exclusively referred to racist statements in the media or on social media in this period.

Eight cases involved the direct harassment of a named individual or family through written racist statements sent by text, email or social media. Two reports involved intensive and persistent harassment of people identified through social media groups. Three other reports concerned harassment by friends, family members, and work colleagues.

Nine reports gave detailed accounts of racist statements published (in some cases repeatedly) for a general audience on public Facebook pages by individuals alongside their own names and profiles. Racist statements are those which use racist language which demeans or dehumanises a racialised group or perceived member of that group.

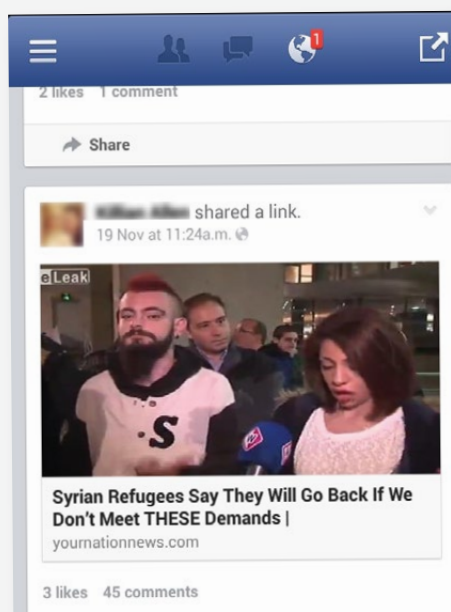
In one case, the individual publishing racist statements was detailed in his profile as being an employee of the Department of Justice with a role in which he had a responsibility for members of the public. In other reports, people publishing racist statements publicly were identifiable members of staff in hospitality and other service businesses.

Racist statements were also published for general audiences on Twitter, YouTube and ask.fm, with direct mentions of Pavee Point, the Irish Travellers' Movement, and members of the Anti-Racist Network of Ireland. One post named members of a U15 basketball team, and was also reported to Gardaí and Basketball Ireland (who have condemned the abuse).

Three reports in this period described the covert actions of a group known for racist and anti-immigration views in photographing and publishing without consent on Facebook several images of children with racist statements about Africans claiming benefits.

One report concerned a prime time radio station call-in show which allowed the use of the 'N-' word to be used repeatedly by a caller towards a Black African caller without censure

or comment by the presenter, alongside other racist comments by other callers. The show aired in November a week before ENAR Ireland released a report on racism against People of African Descent in Ireland.



The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland has since upheld a complaint about the FM104 show. The show included the portrayal of immigrants "as culturally more prone to violence, laziness, and welfare dependency" according to the BAI complaint. One caller, who was permitted to continue at length, used extreme racist rhetoric, including references to Africans "contaminating our gene pool" and "outbreeding us 2-10, with Ireland becoming "a mongrel race". The BAI Committee decision ruled that these comments were "extremely racist in nature and amounted to hate speech". It took account of the nature of the format and adult content warning when it upheld its decision and ruled that those factors do not "remove the obligation on the broadcaster to put limits on content that would reasonably be expected to cause undue offence". The ruling held that the programme "contained content that was not justified by the editorial content of the programme and which would be likely to stir up hatred against persons and groups in society, in this instance, hatred against migrants and asylum seekers".

# Support for victims

Individual support for people who have been subjected to racism is available from the organisations within our network. ENAR Ireland does not provide direct support of this kind, but welcomes comments on the support needs around the country.

