

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 half-yearly and thematic 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, trade unions 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

iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by ENAR Ireland, which coordinates a network of over 70 civil society organisations in Ireland working in anti-racism (see Page 6 and 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 11th and 12th quarterly reports, iReport Q11 & Q12, covers the half-year period 1st January to 30th June 2016.

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 Ulster University. 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*.



11th+12th quarterly reports of iReport.ie

January-June 2016

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), which was closed in 2009. This system is embedded in a network of over 70 locally-based organisations and allows for locally gathered information to be fed into national data and analysed separately. 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 half-yearly and thematic 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. It gives a way for people whose voices are often unheard, to have those voices heard and to participate in

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 process(es); 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".

ENAR Ireland Network Members



Reporting centres

Organisations which offer support to use iReport.ie include:

Amal Women's Group

Dublin
amal.hope@outlook.ie

Cairde

Dublin & Balbriggan
01 855 2111
info@cairde.ie
www.cairde.ie

Cultúr

Navan, Co Meath
(046) 9093120
info@cultur.ie
www.cultur.ie

Crosscare Refugee Service

Dublin: 01 873 2844
crs@crosscare.ie
www.crosscare.ie

Doras Luimni

Limerick: 061 310 328
info@dorasluimni.org
www.dorasluimni.org

Dublin City Centre Citizen Information Service

076 107 7230
13A O'Connell Street Upper,
Dublin 1

Dublin South City Partnership

01 473 2196
info@canalpartnership.com
www.dublinsouthcity
partnership.ie

F2 Centre Dublin

01 471 6700
info@f2c.ie
www.f2c.ie

Galway Traveller Movement

091 765 390
info@gtmtrav.ie
www.gtmtrav.ie

Jesuit Refugee Service

Limerick: 061 480922
Dublin: 01 8148644
info@jrs.ie
www.jrs.ie

Islamic Foundation of Ireland

Dublin: 01 453 3242
info@islaminireland.com
www.islaminireland.com

Irish Traveller Movement

or any of its member
organisations:
01 6796577
itmtrav@indigo.ie
www.itmtrav.ie

Irish Refugee Council

Dublin: 01 764 5854
info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

Mayo Intercultural Action

Castlebar: 094 904 4511
miamayo@eircom.net

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Dublin: 01 889 7570
info@mrci.ie
www.mrci.ie

Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre

Cork: 021 450 3462
info@nascireland.org
www.nascireland.org

National Youth Council of Ireland

Dublin: 01 478 4122
info@nyci.ie
www.nyci.ie

New Communities Partnership

Dublin: 01 8727842
info@newcommunities.ie
www.newcommunities.ie

Offaly Traveller Movement

Tullamore: 057 93 52438
info@otm.ie
www.otm.ie

Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Rights Centre

Dublin: 01 8780255
info@paveepoint.ie
www.paveepoint.ie

Rialto Community Drug Team

Dublin
edie@rcdt.ie

Rialto Community Network

Dublin: 01 473 2003
info@rcn.ie
www.rcn.ie

SICODA

Dublin: 01 453 6098
bbrennan@sicda.ie
www.sicda.ie

South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project

SDCC Intercultural Drop-in
Centre, Dublin
01 464 9306
Ezuzana.tesarova@
sdcpartnership.ie
www.sdcpartnership.ie

St Andrew's Community Centre

Dublin: 01 453 3938
centremanager@
standrews.ie
www.standrews.ie

St Michael's Family Resource Centre

Dublin: 01 453 3938
ailishfrc@eircom.net

Union of Students in Ireland

Dublin: 01 709 9300
equality@usi.ie
www.usi.ie

**A full list of the 65 ENAR
Ireland Network Members
can be found at:**
[www.enarireland.org/
membership](http://www.enarireland.org/membership)

Report Racist Incidents | iReport

www.ireport.ie

Home About iReport.ie Contact Us Report Racist Incidents

Did anybody help?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Why do you think the incident was racist?

☒ Racist language was used

☐ Language about the person's religion was used

Reporting a racist incident

To report a racist incident, go to 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 'clarity' 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:

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, including those which fall below the threshold of criminality. While some incidents are deemed too hard to prosecute, they are nevertheless important to capture, since research shows them to have an effect on individuals, communities and community relations that is much more harmful than their 'mildness' might suggest. Patterns of these '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.

Jan-Jun 2016: Analysis in Detail

Dr Lucy Michael, Ulster University

Overview

A total of 190 completed reports were received in this six month period, representing a higher level of reporting than the previous six-month period, and a significantly higher level than all previously recorded periods.

Criminal offences and illegal discrimination

In this period, the data includes at least 150 criminal offences (excluding any repeated offences), 79 incidents of verbal abuse (some of which may qualify as criminal offences), and 83 incidents involving illegal discrimination. Twelve cases included offences of criminal damage caused by graffiti and permanent stickers, as well as offences of incitement to hatred in all 12 cases. Fifty-three cases concerned incitement to hatred offences in media and social media publications.

Serious criminal harms

Assault appeared in 22 cases, including 10 with physical injury and 2 with threats to kill or cause serious harm. Twelve of the cases involved the use of racist language by perpetrators. Ten assaults were committed by strangers, while 10 perpetrators were known to the victims including as neighbours, work colleagues and landlord.

Assault appeared in 22 cases, including 10 with physical injury and 2 with threats to kill or cause serious harm.

Thirteen cases - including the two mentioned above - involved threats to kill or cause serious harm. Five of the cases involved the use of racist language by perpetrators. Five threats were made by strangers, and six people made threats during contact with the victim through their job (e.g. carer, pub security).

Theft appeared in 6 cases, in all cases alongside serious offences.

Assault

This period includes the second highest number of assaults in any period to date. Of 22 assaults, 3 were against women, and 3 against mixed-gender groups. Men are significantly more likely to be targeted for violence.

Racist language or language about the targeted persons' religion appeared in 12 cases, and one case was against a person wearing clothes associated with a religion. Eight were against people identified as 'Black' and 7 against people identified as 'Asian'. Ten of these assaults were perpetrated by strangers, with six occurring on the street.

"My friend's children were subjected to verbal abuse and sprayed with bleach by the other neighbourhood kids"

"I was on my way to work when a man swung a folded newspaper at me hitting me and called me a 'f...g black woman'. I was in shock."

"Two young people aged about 14 and 15 went into a shop, they assaulted the shop assistant and wrecked the shop, throwing food and merchandise around the shop."

"My next door neighbour came onto my property shouting that his partner was going to kill me, he was going to kill me, calling me a "foreign bastard" and a "dirty foreign bitch"."

"A boy abused my 10 year old son and threatened to shoot him."

