

## Data from iReport.ie

# 2019

# Reports of racism in Ireland

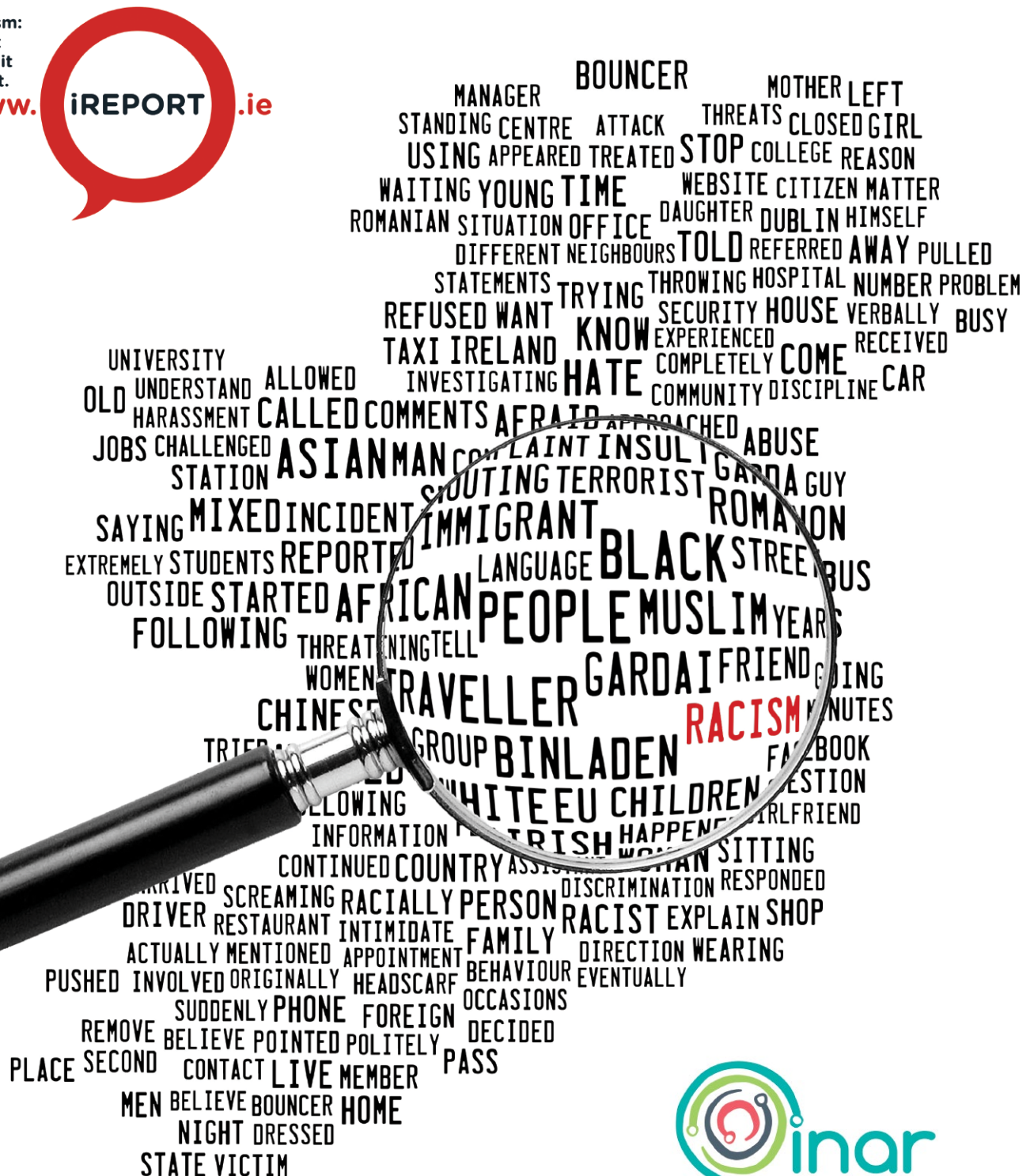
Authored by Dr Lucy Michael

**Racism:  
see it  
send it  
end it.**

**www.**

**iREPORT**

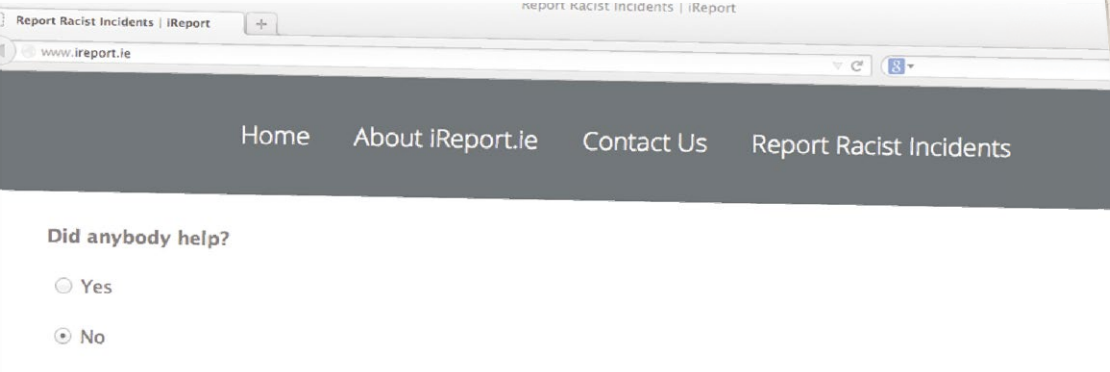
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## About iReport

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](http://www.iReport.ie)

iReport.ie is a system that makes it as easy as possible for people to self-report racist incidents by using the online form. It is 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.