Our partners providing this support include:

**Akidwa Migrant Womens Network:**  
info@akidwa.ie, 01-8349851, www.akidwa.ie

**Crosscare:** 2 Sackville Place, Dublin 1:  
(01) 8732844

**Cultúr:** Trim, Co Meath: (046) 9093120  
www.cultur.ie, joana@cultur.ie

**Doras Luimni:** Limerick. www.dorasluimni.org. 061 310 328 info@dorasluimni.org

**The Integration Centre,** Dublin: 01 6453070 www.integrationcentre.ie, info@integrationcentre.ie

**The Immigrant Council of Ireland,** Dublin: info@immigrantcouncil.ie

Tel: 01 674 0200

**The Jesuit Refugee Service:** www.jrs.ie, info@jrs.ie Limerick : 061 480922, Dublin: 01 1 8148644

**The Irish Traveller Movement** and any of its member organisations: www.itmtrav.ie 01 6796577 itmtrav@indigo.ie

**The Irish Refugee Council,** Dublin: www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie (01) 764 5854, info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie

**The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland,** Dublin:

www.mrci.ie 01 889 7570 info@mrci.ie  
**NASC Immigrant Support Centre,** Cork: www.nascireland.org 021 450 3462 Email info@nascireland.org

**The New Communities Partnership,** Dublin: www.newcommunities.ie 01 8727842, info@newcommunities.ie

**Offaly Traveller Movement:** 057 9352438 Email: info@otm.ie

**Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Rights Centre:**

info@paveepoint.ie, 01 8780255, www.paveepoint.ie  
**South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project:** SDCC Intercultural Drop-in centre, 01 4649306, zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie

**A full list of ENAR Ireland participating organisations can be found at:** www.enarireland.org/network-members/

It is important to stress that, while ENAR Ireland always encourages people to report racism to An Garda Síochána, the Irish police, because of confidentiality, reports of racism reported to iReport.ie will NOT automatically be reported to An Garda Síochána, unless expressly requested to be passed on. iReport.ie is NOT an emergency service and serious incidents should be reported to the emergency services. In an emergency call: 112 or 999

*and stressed. I cannot sleep at nights. My stress and sleeplessness is affecting my work.”*

## Impact on the victim

In addition to descriptions of the incidents, the reporting system also asks about the impact of the incident on the reporting person. Whether victim or eyewitness, it is evident that the majority of reported incidents had significant impact in terms of health, feelings of inclusion, and ability to work and form relationships. Accounts of impact were provided in 120 cases (71%). Respondents were asked to answer the question ‘Please describe the full impact of the incident on the person(s) it happened to’. In 15 of the cases reported by witnesses or NGOs, the account of impact was estimated or imputed and does not give a full picture. In all other cases, a detailed account of the impact is given.

Fifteen incidents required medical treatment or resulted in serious health problems for the victims. This included 4 cases of serious injury (3 hospitalised), including an assault on a pregnant woman. One victim reported two suicide attempts as a result of their experience, and another reported the impact of the experience on existing serious mental health problems. Further, three people experienced periods of depression, and 8 reported ongoing stress as a result. Stress was increased for the 3 people who tried to conceal the incident from their children.

Thirty-three people reported significant fear (17 in public, 8 at home, 3 at work, and 5 in general) as a direct result of the experience. Two cases involved the targeted person suffering economically as a result, with economic effects also for the 5 people who were forced to move home as a result. Thirty-nine people reported feeling demeaned, excluded or unprotected.

The attacks on Paris particularly increased the fear levels of Muslims in Ireland.

*“He came and stopped in front of me. I ignored it and changed my way. He came again and stopped in front of my face again, pushed me and start screaming in the street, ‘f-- Muslim and f-- Syrian leave our country no place for you here’, till an Irish guy take him away of me and a girl asked me to go home as it is not safe this day to be out”*

More than three-quarters of those experiencing incidents which we have classified as bias-motivated crimes experienced significant and ongoing impacts on their lives.

Twenty-five reports specifically mentioned other incidents which had occurred to them as well as the one they intended to report. The cumulative impact of racism on people’s lives must be acknowledged in any analysis of individual incidents.