"One of them stopped, leaned in front of the victims face and began racially abusing him. When the man failed to react he pulled off his headphones and said something along the lines of 'this is what I hate about this country, all the 'blacks' coming in here taking our jobs. After this it escalated into a violent racist attack"



High level of racist comments on Traveller John Connors' appearance on The Late Late Show

Verbal abuse

The largest proportion of incidents submitted to iReport.ie concerned verbal abuse. Verbal abuse was reported in 79 cases. Forty-three of these incidents involved a perpetrator known to the person targeted by the abuse. Ten perpetrators were staff members in public institutions. Twelve involved neighbours.

"He called me a "Filthy jew" and a "baby killer", and said that I should have been "Killed by the nazis".

*"A neighbours son kept calling my mixed race son a nigger and a monkey and a black bastard. He warned him a few times to stop saying such things. I went and asked his parents to please speak to their child as this was unacceptable. I was told to f**k off and that all my kids should watch their back..."*

A Traveller man assigned a council house away from where his family lived requested help from a local Councillor to get a transfer. The family were verbally abused both by the elected Councillor and by neighbours both in person and on social media.

"He said to me 'I'm telling you straight to your face, I have 220 people waiting to be housed and if I was a housing officer you wouldnt get a house

in [this area]. bringing in the likes of dirt like you and I have 220 people waiting to be housed. Why would I help you?', We went to view our house. When we came out from the house a crowd of up to 30 people had gathered and were booing us, I overheard boys saying that 'Tinkers are moving in and our parents are going to burn them out of it'. I was shown abusive comments made about our family on Facebook as we were offered a council house in [this area]. There was talk of a petition against us moving in."

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 cases, 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. In all but 3 cases, it accompanied more serious abuse and even violence.

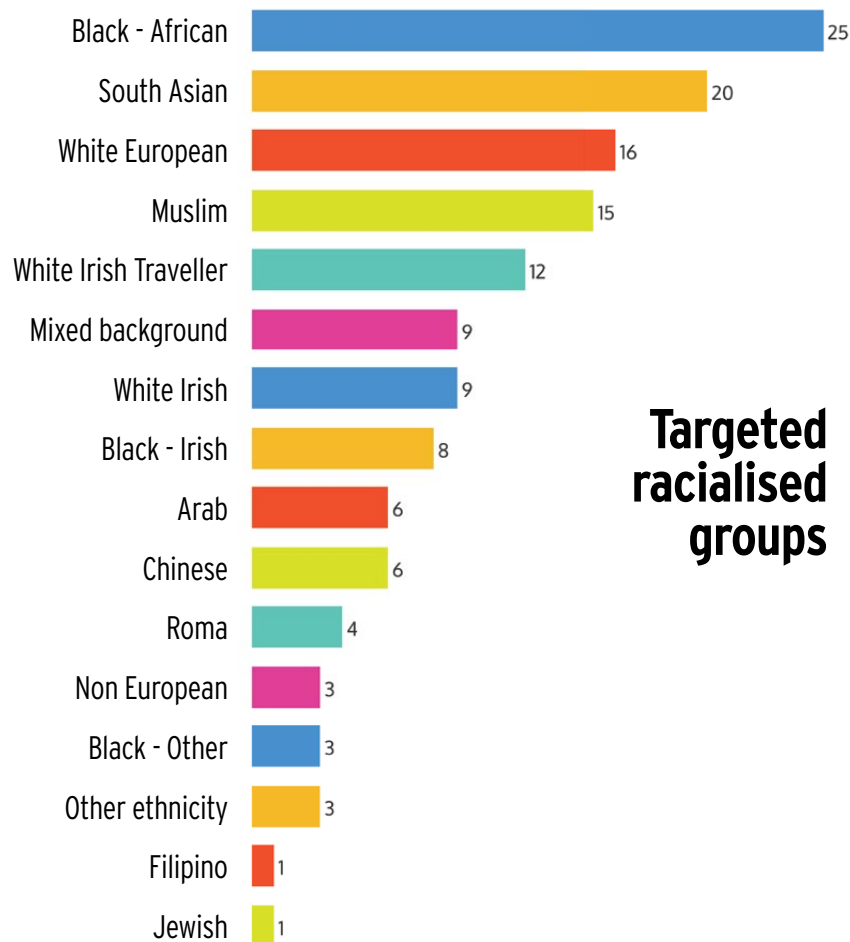
"In Dunnes Stores a Traveller woman came in with 2 children and the shop clerk at the till said to another shop clerk, Oh My God they have about 40 children them Travellers and then they can't feed them properly so they get everything free haha."

A Chinese-American tourist was told to leave an upmarket hotel sitting room by another hotel user, and was told she couldn't possibly be staying at the hotel because of who she was.

Graffiti: criminal damage and incitement to hatred

Twelve reports in this period concerned graffiti. 3 of these were close to religious or ethnic community buildings. 5 were on public transport. 7 targeted Muslims, and 2 targeted Jewish people. 3 involved multiple pre-printed Islamophobic stickers and posters stuck to street furniture including lampposts and signposts and to public transport in Maynooth and Dun Laoghaire. 3 were described as painted or written in public places, including a swastika and racist terms. None of the incidents of graffiti were reported by a person from the affected group.

One of the cases regarding painted racist terms resulted in the sentencing of the offender to a 2 year suspended sentence, with the defendant expressing remorse but denying racism despite repeatedly expressing racist views to Gardai. A charge of producing messages deemed to be "an incitement to hatred" was dropped.



Eight cases were reported by passers-by who had seen the graffiti while the rest were reported by a third party who had heard about the graffiti from a client or through the media.

Other Criminal Damage

Thirteen incidents of criminal damage were reported, in addition to the 12 cases of criminal damage resulting from graffiti and permanent stickers described above.

The 13 incidents involved in reports of abuse included 6 on homes, 2 on businesses, 5 on vehicles, 1 on an information stall in a public street, and 1 on personal belongings. One involved a car being set on fire outside the victim's house.