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”.

iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by the Irish Network Against Racism (INAR), a member of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). INAR and ENAR work to coordinate common civil society-led responses to racism and racial discrimination at local, national and European level. iReport.ie was launched on 11 July 2013.

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 practice 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.

This system is embedded in a network of over 80 locally-based organisations working in anti-racism 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.

To ensure the analysis of the iReport system is in line with robust international standards of data collection and analysis, and for comparators with relevant international research, INAR has partnered with Dr Lucy Michael, a Research and Training Consultant in the areas of integration and equality. Dr Michael is an authority on hate crime recording systems and on the impact of hate crimes on communities, and has led the analysis of iReport.ie data since 2013. ([lucymichael.ie](http://lucymichael.ie))



## Our definitions

INAR 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.'

**For an expanded discussion on INAR's definitions of racism, see:**

<https://inar.ie/racism-in-ireland/learn-about-racism/>

### What is a racist incident?

Following the above definition, a racist incident is any incident which has the effect of undermining anyone's enjoyment of their human rights, based on their background. INAR 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'.

**A racist incident is any incident which has the effect of undermining anyone's enjoyment of their human rights, based on their background**

This definition has been adopted by police forces across the UK (where the Association of Chief Police Officers welcomed it for the 'clarity' it gives police forces) and was also adopted 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:

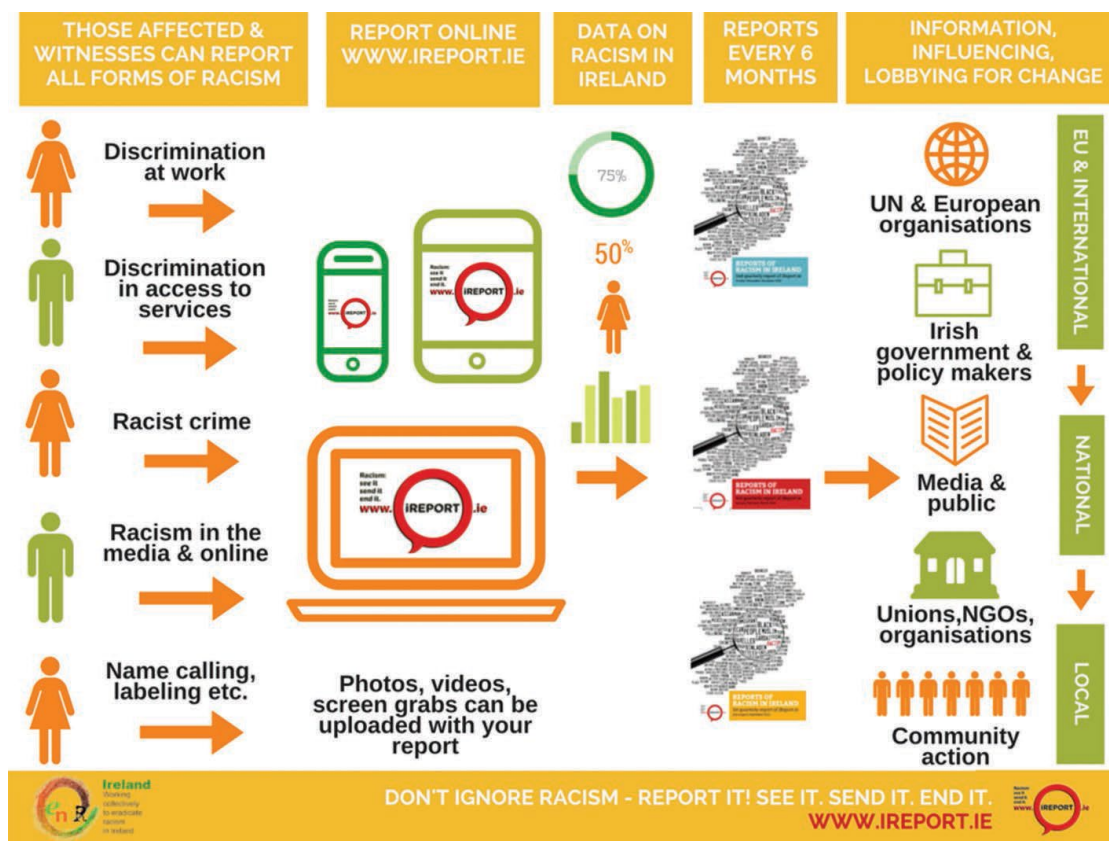
### Why would you or the person it happened to say the incident was racist?

- 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. 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. To date, An Garda Síochána does not do so.

### How we count crimes

Under Garda counting rules, one offence is counted per victim for any crime incident (i.e. criminal event). So, irrespective of the number of offenders it is the number of victims of an incident that dictate how many offences will be recorded. iReport.ie reflects this system by counting the number of reports made, rather than each individual criminal offence or other type of incident. Under crime counting rules, a continuous series of offences against the same victim involving the same offender counts as one offence. Thus reports to iReport.ie against a single victim or family are counted as a single offence if the offender is known or likely to be the same person(s), to reflect the counting rules of An Garda Síochána. The same rules apply to our reports to ODIHR and other bodies.