**Graffiti spray painted on entrance to Odeon Cinema in Coolock**

## Summary

This period highlighted some notable aspects of the data. More discrimination was evident in the course of statutory business by public servants, and in public buildings. Businesses were revealed to be explicitly exercising policies which excluded specific ethnic groups, and asking their staff to enforce these. And, in keeping with the belief in impunity suggested by the above, racist harassment and incitement to hatred are being perpetrated quite openly on social media and in the mainstream media by people easily identified as public servants or businesses, and who appear to believe there are no consequences to racist behaviour in these forums. Together, these flag a serious need for strong political leadership against racism and effective mechanisms to prevent cultures of impunity emerging.

There is evidence of low levels of trust in Gardai to attend all kinds of incidents in a timely manner, and to pursue an investigation. Concerns on the part of victims for follow-up suggest that Gardai could increase levels of trust significantly by addressing the way in which communications with victims of racist incidents are organised. Concerns on the part of victims for prompt communication appear to be driven by the desire for information about their ongoing safety rather than punitive interests, and therefore communication strategies which address safety concerns in a timely manner may gain some ground over an approach which emphasises the formal stages of investigation.

The reports showed the highest rate of assault for a six-month period since iReport.ie began in 2013. It is concerning that less than half of incidents we categorised as crimes were reported to Gardai, and even more concerning that threat, assault without injury, harassment and sexual harassment were considered by victims to be “too common” to report. Urgent action needs to be taken to communicate that racist incidents are taken seriously by An Garda Síochána, and that officers are equipped to deal appropriately with crimes with a racist motive.

The impact of events can be ameliorated or exaggerated by the actions taken by bystanders during or after an incident. Feelings of general unsafety and vulnerability in public are directly connected to the silence of bystanders in the cases submitted to iReport.ie. The impact of verbal abuse, for example, can be severe when it appears to be condoned by a large group of people (e.g. on public transport), or by a person in authority, who do not attempt to intervene or support the targeted person(s) in any way. Evidence gathering of the kind demonstrated by this report is however supported greatly by the information provided by witnesses and secondary witnesses, whether strangers, family, friends or acquaintances. In the absence of effective statutory mechanisms for recording racist crimes and non-crime incidents, in the context of current low trust in current mechanisms, and the burden which reporting places on victims of racism, bystanders are encouraged to document racism in order to help identify it, understand it and advocate for effective responses to it.

## What they have said about iReport.ie

"I would like to commend all involved in the production of this robust and comprehensive report . . . ENAR Ireland's work on iReport.ie is of value not only for documenting racism in Ireland but also for pointing the way to policy and legislative gaps and issues. It can be a useful tool for others globally struggling with similar issues".

**Anastasia Crickley, former Ireland Rapporteur and current Vice-president of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD)**

"iReport.ie is very well done. It gives a thorough insight into the current situation and challenges and on top of that it is well written and accessible. I look forward to see how the project develops further and seeing its impact.

FRA considers making a good-practice-box about the report in the up-coming annual report together with a similar initiative in Greece."

**Morten Kjaerum, Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

"The best way for everyone to help stamp out racism is to recognise and report it."

**Irish Examiner Editorial December 16th, 2013**

"The iReport.ie mechanism is an invaluable resource for those who experience racism, providing people a means through which they can document their particular experiences."

**James Carr, Dept of Sociology, University of Limerick**

"The iReport.ie Quarterly report is an important stage in exposing the extent of racism in our society"

**Ethel Buckley, SIPTU**

"ENAR Ireland's iReport.ie is an excellent example of the kind of monitoring and reporting of discriminatory practices that is needed in the EU at the moment. ... which will hopefully ... bring about improved protection mechanisms and remedies to victims".

**Dr Michael Privot, Director, European Network Against Racism**



Scan this code to report racist incident

### European Network Against Racism Ireland

37 Dame Street  
Dublin 2

Tel: 01 8897110

Email: [info@enarireland.org](mailto:info@enarireland.org)

Web: [www.enarireland.org](http://www.enarireland.org)  
[www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)



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Be heard, make a difference and  
report racism at [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)

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