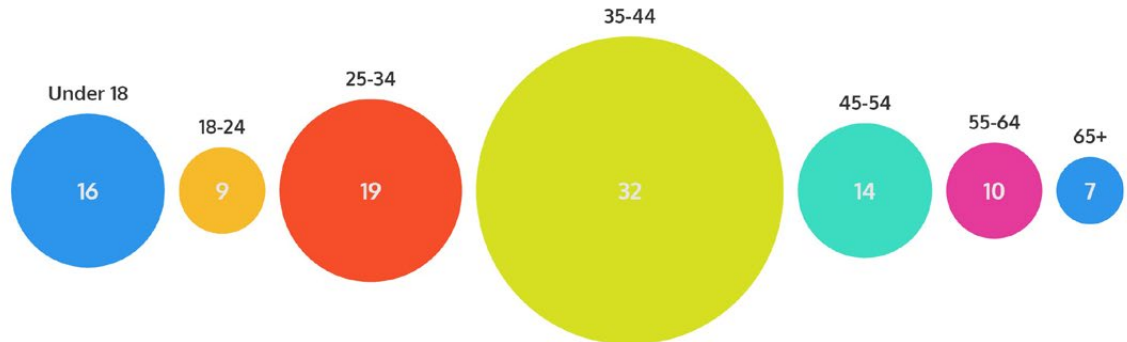
Racist language was heard in 6 of these incidents. 3 incidents targeted people identified as 'Black' (Black-African, Black-Irish and Black-Other) and 4 targeted people who were White European (not Irish). 7 incidents were perpetrated by people known to the targeted persons, including neighbours, landlords or kids from the same school. 5 were identified as being perpetrated by strangers and 1 was unidentified.

"About 9.30pm I was in my house when I heard my neighbours front door being kicked and felt the vibration from my house two doors away. A gang of approximately 12-15 youths were attacking their home throwing things, rock, bottles and cans, as well as verbally shouting and jeering the family."

Discrimination

Discrimination in service and employment accounted for 38 reports. 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.

Age of perpetrator



Discrimination in employment

Seven cases referred to employment discrimination, including six in existing employment, and one seeking work. Two related to abuse by customers who refused to be served by the ethnic minority person, and two involved career damage, including one dismissal, after complaints by the victim about standards or treatment.

"A customer lost her patience and started shouting at me, she turned aggressive suddenly. I had to ask my Irish colleagues to help me, she turned to my colleagues and said now I can talk to a human."

One man assigned by a temp agency turned up to work and was given a lower grade job by the manager, who proceeded to verbally abuse him, including in front of a customer, and harass him persistently over a number of days. Another colleague assaulted him in front of the manager causing a fall and physical injuries, which the manager claimed not to have seen. When the victim complained, he was told to leave his job.

transfer him to another organisation. He received a letter of recommendation from the organisation. However, after three days, the organisation terminated his contract and let him go. He requested an explanation but they provided him with very little information. He has been dismissed without any real explanation which assumes that he was dismissed because he reported his colleague. He feels this may have been racially motivated."

Discrimination in employment causes a particular psychological distress for the targeted person(s) because employment is so crucial to good mental health, particularly in the context of racialized minorities being accused of laziness and benefit dependence.

Provision of goods and services

Twelve cases concerned pubs, restaurants and hotels. In 6 of these, Travellers were refused service for coffee, lunch, dinner and an engagement party booking, as well as asked to leave a pub after being admitted.

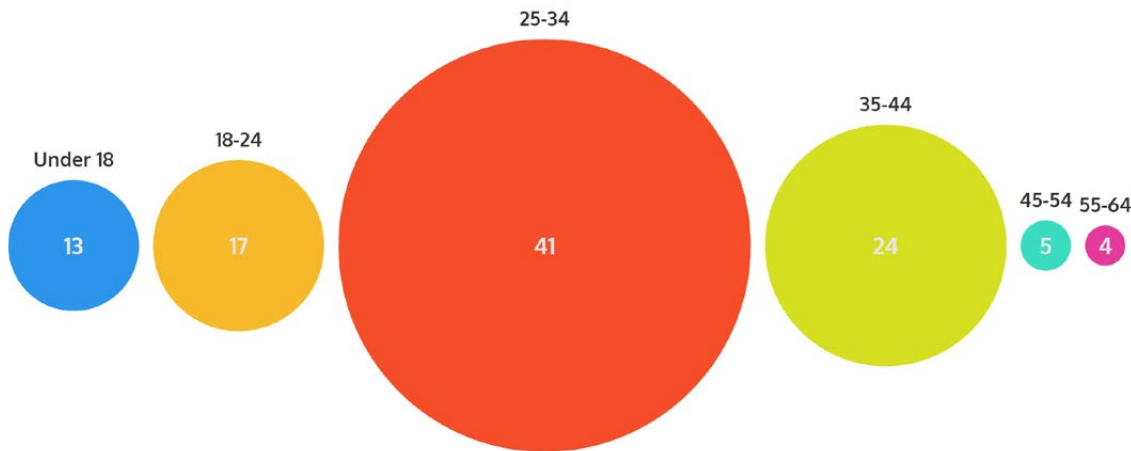
"This woman came in and I tried to explain what was on the system but she wasn't happy with it and told me to leave the room and get somebody else in, because I am giving her false information because I came from a country which is corrupt so I am corrupt too and I need to stop talking to her while waiting for another staff member."

A man who was having difficulties with a colleague reported this person's behaviour to HR. *"He was contacted by HR who suggested they would organise some form of mediation. The organisation then decided it would be easier to*

"Just as we sat down, we were approached by the bouncers who had let us in in the first place and were told that the "camera man" didn't like the look of us and we were asked to leave."

One case involved a Black-Irish man who was ejected from pub by a bouncer who told him *"to go back to where I came from"*, and accused him of dealing cocaine, and two further cases involved refusal of entry to pubs without reason, against a man who identified as Latin American and against two South Asian men.

Age of victim



One case involved a parcel delivery company's employee banging on the door and screaming 'Immigration!' at the delivery address. He then took the package back and said he would be the one redelivering it. The customer complained to the company, who refused to help, and to the Gardai. She is terrified to be alone in the house, cannot sleep and it has had an impact on her performance at work.

Three cases related to private accommodation, including one illegal eviction and one incident of abuse and discrimination while seeking social housing, and a case of illegal termination of employment which involved on-site residence.

Three cases related to discrimination in the provision of transport, two by ticket inspectors who abused passengers and were discriminatory in their performance of their work, and one bus driver who verbally abused children.

Fifteen reports concerned racist behaviour by a staff member in public service organisation. Twelve of these were against Irish or EU citizens, including 6 people or groups identified as Black, 3 Travellers, and 2 South Asians.

Two cases involved racist verbal abuse by employees of the Department of Social Protection, one by a Social welfare Inspector and one by a Social Protection officer. A disabled man was told to return to his country of origin since he could not work, despite having Irish citizenship.

Asylum seekers in a Direct Provision Centre reported persistent verbal abuse by the Manager. The abuse was so bad it was severely affecting

family life in the centre, and it was reported to the Reception and Integration Agency who are responsible for Direct Provision Centres, and to the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

A case at Dublin Airport concerned racial profiling by customs officers, who then refused to cooperate when the targeted person indicated that they wanted to make a complaint with the appropriate process.