## Why report?

Reporting racist crimes and discrimination goes a long way to support work across Ireland by ENAR members to achieve better services for victims of crime and discrimination, better protection for those likely to be targeted, and hold statutory agencies and government accountable for failures in this area.

Reporting takes time and can bring up distressing feelings and memories. It can also bring some relief to report what has happened. But the most important thing about reporting is that it brings benefits to other people potentially targeted by racism and to making Irish society more equal and inclusive. If you make a report, your report will help ensure that what happened is less likely to happen again.

Civil society organisations across the world host independent reporting systems to capture the patterns and extent of racism in their societies. These are used to balance state data, which often underestimates the problem, and usually reflects under-reporting to police and under-recording by police. iReport.ie is Ireland's independent racism reporting system. It enables us to build a more accurate picture of the extent and forms of racism in our society.

Collecting data, analysing it and reporting on hate crime can provide communities and Civil Society

Organisations (CSOs) with a powerful tool with which to present their concerns to government, law enforcement, media and others. Through iReport.ie, INAR collects civil society data on racist hate crimes and racist discrimination which can be shared with the public and reported to international organisations. To date, INAR has used iReport.ie data in reports to the United Nations, European Commission, EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), and OSCE/ODIHR.

Credible data provides the facts needed to advocate for improved public policies which, in turn, both act to prevent and to combat hate crime and provide services which respond to the needs of victims of hate crime and hate-motivated incidents. Hate crime and hate speech motivated by racism are a daily reality in Europe. However, most countries do not effectively monitor hate crimes or take the necessary steps to counteract it. Nor are victims provided with essential support.

INAR and Dr Lucy Michael have both also drawn on the iReport.ie data to contribute to the training of civil society organisations across Europe through the CEJI Facing Facts! programme (facingfacts.eu). The data has additionally been used to contribute to reports on Islamophobia in Europe (islamophobiaeurope.com) and ENAR Shadow Reports on Racism in Europe (enar-eu.org/Shadow-Reports-on-racism-in-Europe-203)

# Director's foreword

2019 was a year which saw a number of significant developments in the fight against racism in Ireland. The full repercussions from unsavoury comments about Travellers, made in late 2018 by a feckless Peter Casey, unsuccessful candidate in the 2018 presidential election, were only just manifesting at the beginning of 2019. In February, a second attack on a hotel designated for accommodating asylum seekers in Rooskey, Co Leitrim, in circumstances remarkably similar to the previous attacks on a hotel in Moville, Co Donegal, threw into sharp focus the dreadful consequences for minorities of deploying racism as a political tool. Indeed, as this report shows, arson attacks on Traveller homes and a number of very seriously violent racist crimes on all minorities would also be recorded in 2019.

But the “Peter Casey moment” had other consequences too: it caused his ratings to soar, as intended, encouraging the expectation by others that there could be electoral gain to be made from making utterances that were suggestively xenophobic and racist, if not outrightly so. When candidates Noel Grealish TD, Verona Murphy and others would later make their own utterances, it was apparently with little consideration to the risk of violence against minorities. Such utterances are often only very loosely based in fact, if not blatantly mendacious, and always pander to fears and myths, often the kind that can be traced to far-right sources. Indeed, within the same time-frame that this “moment” peaked the interest of these ostensibly “presentable” but unscrupulous individuals from the political mainstream, it had already awakened and emboldened a number of far-right vloggers and groupuscules who saw an opportunity to shift discourse around minorities to the right. As recorded by INAR, the activities of the far right, brought about a marked increase in volume, intensity and vehemence of online hatred, hate activity and incitement. Using internationally tested resources and methodologies, actors in the far-right ecosphere made concerted attempts to coalesce and achieve political, street-level and electoral breakthroughs, either through fielding candidates or by drawing more mainstream candidates to the right. Noel Grealish’s racist remarks at a public meeting in Oughterard are best understood in the light of the successful efforts by far-right organisers arriving in the Co Galway town to exploit local frustrations, and state opacity, to build an anti-asylum seeker campaign based on racist myths.

If political racism would later suffer set-backs electorally, thanks to community leadership, its mere existence in society nevertheless continues to have drastic real-life consequences for all minorities

in Ireland. This is evidenced in the significant increases in recorded incidents, in particular serious incidents, and in their impacts, as reported in these pages. The lessons from our European neighbours, and across the world, where instances of far-right terrorism have quadrupled since 2015, is that we can’t afford to treat these phenomena as ephemeral. We must also guard against being tempted by the folly that a far-right agenda can somehow be undermined by ‘mainstream’ politicians adopting elements of its agenda. We need state leadership.

At a grassroots level, real leadership has been galvanised in response to the attempted far-right surge. Anti-racism initiatives emerged to directly confront the threat posed to communities. At the time of writing, the awakening of Ireland’s anti-racist and democratic conscience is also emerging in civil society, faith group and trade union vociferousness in opposing the far right and political racism. There has also been a detectable improvement in journalistic standards.