Racial profiling by An Garda Síochána

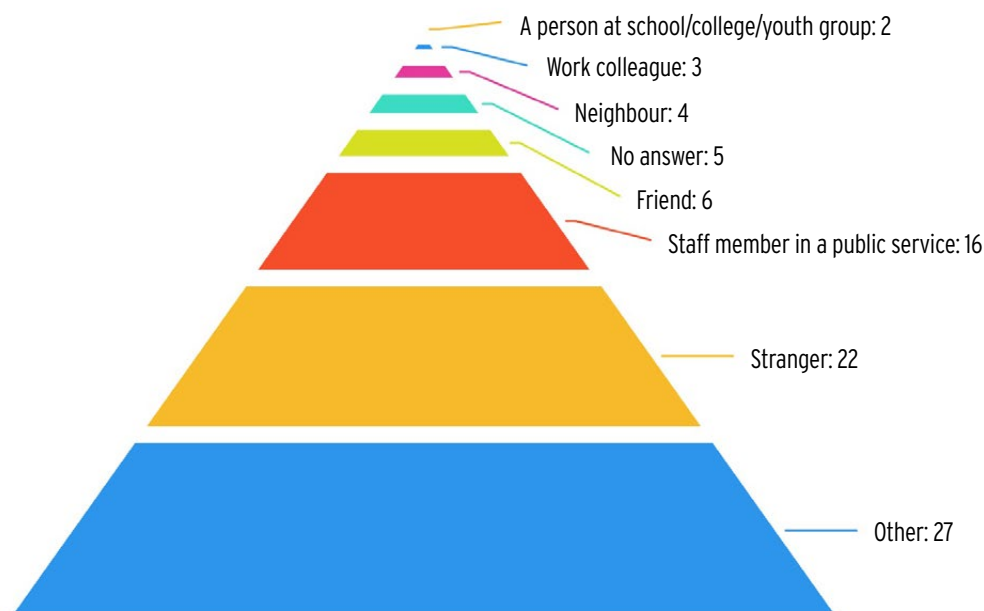
Five cases reported in this period concerned racial profiling by Gardai of ethnic minorities.

Gardai conducting a routine traffic stop questioned a man identified as Black who was travelling with White friends in his car, insisting that he was acting illegally as a taxi, and ordering all of the occupants out of the car. When the other occupants confirmed the driver was their friend, Gardai permitted them to return to the car, but kept the driver at the side of the road for nearly an hour awaiting an alcohol test kit. The incident was reported to the Garda Ombudsman, along with similar previous incidents against the same person.

"I am not one who plays the race card, I am well integrated into Irish societies, my best friend is Irish, and the most of my friends and Church members are Irish, this is why it hurts me to see Irish Gardai continually harassing me whenever they see me driving with Irish passengers."

Another case involved a non-routine traffic stop in Dublin city centre to check papers while no other cars were stopped. The person who report-

Relationship of perpetrator to victim



ed this incident believed this was a case of direct racial profiling of Black drivers, a phenomenon known elsewhere as ‘driving while Black’.

One of these involved an asylum seeker being stopped in the street, questioned and followed by a man who did not initially announce himself as a Garda Síochána and who then assaulted him claiming that he had resisted arrest. When the victim reported to the Garda station, his complaint was not taken seriously.

A third case involving direct racist behaviour by Gardai involved the profiling and surveillance of a Traveller Suicide Awareness meeting.

“A suicide awareness event was organized by Travellers, there were two uniformed Garda sitting in the bar all night watching and being intimidating. When the event was over there were around 40 Garda outside the hotel waiting. They pepper sprayed a group of Traveller women getting into a car to go home as well as some of the men that organized the event when they tried to talk or ask questions. I took a photo and my camera was snatched off me in a hostile manner, they asked me no questions or gave me info to get my camera back. As Travellers it seemed we had no rights at all.”

One case of racial profiling based on skin colour

and unfounded racist accusations by a GNIB Officer at Dublin Airport against a family had a severe impact on their son with Aspergers’ Syndrome, so that he is fearful of going out in public and particularly of An Garda Síochána.

Eight reports about discrimination included explicit descriptions of racist language, and two included explicit references to the person’s religion.

In 13 of the 38 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 skin colour, one based on a foreign name, one targeted a particular nationality, and five cases targeted a specific ethnic group as policy.

Cases of discrimination are often as damaging as hate crimes, since the effect can be so significant on housing, employment, education or use of local amenities, and therefore on the quality of life available to people of a particular ethnic group. The effect is both individual, and collective. *“It has damaged my confidence and self-respect. I feel useless and worthless in a way that I just want to cry. I need to talk to someone about it, I need legal help.”*

Patterns of discrimination against particular ethnic groups, such as those that have been observed in iReport.ie since 2013, show that those ethnic groups are experiencing systemic racism that will over an extended period of time produce a marked difference in the ability of those groups to participate fully in Irish social and economic life.

The difficulties of accessing information about and recording of a range of forms of discrimination in Ireland means that discrimination is increasingly made invisible in official statistics and discourse in Ireland. This was brought by the closure of from a range of statutory equality bodies and transfer of duties under the Equality Act to the Workplace Relations Commission, even for discrimination that does not involve employment. The move has made it more difficult to find out how to report discrimination to statutory authorities, and those experiencing discrimination who report to An Garda Síochána are not directed to the appropriate civil routes.

Targeted groups

Ethnic, religious and racialized identities

Data concerning the ethnic, religious and racialized identities of people experiencing racism was captured in 124 reports. Groups targeted in media-only and graffiti-only reports are dealt with separately in those sections.

People identified as 'Black' were targeted in 29 percent of cases of abuse and discrimination (25 cases against Black-African, 8 Black-Irish, and 3 Black-Other). South Asians were targeted in 19 cases of abuse and discrimination. Forty of the targeted persons were described as White, with 16 White European (EU citizenship reported separately, see below), 12 Irish Travellers, 3 White non-European, and 1 White Irish. People of mixed ethnic background were targeted in 9 cases.

Reflecting the pattern of ethnic groups above, 35 of those targeted were Christian and 37 identified as 'no religion', 15 were Muslim and 1 was Jewish. This does not reflect, however, any misperception of religion by the perpetrators.

Nationality and immigration status

Of the 66 people who reported their own experience of racism, 62 gave an indication of their own nationality or immigration status. Nearly half (28) were Irish citizens, of which 17 described their ethnicity as something other than white Irish or Traveller. A further 17 were EU citizens. There were 13 visa-holders, 3 asylum-seekers and 1 refugee. Four did not answer this question.



Of the 56 people reporting on behalf of someone else, 17 were not sure of the status of the affected person(s), 38 gave an indication of status, and 2 did not answer the question. Affected groups were in similar proportion to those self-reporting, with 20 Irish citizens (14 not white Irish or Traveller), 6 EU citizens, 8 visa-holders, 1 asylum seeker and 1 refugee.

These indications tell us that racism is most often reported by and about people who are Irish or EU citizens, most likely because they are aware of available reporting systems, have language fluency to report or to tell others who can report, and are integrated into Irish communities. The low number of asylum-seekers and refugees reporting reflects internationally low reporting trends by these groups who often are isolated and unaware of organisations or individuals who can help (FRA, *Current migration situation in the EU: hate crime*, 2016). This is particularly the case in Ireland where asylum seekers are isolated from wider communities through residence in Direct Provision centres.

Gender

Men were targeted more than women in assaults, threats with a weapon, threats to kill or cause harm, and experienced more repeated harassment. Men experienced 16 assaults compared to 3 against women, and 19 cases specified repeat harassment compared to 9 against women. Women did not experience any threats with weapons, compared to 2 by men. Men were much more likely to report poor service, but had similar experiences of refused service, refused entry, work discrimination and seeking accommodation.

Age of targeted person(s)

Three-quarters of all victims are under the age of 45, with people in the category '25-34' appearing in the highest number of reports across the categories of violence, abuse and discrimination.

With just 30 reports about under 25s (of which 13 were under 18), there is a disproportionate experience of violence. This is likely to be because young people are less inclined to formally report racist abuse or discrimination. It is notable that no reports came directly from under 18s, and the 13 cases about under 18s were submitted on their behalf by someone else. Of the 30 cases concerning people under 25 years old subjected to racism, 13 involved stranger perpetrators, and 3 involved people in an authority position. Again, people identified as Black under 25 were targeted more than any other group of that age.

Thirteen cases involved children as the main people targeted for abuse, with 5 of these including serious harm. Nine of these cases involved other children amongst the perpetrators, but also their parents and extended family members. A further ten cases involved children as victims (including babies in two cases) and one case involved a pregnant woman.

Affected groups and location

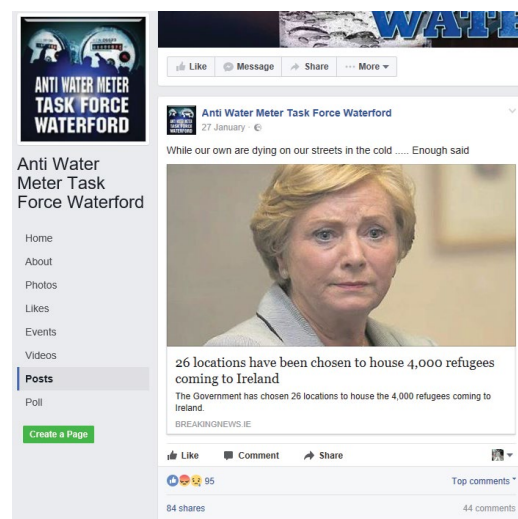
The greatest diversity of reporting locations came from people identified as Black who reported from 10 counties. Irish Travellers reported from 8 counties, a wider geographical spread than in previous periods although still in small numbers, and this is likely to be connected to awareness raising campaigns conducted recently by Traveller organisations. White other-Europeans and people of Asian ethnicities each reported from 5 and 4 counties respectively.

Perpetrators

Relationship to targeted person(s)

Perpetrators of violence were mostly strangers to the targeted person(s), and strangers made up 37 percent of all perpetrators.

Staff in public services organisations made up 10 percent of perpetrators across all categories of incident, the largest identifiable single group of known perpetrators. Other known perpetrators included neighbours, work colleagues and people from the same school or college.



Anti-refugee statements in Facebook posts

Gender and age of perpetrators

Predominantly perpetrators were male (63 cases), with female perpetrators in just 26 cases. Mixed gender groups appeared in 22 cases.

The largest age group involved as perpetrators were those aged 35-44 (32 cases), followed by those aged 25-34 (19 cases). The latter group were those most likely to be involved in violence.

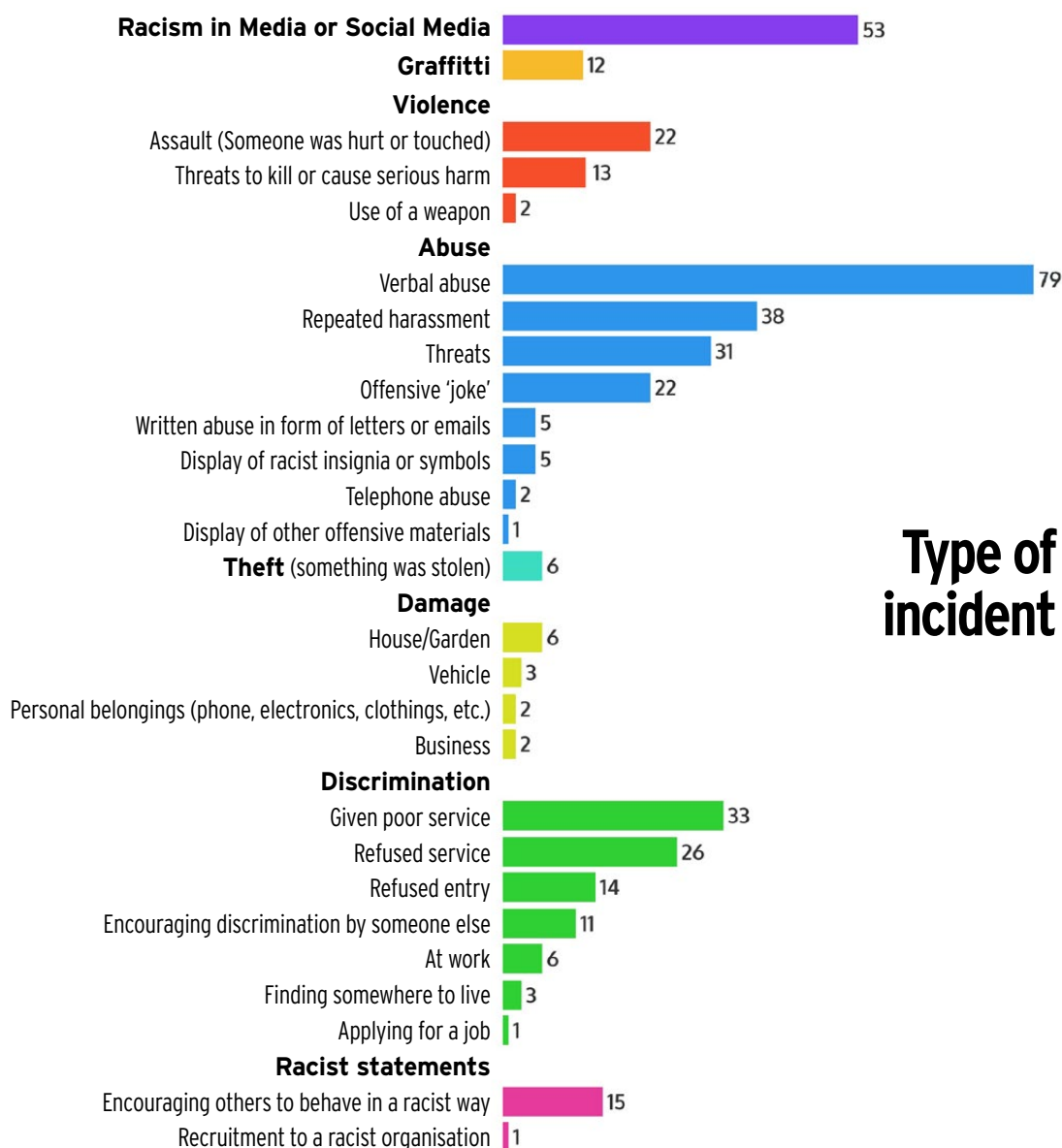
Sixteen cases involved under 18s as perpetrators, with 12 of these against non-White ethnic minorities (of which 10 were Irish citizens). Six of these involved violence.