In December, Irish Civil Society also showed leadership too when diverse groups sent multiple delegations to Geneva to make representations to the United Nations Committee For the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD) as it conducted its periodic examination of the Irish State. This engagement ensured that the main findings from INAR’s 2019 consultation and reporting process to CERD were not just taken up by the Committee in interrogating the State, but were also heavily reflected in its *Concluding Observations for Ireland*. These included the call to:

Address racism within the wider criminal justice system by; outlawing racial profiling by members of An Garda Síochána, and mainstreaming mitigation against it, while fully implementing the Garda Diversity and Integration Strategy 2019–2021;

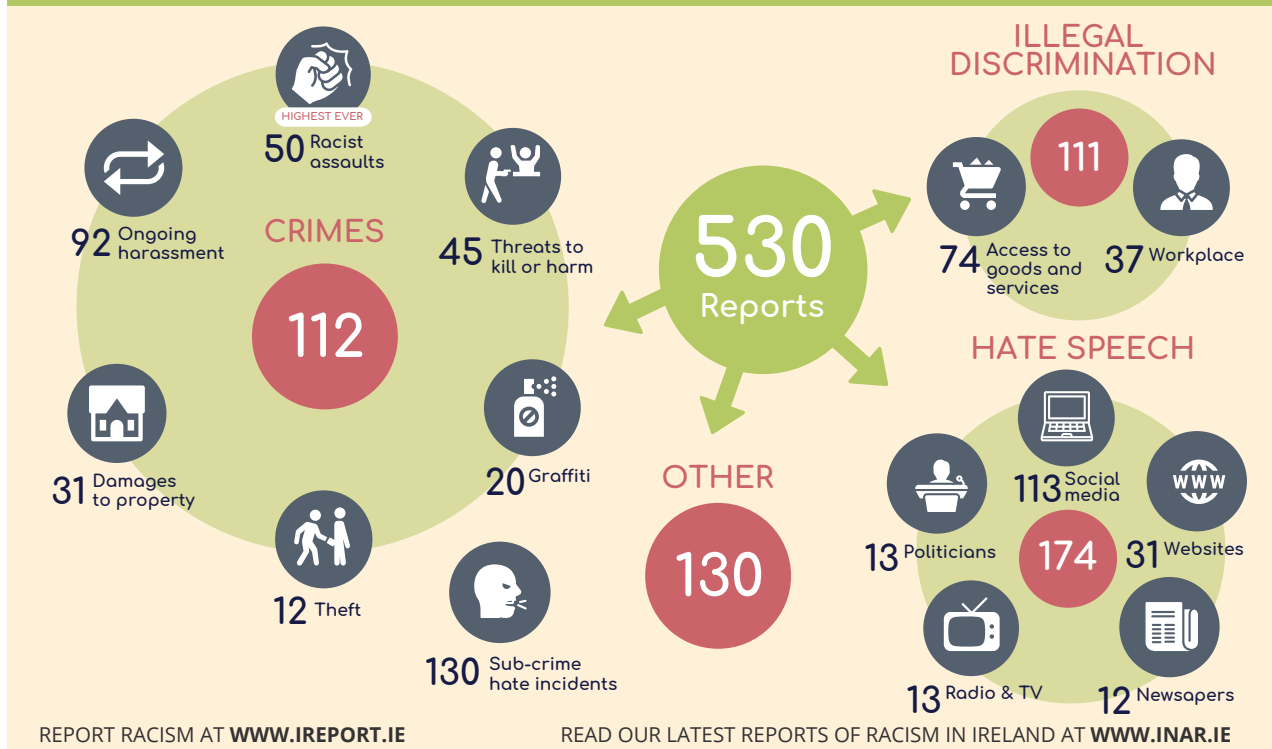
Curb the increase in racist hate speech by; updating and strengthening its legislation on racist hate speech; prosecute and punish acts of hate speech, including those committed by politicians during elections; ensure that the mandate of the Electoral Commission, once established, includes provisions on the prohibition of racist hate speech in the context of elections;

Bring in measures to combat hate crime, by; Legislating against hate crime, recording and collecting disaggregated data on the crime; Taking effective measures to encourage the reporting of racist hate crime; training and other measures to boost the capacity of An Garda Síochána to prosecute hate crime cases.

2019

# RACIST INCIDENTS

Racism in Ireland: iReport.ie Reports of Racism



## Overview 2019

There were 530 reports received in 2019. Criminal offences excluding incitement to hatred constituted 112 reports. Discrimination accounted for 111 reports, and other recordable racist incidents accounted for 130 reports. There were 174 reports concerning hate speech.

There were a number of key trends observed in this period:

- The highest ever number of racist assaults (50 reports)
- A high rate of physical injury and mental health consequences across both crime and discrimination cases
- The highest rate of repeat harassment cases to date (92 reports)
- Continuing low rates of trust in An Garda

Síochána and low rates of reporting for all crimes, including assaults

- Reports of racial profiling and assault of ethnic minority persons by An Garda Síochána
- Continuing patterns of illegal racial discrimination in public sector services
- An increase in the number of victims of crime who were under 18 (20% of targeted persons)
- Increasing publication of hate speech by political candidates in news media
- Low removal rates of social media posts, including those advocating racist violence
- Growth in the number of far-right websites and social media identities, particularly targeting asylum seekers and refugees, but also young people of African background and/or Muslim faith.



# Racist crime

## Criminal offences

Of the 530 reports received in 2019, 174 of these referred to hate speech (some of which are prosecutable under the Incitement to Hatred Act 1989) and are dealt with separately later in this report. Excluding these, there were 112 cases involving criminal offences in 2019. These included offences against the person and criminal damage, as well as other offences.

A further 132 incidents did not constitute criminal offences on their own, but should be recorded where they are part of a pattern of harassment.

Ninety-two (64%) of the 144 reports about criminal offences and other incidents were described as including 'repeat harassment'. This is highest rate of repeat harassment reported to iReport.ie to date.