Group and individual perpetrators

Perpetrators acted alone in 51 cases, with one other person in 32 cases, with two other people in 9 cases, and with more than 3 others in 16 cases.

Ethnicity

White Irish perpetrators were identified in 82 cases. White Irish Travellers were identified in 14 cases. White Europeans were identified in 7 cases, and White Non-Europeans in 6 cases. Some uncertainty around white identities is expressed in 23 of the White Irish cases, with mul-



Type of incident

tiple identities indicated.

Perpetrators were identified as Black in 1 case, Arab in 3 cases, South Asian in 2 cases, and of mixed background in 2 cases.

Evidencing motives

In 51 cases of abuse and discrimination, racist language was directed at the targeted person(s). In 2 cases, language about the person's religion was used. In 7 cases, the victim wore clothes of a particular religion or ethnic group.

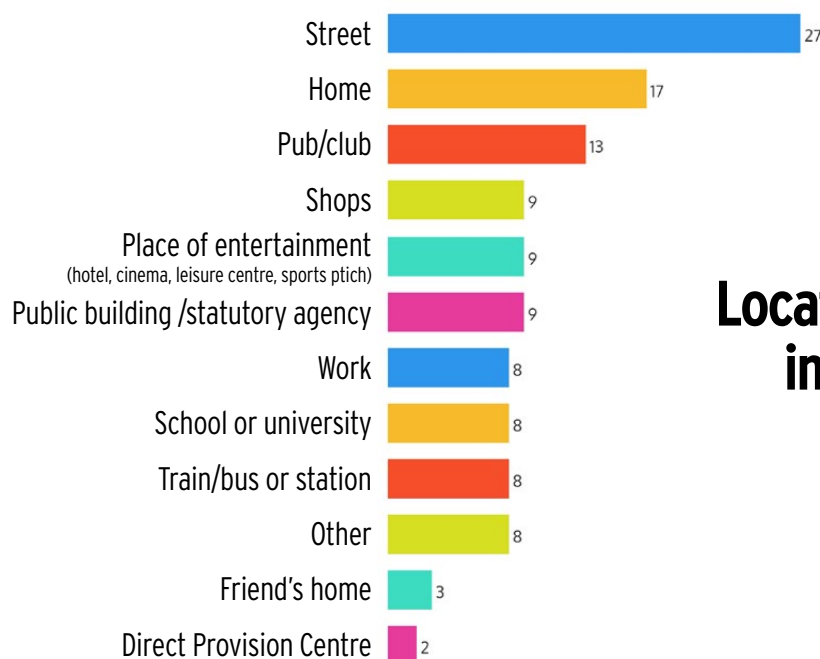
Alcohol and Drugs

In 8 of the cases reported in this period, the perpetrators were clearly under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

"At the Trinity Ball, a person approached a girl of

Arab descent shouting "Allahu Akbar".

"I was with my boyfriend at [expensive] restaurant in Dun Laoghaire for lunch. A man seated next to us made loud comments such as "here comes the muzzy (Muslim - although he is not)", "did he order batteries to blow the place up?" "He is with a pale girl though, he must be a doctor or have a big house in Dun Laoghaire", "oh he is having a burger, I thought he would just order a slab of pork". We decided to not engage with him but my boyfriend was incredibly upset after the incident. The man seemed to be after several drinks and thought this was funny and acceptable behaviour at Sunday lunch time in a busy family filled restaurant. I was quite shocked and wished we could have reported him to the guards. This man was certainly under the influence of drink. I was shocked by his behaviour at 1pm in a



Location of incident

well respected restaurant.”

In a further 27 cases the reporting person was ‘not sure’ if the perpetrator was intoxicated.

Perpetrators under the influence of alcohol or drugs may be more likely to commit offences and to use language which they might ordinarily not use. The effects on the victims are, however, often more frightening because of the lack of control displayed by the perpetrator over their own behaviour. Responses by An Garda Síochána and bystanders however often ignore the impact of the incident on the victims, instead focusing on the behaviour as being ‘out of character’ for the perpetrator. In this period, this is exemplified by the case of a vicious spontaneous group assault on a man sitting on a bench, where the Garda attending the scene failed even to record the names of the intoxicated perpetrators after a discussion with them.

However the data collected by iReport.ie over 3 years suggests that perpetrators are often repeat offenders who are aware that their intoxication is likely to ensure that their behaviour is minimised and unpunished. An exception to this was a recent case, reported in this period, from Limerick, where the judge did not accept intoxication as an excuse for racist behaviour and criminal damage, although the defendant’s apology in court ensured a suspended sentence.

Mapping incidents

Locations

Reported incidents occurred in 18 counties in

the Republic of Ireland. The highest number of reports concerned incidents in Dublin, with 11 in Limerick and 6 in Cork. This pattern of reporting reflects the existence of local racism reporting systems in both cities. The nature of racist incidents reported across the full spread of counties demonstrates the similarity of experience throughout the country.

Day and Time

Incidents were quite evenly spread throughout the week, with a slight spike on Mondays and Tuesdays. Sixty-five incidents occurred during the day (7am to 7pm), and 25 occurred at night. Just 16 incidents were reported as occurring after 7pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. This may be because incidents obviously related to night culture are more likely to be ignored (if minor), and also because ethnic minorities may already avoid public spaces on weekend nights for their own safety.

Patterns of harassment

For the first time in 2015, iReport.ie asked if the reported incident was part of a pattern of harassment. Nearly half of all incidents reported (61) were part of a pattern of harassment, but there were very few reports concerning the same victims. This means that the number of incidents far exceeds the number submitted to iReport.ie. In addition, the incidents reported frequently include more than one criminal offence, and reports refer also to criminal offences perpetrated on earlier dates. The number of criminal offences therefore is significantly under reflected by

Racism in media, on the web and in social media

Fifty-three reports concerned the publication of racist statements in media and social media. Of these, 34 were published on social media sites Facebook (27), Twitter and others. Racist statements are those which use racist language which demeans or dehumanises a racialised group or perceived member of that group.

Nine reports concerned racist statements published in the comments sections of the websites or social media pages of established media outlets, including the Irish Examiner, Irish Times, Journal.ie, Metro Eireann and Connaught Tribune. Comments included genocidal references to ethnic and ethno-religious groups mentioned in articles, and it is clear that no moderation had been undertaken by the media company of public comments.

Although the legal situation regarding Facebook comments by other posters is ambiguous, there is no doubt that publishers are responsible for comments published on their own websites, and must take responsibility for the publication of those comments, particularly where they clearly exceed the criteria of the Incitement to Hatred Act.

Facebook has been a particular producer of collective racist statements as people respond to negative news stories or posts about ethnic groups and share them with their networks. It has also been home to new Irish white supremacist groups, anti-immigration groups and Islamophobic groups emerging online with links to (and mostly dominated by members of) international far-right groups. The ease with which these groups operate on Facebook and can recruit new supporters is evidenced in the submitted reports.

Two businesses in this period (a café and a clothing store), and several in previous reports (including a pub and hotel), used racist statements on their Facebook pages to boost interest in and footfall to their businesses. The openness of this sort of behaviour reflects the emergence of open racist hostilities seen elsewhere in Europe and America in recent years.

Nine of the reports concerned published state-

ments against Muslims. Five of these were on Facebook, two on Twitter and one each on Instagram and theJournal.ie. Seven of the reports concerned racist statements against people identified as Black, and these were across 5 different forums and social media platforms. Four were against Travellers, published on social media and in a local newspaper.



Seventeen reports were submitted by people who identified as members of the targeted ethnic or racialised groups. Twenty-nine were submitted by people who did not identify as members of the targeted groups.

A tweet by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin President and Louth TD, was one of the most high profile incidents reported to iReport.ie. This tweet was particularly controversial because of Mr. Adams' reputation for anti-racism work and his use of a pejorative term.

the number of reports presented here. Of those 61 cases of repeated harassment, a third (20) involved violence, and illustrate the problem of escalation when low-level harassment is not properly addressed by the authorities and agencies who have legal powers to intervene and deter perpetrators. Of these, 18 affected people at home, 28 affected people in their neighbourhood and local amenities, 4 on public transport and 3 using local pubs.

Reporting to Police and other authorities

Of the 123 reported cases of abuse and discrimination in this six month period, 78 (63%) were known to have been reported to the Gardai or another authority or NGO as well as to the iReport website. Only thirty cases (24%) were reported to Gardai. Fifteen involved violence, twenty five involved abuse, and thirteen of these included discrimination in goods or services.

Twenty cases involving violence were not reported to Gardai. Two had previous responses from Gardai to previous incidents, four did not think the Gardai would do anything, one was concerned about the offenders' response, and four said that the type of incident was too common (despite involving violence).

Department of Justice and Equality Citizenship Applications



Eamon Scanlon (Sligo-Leitrim, Fianna Fail)

Link to this: [Individually](#) | [In context](#)

63. To ask the Minister for Justice and Equality the number of Muslims who have applied for Irish citizenship in the past three years; the number of these who are legally living here for the past three years; and if she will make a statement on the matter. [17652/16]

TD singles out Muslims with questions on legal residency and citizenship

In the 87 cases not involving violence, there were 71 in which no report made to the Gardai, and 28 of these described why. Three did not think the Gardai would or could do anything about it, three reported previous poor responses from Gardai. Six did not know how or where to report to Gardai. Two feared reprisals as a result.

Improving reporting to Gardai

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

Anonymous reporting	25
Self-report form	18
You could have reported the incident to a police officer who identified as a member of the targeted social group(s)	13
Someone else would report to Gardai for you	11

Thirteen respondents provided a qualitative response to the question. One indicated that an online system to report to the Gardai (similar to that used in the UK perhaps) would make reporting easier. Two indicated that they could not trust the Gardai (one because of violence by a Garda). One indicated that there was insufficient public security to ensure their safety in reporting. One was advised by a third party not to report to Gardai because of harassment by Gardai of ethnic minorities. Another witness helpfully puts this in context:

"My belief that Gardai are actively addressing racism in the force is undermined. I feel disheartened that though at a superficial level we are hearing about Garda Intercultural Offices and Intercultural work there is still a lot of racism by rank and file Gardai. I'm sad that Gardai in the inner city, which is so diverse but also so challenged by anti-social behaviour would act this way. There is a lot of work to be done with Gardai to address racism. It's so visible in the force but so little is being done."

Eight stated that there was no effective legislation to make it worthwhile reporting, and two of these said Gardai had previously refused to take statements on the matter. One of these involved sustained violence and abuse over a period of months, two involved serious incidents of abuse, and seven involved discrimination in employment, accommodation or illegal refusal of entry policies.

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 im-

pact in terms of health, feelings of inclusion, and ability to work and form relationships. Accounts of impact were provided in 101 cases of abuse and discrimination (82%). 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.

Eighteen incidents required medical treatment or resulted in serious health problems for the victims. One involved children experiencing bleach burns on eyes and skin. Two involved severe beatings of the victim, with unknown extent of injuries at time of reporting. Eight resulted in physical injuries not requiring immediate hospitalisation. In two cases clothes were ripped from the bodies of victims during the assaults. Two described severe bruising, 1 bleeding, and 3 being punched. Two of the incidents resulting in physical injury were described as being by Gardai in unreasonable use of force.

The psychological effects of reported incidents is significant. One victim reported having tried to commit suicide afterwards, 2 described ongoing emotional and mental effects, 1 experienced ongoing panic attacks. Three experienced periods of depression, 2 described psychological pressure and 2 described the effects as trauma. The answers to this question were given in the words of the person reporting the incident rather than in a pre-set question.

"I feel useless and lower than others. I can not stop thinking about it in my head over and over again. Do not think I can sleep tonight or feeling comfortable walking in to government office without remembering this incident."