## Serious criminal harms

Racist assaults were the subject of 50 cases in 2019. This is the highest ever rate of assaults reported to iReport.ie. Weapons were used in 8 cases of assault. Most assaults resulted in physical injuries as well as having significant impacts on mental health.

Cases involving assault frequently involve people known to the targeted persons. In these cases, patterns of harassment can escalate over time if they are not addressed, and result in multiple crimes against a person or group, including serious injury, threats, arson, and criminal damage.

- A young man of mixed background was assaulted by a stranger in his street, who punched him in the face and threatened to "burn the f\*\*\*\* n\*\*\*\* out". Later that night the perpetrators family came to the victim's house shouting racial abuse. The victim does not want to report to Gardaí for fear of reprisal. His 10 year old sister cannot sleep fearing the house will be burnt down, has self-harmed and has been referred to a psychologist for stress. His father sleeps downstairs in case of future attacks. The victim is suffering extreme stress and is worried about the impact on his Leaving Cert exams.
- Two Muslim boys were assaulted by a group who had been harassing their family over previous months, suffering extensive damage to their teeth and sustained fear. They are too scared to report to the Gardaí and feel it would

not be taken seriously. Their mother reported: "Since then boys have been isolated, no friends. They have been to counselling and are not the same boys they once were. They are very sad."

Racist assaults are also an increasingly present feature of encounters with strangers in Ireland. The violence of such events however often deters witnesses from attempting to intervene.

- A man of mixed background was assaulted when he asked a driver to move their car which was obstructing the pavement. The perpetrator racially abused him, told him to "go back to my own country if I don't like it here", hit him and then drove away. The victim reported: "I was left with a bloody mouth from where he had punched me and a swollen lip. This happened on a busy street in broad daylight. There were plenty of other people around but nobody intervened or checked to see if I was okay."
- A Latino man was assaulted while sitting on a bench in a Dublin street by two strangers who hit him multiple times, then chased him and assaulted him repeatedly. The incident lasted 20 minutes and resulted in visible facial injuries. He reported the incident to the Gardaí.
- A bus driver was racially abused by a female passenger, and hit in the face. He lost a tooth as a result of the assault.

Some of the assaults reported in 2019 have already been widely viewed on social media as those targeted, and witnesses, have tried to use video to hold perpetrators to account.

**2019 saw the highest rate of violent racist assaults recorded to date on iReport.ie. Most resulted in physical injuries as well as damaged mental health**



- A Black taxi driver was racially abused by a drunken passenger who told him he was a Garda, hit him multiple times, forced him to stop the car and then tried to pull the driver from the car. The driver managed to lock the door and drive away. The incident was shared widely on social media at the time.
- Two Muslim girls (one of them wearing hijab) were punched and kicked from behind by a group who rounded on them at a LUAS stop. Both were pushed to the ground and kicked, and experienced extensive bruising. They ripped off the hijab and pelted them with eggs. A video of the incident was widely viewed on Twitter.

Other serious injuries which included racist language or discriminatory treatment also constitute racist assaults.

- A bus driver closed the door on a passenger, causing injury to her back and leg as she disembarked with a buggy. The door opened again, but he did not attend to the injured passenger and left the scene.
- A Brazilian man was knocked from his bike and injured when a gang of youths threw a boulder out in front of him. The attack was reported to Gardaí.

### Incidents of serious and general threat

There were 45 threats to kill or cause serious harm, which included 13 of the above assaults. Arson was involved in 3 cases.

- A bus driver of African background was racially abused by two men who threatened him with serious physical injury. A passenger reported the incident.
- A man of Arab background was followed and racially abused by a stranger who threatened violence and obstructed his path.
- A woman selling tissues on the DART was racially abused by a passenger who threatened to “put her head through the glass window if she came up to him again” and ‘smash her face in’. None of the other passengers intervened due to fear of his aggression.
- A Black bus driver was racially abused by a man who attacked the bus, used racial slurs against him, and carried out a sustained violent attack on the bus, throwing missiles and attempting to smash the bus window. The attack was reported by a passenger.
- A young Black man was abused by a passenger exiting the bus who used racial slurs, and then tried to assault him a number of times. A passenger boarding addressed him, and the perpetrator left the bus, but began to bang on the windows shouting ‘There is a \*\*\*\* on the bus’ until it drove away. The incident was reported by another passenger, who saw the impact of

## The violence of racist assaults by strangers often deters witnesses from attempting to intervene

the incident on schoolchildren on the bus who were also ethnic minorities.

- A young Chinese man trying to cross the street to go to a Luas stop had eggs and paint thrown at him by a group of young men. He had to retreat back to his apartment block for cover. A passer-by reported: ‘They laughed and mocked him and his was visibly shaken. It only stopped when I appeared on the scene as I shouted at them to give it over.’
- A couple were racially abused in a carpark by a group of 6 men who attempted to grab her arm and tried to hit him. The woman is Black-Irish and her husband is white. Her husband reported: “They asked me how much I paid for my wife.” They did not report to Gardaí as they did not believe Gardaí would do anything.
- A South Asian Muslim professional received a racially abusive phone voicemail left at his workplace referring to his ‘execution’. He reported it to Gardaí. His employer and colleagues were highly supportive.

There were a further 72 cases which involved other types of threats, often relating to threats to a person’s employment, access to services, reputation or threat to exclude in some way. Threats like these can also have serious consequences when they affect someone’s livelihood or ability to continue living in the area, and often have mental health impacts which are related to exclusion and isolation.

### Repeat harassment

Repeat harassment at home is a recurring theme in racist crimes and incidents. There are, at present, no clear policies in An Garda Síochána for dealing with repeat harassment and the escalation of abuse that attends a high number of instances. Good policing practice requires risk assessments for repeat harassment, and in the cases of repeat incidents, a harm reduction strategy to be drawn up for each case. While An

## There are still no clear policies in An Garda Síochána for dealing with repeat racist harassment and the escalation of abuse

Garda Síochána have introduced such assessments for domestic violence cases, there is no such policy for racist harassment. Cases of repeat harassment in this period demonstrate the vulnerability that targeted families and communities feel as a result.

There is also a need for clear policies on dealing with repeat harassment amongst local authorities where social housing is involved. It must be remembered however that most migrants and ethnic minorities are in the private housing sector and not in social housing.

- A concerted series of attacks have been carried out on the house of a Black-African Muslim family. Walls were egged, windows sprayed with tomato ketchup, and the front door smeared in chocolate. One car was stolen and burned; another had its window broken. Attempted robberies were also carried out. The group are known to the family as neighbours.
- A family who moved into a new neighbourhood were subjected to harassment directed at them because they are black. They were racially abused; the house was targeted and the front window was broken.
- An Eastern European couple, in a shared house with another couple with a young baby, have been harassed by a group of young men who vandalised their car, and then threw missiles at the house, breaking the front door and threatened to set the house on fire. They were particularly afraid for the safety of the baby. Criminal damage has cost them in excess of €2000. The Gardaí attended the house, and later spoke to a perpetrator. No prosecution has been brought. The abuse has continued over months against this household, and also against Romanian, Polish and Lithuanian neighbours.
- An African couple in Dublin are racially abused every day coming from and going to

their home. The group who are harassing them sometimes stand in front of their car and refuse to move. They are reluctant to let their children out to play in the complex for fear that they will get the same treatment.

- A woman of Black-African background has experienced multiple incidents of harassment from neighbours who leave dog excrement at her gate, and more recently on her front doorstep. She called the Gardaí but asked them not to attend her house as neighbours would see them. Other neighbours helped her clean up. She was left fearful and stopped going out to take part in community activities (she was an active local volunteer).
- A Traveller mother of a young baby has been repeatedly racially harassed after making a noise complaint against neighbours on a local authority housing estate. The woman was told her house would be bombed, and she should leave the area and to bring her baby, called a "black k\*\*\*\*" back to Africa. Her baby is mixed ethnicity as the father is Nigerian. The harassment is ongoing every week.

Repeat harassment also includes harassment online or by telephone (both criminal offences) combined with physical proximity. This makes targeted people particularly fearful. Responses from Gardaí to this type of harassment are particularly poor.

- A Black-African woman has been stalked, harassed and threatened by a group in her neighbourhood who have increased their abuse of minorities in the area over the last 2 years. She describes living peacefully in the neighbourhood for 6 years before that without any problems. "They are cyberstalking, physically stalking, harassing and causing trouble by making noise in the area with their cars, driving up and down the street and being a nuisance. Recently they have increased their noise and stalking and harassment even more. I have reported the situation to the Gardaí and they just dismiss it when I tell them about it. They claim they are doing something about it but since I initially reported the incident in 2016, they have not taken any action against it and don't even correspond." The area has recently been targeted by the far-right to drive up harassment of migrants.
- A South Asian woman receives racist comments by phone on a regular basis from two local men who got her number through a local community WhatsApp group. She reported it to WhatsApp but there has been no resolution. She reports: "I am afraid. I live with my four kids. They may be chasing me or harm my family. I went to the garda station but they were not helpful either."

The Garda I met in station said they are just looking for fun. He didn't log my official complaint about them or ring them to ask why they are doing this or give them warning. I felt helpless after leaving the garda station."

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. Even where cases are attended by Gardaí in accordance with good practice, there is evidence that the responses are inadequate to protect victims from ongoing abuse and violence. These cases demonstrate the need for a good practice handbook on addressing repeat harassment and regular review of these cases to identify risk of escalation to violence, and consistent responses where violence is already being perpetrated.

## Levels of trust in Gardaí to address racism are low and Garda efforts to tackle it need to improve significantly

Schoolchildren are likely to experience repeat harassment in association with attendance at school or youth clubs as well as in the neighbourhood. These locations offer opportunities for redress and future prevention, but there is a need particularly in the Education sector to provide guidance for dealing with this kind of harassment.

- Muslim students in a school are subjected to repeated racial abuse by a group of students. The principal has refused parents' requests to address the situation. One student's mother reported "My son does not want to go to school and he does not feel safe and becomes silent. He refuses to talk any more, he is depressed and stressed and always says it is better to die than go to school".
- A schoolgirl of Black-African background had part of her hair cut off by a boy in her class. On complaining to senior staff, she was asked

what outcome she would like. She felt that she was expected not to ask for a serious outcome. The Vice-Principal suggested that the boy may be suspended, but when an apology was offered, the victim felt under pressure that she could not refuse the apology and no suspension was given. She was new to the school, and the incident seriously affected her confidence. She made no friends in the school as a result.

- A Muslim schoolgirl was threatened by fellow students in a science lab that acid would be thrown in her face.

### Criminal damage, theft and graffiti

Thirty-one reports in this period concerned single or multiple counts of criminal damage. These incidents included burned out cars, damaged car and bus windows, damaged house windows and external walls, damage following forced entry into people's homes, destruction of gardens, and destruction of personal property, including mobile phones and clothing.