Twenty-nine people reported fear as a direct result of the experience which was so significant that it impacted on their ability to engage in normal everyday activities like attending school or going to work, shopping or talking to neighbours. The level of fear prompted cases of moving house, avoiding local amenities including shops and public transport, avoiding areas near to where they lived, not leaving the house except at essential times, and not socialising with anyone beyond the family. One father was left so terrified by an attack on him and his son near his son's school that he has stopped attending entirely. Another family, forced to move house by constant attacks on their family and fearful

of the effect on pregnancy, are reluctantly removing their child from his school with no other school to go to. The effects of attacks on homes are as severe in producing fear as any other form of attack.

"I cried and I fainted and was admitted to hospital by ambulance. I later had a panic attack in the ambulance. I had bruises and was crying for the rest of the week"

"Going out even for daily routine will be a big challenge for me now. I need to think three times before I step out."

A family experiencing constant abuse from a teenager were left coping with ongoing behavioural problems with their children who struggled to cope:

"This is very disturbing on the family where six of them are kids under the age of eleven. It leaves the children very clingy and not willing to leave their parents side. Some of the youths go to the same school as the [perpetrator]."

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 can guide you to organisations that can help. We welcome comments on the support needs around the country.

Our partners providing this support include:

Akidwa Migrant Women's Network
01 834 9851
info@akidwa.ie
www.akidwa.ie

Crosscare
Dublin: 01 873 2844
www.crosscare.ie

Cultúr
Navan, Co Meath: 046 9093120
info@cultur.ie
www.cultur.ie

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

Immigrant Council of Ireland
Dublin: 01 674 0200
info@immigrantcouncil.ie
www.immigrantcouncil.ie

Galway Traveller Movement
091 765 390
info@gtmtrav.ie
www.gtmtrav.ie

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

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

Irish Refugee Council Dublin
01 764 5854
info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie
www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

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

Nasc: Irish Immigrant Support Centre
Cork: 021 450 3462
info@nascireland.org
www.nascireland.org

New Communities Partnership
Dublin: 01 8727842

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

Pavee Point Traveller & Roma Rights Centre
Dublin: 01 8780255
info@paveepoint.ie
www.paveepoint.ie

South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tal-laght Roma Integration Project
SDCC Intercultural Drop-in Centre
Dublin: 01 464 9306
E:zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie
www.sdcpartnership.ie

A full list of ENAR Ireland participating organisations can be found at:
www.enarireland.org/membership/

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 issues reports of racism reported to iReport.ie will NOT automatically be reported to An Garda Síochána. iReport.ie is NOT an emergency service and serious incidents should be reported to the emergency services. In an emergency call: 112 or 999.

Notes on the survey

The survey was revised significantly in January 2016 to improve the quality of data collected and to provide a greater range of preset responses. These changes included an explicit question about religious groups.

The survey allows any member of the public to report a racist incident and the incident is defined as racist by the reporting party. No judgement is made on the nature of the incident by the authors of the survey. In this iReport.ie follows the definition of a racist incident set out by the MacPherson Inquiry, in which any party to the incident can define it as racist.

A new question on the 2016 survey asked the status of the affected person(s). This is to help us to identify whether particular groups are targeted on the grounds of their immigration status as well as perceived ethnic or racialized identities. It also helps to identify factors affecting reporting patterns.

The new survey also captures experiences of repeated harassment with a specific question about whether the reported incident is part of a longer pattern of harassment. Previously this was captured only where reports from the same victims were noted or where reports contained qualitative references to other incidents.

Conclusion

The increased number of reports submitted to iReport.ie in this period, and over the 3 years since iReport.ie was established clearly reflects the frustration felt with the existing official systems for recording racist incidents of violence, abuse and discrimination, by both people targeted by racism and those who witness it.

Across the period, there has been an increase in the number of reported assaults, with a greater number of reports indicating that Garda responses to violence and abuse is inefficient and ineffective. Levels of trust in Gardaí to address racism are low, and the high number of reports which indicate that the incidents are part of an ongoing pattern of racism, particularly those which have escalated to violence over a period of time, demonstrate that Garda efforts to tackle racism before it escalates need to improve. Research on hate crimes clearly shows that low-level abuse which is not adequately addressed can increase in quantity and severity very quickly, and this is clearly reflected in the evidence here.

The data in this period shows, as in previous periods, that incidents of abuse and violence are often linked to discrimination in access and provision of goods and services, including in housing, education, employment and access to shops, restaurants and public places. Racist behaviour is exhibited, in this data, by professionals, bus drivers, shopkeepers and neighbours, and most worryingly, state officials. Racist violence and abuse is experienced in schools, workplaces, community centres, and homes as well as in streets and on public transport. Reports of racist incidents are ignored, disregarded and compounded by teachers, housing officers, county councils, elected representatives, as well as by Gardaí.

The patterns of exclusion evident here, in the extent of institutions which reinforce racist hierarchies and which permit explicit racist behaviours, will produce long-lasting effects on both individuals and communities. This is already evident in the experience of Travellers,

and the small number of cases reported in this period by Travellers demonstrates the impact of generations of discrimination and exclusion against an ethnic group. Low levels of trust in police and officials have been produced by decades of racism by officials in decision-making and in the construction of policies which reinforce exclusion, and exclusion by wider Irish society with widespread stereotyping and the disappearance of empathy with members of the community. Low level of empathy for Travellers is indicated by the low proportion of cases which are reported about racism against Travellers by witnesses. Reports about racism for all other groups include a significant level of reporting by witnesses, however this is not true for Travellers. This demonstrates the extent to which anti-Traveller racism is not considered worth reporting today, and indeed may not even be perceived as racism by much of the population.

The patterns seen here, affecting a range of non-White and Eastern European communities, are evidence of a persistent thread of racism running through our institutions and communities. The extent of direct and blatant racism in mainstream media as well as on social media, and the failure of existing legislation to address it, reinforces messages of exclusion and emboldens perpetrators of racist discrimination and violence. Gardaí are poorly supported to address racism with the existing legislation, training, policies and resources. They remain ill-equipped to adequately support victims of violence and abuse, and unable to confront racism within the force. Individuals within state institutions who observe racist discrimination by their colleagues, and document the effects on the targeted people, have few options to confront and prevent repeat incidents of discrimination. Ethnic minorities targeted by racist violence are as likely to confront discrimination when they report incidents and to experience further ill effects as a result either through harassment by officials, whether in state agencies or schools, or by exclusion from access to required services.

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, President of the United Nations 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

Web: www.enarireland.org
www.enar-eu.org



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or on Facebook or YouTube

Be heard, make a difference and
report racism at www.iReport.ie

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