- Arson of homes included the burning of two Traveller caravans in Cork on separate days. One caravan, which was burnt completely, was the home of an elderly family. Another was partially burnt.

There were 12 cases of theft in this period.

- A bus driver was racially abused by a passenger. When he videoed the passenger, his phone was grabbed and thrown from the bus. The Gardaí were called and the passenger was arrested. The bus driver's employer offered no support. The bus driver reports being racially abused several times a month by different passengers.

There were 20 reports of racist graffiti in this period. Five were on homes, 3 in public streets and parks (1 in multiple locations across the city), and 7 on public transport. Three were on public buildings, including a community centre and a school. Nineteen of the incidents were reported by people who were not the targets of the graffiti.

### Racist incidents

There were a further 132 incidents reported to iReport.ie in 2019 which were not described as crimes by those who reported them. Many relate to verbal abuse, offensive 'jokes', and behaviour which appears threatening to those targeted. However it is clear that many of them include harassment and public order offences. Most are not reported to Gardaí because victims and witnesses are unsure about the legislation that applies to more serious incidents (like those below), and because they feel they will not be taken seriously.

- A shop manager in a Dublin village threw a

## Most criminal offences are not reported to Gardaí because victims and witnesses are unsure about the legislation and feel they will not be taken seriously

bucket of water over a Roma woman selling “The Big Issue” outside the shop. She got wet and cold, and was shocked and humiliated. This incident is a case of assault.

- Two passengers on a bus verbally abused a Black-African bus driver. Another passenger reported: “They started to scream at him. They called him a “black \*\*\*” and continued to verbally abuse him until he stopped. Then as they got off the bus, they screamed multiple times using the n word. He told me that this happens regularly on that route and that drivers have had beer thrown on them.” This incident is a public order offence, and the case refers also to

previous assaults.

- Three men followed and harassed a Muslim woman in burqa with a young baby in a village main street in Dublin. This is a public order offence. A witness reported: “They were calling her ISIS and asking if she was carrying a bomb. She hurried off so quickly we had no time to speak to her to see if she was ok. They were quite intimidating, so we didn’t approach them and kept walking ourselves.”
- Three men entered an Arabic shop to racially abuse the staff and customers. A customer reported: “I was really concerned because I didn’t know what they will do further, but fortunately they walked away afterward.” This is a public order offence.
- Two coffee shop staff were racially abused by a customer who had been previously banned. He also told them to commit suicide. The incident was reported by another customer. This is a public order offence.

Clarity in the legislation that applies, support for victims in understanding how to report racist incidents and ensure that they are recorded as racist incidents, and support in following up on investigations are necessary to ensure that the full range of incidents is recorded and investigated, and information given to victims. Policy change and training in An Garda Síochána are necessary to ensure that racist incidents which do not constitute crimes, but which can evidence harassment (under the Non-fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997), are recorded.

## Illegal racial discrimination

Reports about illegal discrimination concerned access to employment, housing and healthcare as well as access to goods and services protected by law. The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 prohibit discrimination in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and education. These Acts apply to public and private sector goods and services equally. The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2011 outlaw discrimination in a wide range of employment and employment-related areas.

Both sets of Acts cover the nine grounds of gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community. Discrimination is defined as treating one person

in a less favourable way than another person based on any of the nine discriminatory grounds.

One hundred and eleven cases of illegal discrimination were reported in 2019. Twenty-seven of those cases also included crimes such as assault, threat to kill or harm, theft, harassment, and false accusations of criminal wrongdoing.

### Discrimination in employment

Discrimination can occur in an employment context in several ways: in the way in which a job is advertised; in the decision regarding whether or not to hire an applicant; during the period of employment; in a decision to bring



an employment contract to an end; and, after the employment has come to end, regarding the provision (or non-provision) and content of references. Employment equality legislation also places a responsibility on employers to prevent bullying and harassment in the workplace.

Thirty-two cases in this period concerned discriminatory treatment at work. Discrimination in work is, in reports submitted to iReport, ie, usually accompanied by verbal abuse and sometimes physical abuse, as well as lesser treatment. Bullying, harassment, being given worse jobs because of ethnicity and being forced to quit employment (constructive dismissal) are all contrary to equality law in employment.

A further seven reports concerned discrimination in applying for work. This tends to be reported less because it is difficult to confirm.

- A Black-African nurse has experienced ongoing racism from the residents in the nursing home where she works for more than 3 years. The manager has refused to address it because the residents are 'frail and fragile' and has accepted complaints against her which were motivated by racism.
- A Black-African refugee has experienced ongoing racist abuse in his workplace and reported it several times. Management have refused to address it, and the situation has escalated. "I have headaches, lack of sleep, I feel sick, I am worried about my mental health, I feel isolated and helpless."
- A Muslim healthcare professional was told by a patient to remove her headscarf because she 'couldn't trust her'.
- A hospital doctor reported that one senior member of medical staff is repeatedly abusive of South Asian doctors in front of other staff. The targeted doctors are denied professional development as a result, and experience ongoing bullying behaviour from him.
- A Black-Irish employee beginning at a new company was given a role lower in pay and status than initially recruited for, then racially harassed by a team colleague, who was supported by their manager. After an intervention by human resources, the employee was repeatedly harassed by the manager and colleagues. Allegations against him were fabricated and evaluation plans put in place to ensure that he would not be able to reach the goals set. After suffering severe health problems, he took a case to the Workplace Relations Commission. Both physical and mental health consequences have been severe on this employee.

## **Discrimination in access to goods and services**

Seventy-four cases involved restricted access to goods or services because of illegal racial discrimination.

Fifty-eight cases involved people given poor service because of discrimination against their ethnic or religious background. In forty-seven cases, persons were refused service.

Cases in pubs and restaurants included refused entry and refused or poor service on the basis of racist discrimination. Eight cases concerned refused entry to pubs or hotels, including where the ticketholder was refused entry because of their ethnic group.

- One case concerned a hotel which tried to cancel a wedding by removing items belonging to the party, demanding extra payments, and refusing access to paid-for rooms.
- A regular customer was refused service in a pub because of the behaviour of others perceived to be from the same ethnic group on a different occasion. He reported: "I asked the bartender for a glass of water [but was told that] my type was in their pub a few weeks before and caused trouble so she wouldn't serve us water. Myself and my brother in law got very embarrassed as there were other people in the pub looking and listening to everything. This pub has been my local for about 3 years now and I felt very ashamed and let down by them."
- A restaurant customer was told on arrival that there were Travellers eating there, and an apology offered for their presence. The customer reported: "The waitress took myself and my husband aside and explained to us with an apologetic tone that 'we have a Traveller table in tonight, but they're nearly finished eating and they'll be gone soon.'" When the customer challenged this remark, the waitress "explained that some customers 'would prefer to know before coming in'. I pointed out that they had been model cus-

**A quarter of  
discrimination cases  
also include assault,  
threat or other  
criminal offences**

tomers and she agreed with me.” Other patrons were offered a complimentary drink, but the Traveller family were not.

Discrimination in other cases included refused service and poor service for ethnic minority customers.

- A Post Office customer was racially abused by another customer, and then told to leave by staff who refused to serve him.
- A beauty salon repeatedly told a South Asian woman to come back later, while serving other customers without appointment at the same time. She was eventually served hours later but treated with rudeness. She was very disappointed.

### Accommodation

Nine cases involved discrimination in finding somewhere to live or in rental contracts.

- A tenant moving out of a shared house was told by the landlord that he preferred Irish tenants and would not accept anyone to replace her who was ‘coloured’.

### Public sector

Public sector staff are bound by the Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty as well as by the Acts mentioned above. Despite that, 31 cases of illegal discrimination were in the public sector. Members of the public accessing any public service are entitled to do so without discrimination, including healthcare, social housing, education and welfare supports.

- A woman attending her GP for severe mental health problems was racially abused by the GP’s secretary on checking in. This had a detrimental impact on her access to healthcare. Her sister reported the incident.
- Two Irish-born Muslim schoolchildren of South Asian background were verbally abused and described as ‘dirty faced’ on two successive days by a member of school staff. The school refused to deal with the incident.

Members of An Garda Síochána are also bound by the Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty to carry out their functions without discrimination. Racial profiling is however a feature of current practice, and there is no legislation to govern this practice. This is an issue which has been raised internationally by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since 2011. When non-Irish people are subjected to police stops, and are required to produce identity cards, the practice has the potential to perpetuate racist incidents and the profiling of individuals on the basis of their race and colour.

## Racial profiling is part of police practice in Ireland, and has been sharply criticised by the United Nations

- A bus going from Belfast to Dublin was stopped and boarded by Gardaí carrying out immigration checks. A Black passenger was removed from the bus and arrested by Gardaí for not having satisfactory ID on their person. White passengers were not required to produce IDs.
- A witness reported racial profiling by Gardaí against 3 young black men who were asked for IDs, and had their persons and car searched. The witness believed it was racial profiling because Gardaí rarely patrolled or carried out those types of activities in the area, despite other types of crime and disorder being well established and visible. He reported: “Given that open drug abuse occurs daily on this street - in fact I’m looking out my window now and can see someone smoking heroin - and the cops are almost never on it, it seems to me that this was a relatively clear case of racist racial profiling of three young black men merely because they were ‘hanging around’.” Nothing was found and the young men were released.

### Reporting discrimination

Reporting of discrimination is increasing, although most reporting parties do not know where best to report their experiences. Of the 111 incidents of illegal discrimination reported to iReport.ie, 40 (36%) were not reported to anyone else. Eleven cases (13%) were reported to An Garda Síochána, and 54 (49%) were reported to other organisations. The majority of complaints were made to organisations responsible for the racist discrimination (or failing to respond to it) and received no appropriate response. This level and direction of reporting is consistent with previous periods.

Twenty-seven cases included both criminal offences and illegal discrimination, but only five of these were reported to Gardaí. A quarter of these cases were not reported to anyone.

2019

# REPORTING RACISM

Racism in Ireland: iReport.ie Reports of Racism



## RACIST CRIME



ONLY  
**30%**  
of racist crime  
victims  
REPORTED  
to the police

**28%**

of crimes were  
reported to  
organisations other  
than the police.

## UNDERREPORTING

NOT  
REPORTED  
AT ALL  
**38%** cases



**36%** cases

**60%**  
of other  
incidents



## ILLEGAL DISCRIMINATION

Cases were reported  
to a wide range of  
public and private  
sector organisations.

## HATE SPEECH

**49%** of social media hate  
speech cases were  
reported by the public to  
social media platforms.

Only **4** of these  
posts were **removed** and  
**1** user **suspended**  
temporarily

Most victims of racist crime would like **anonymous reporting and self-report form** to make reporting to Gardaí easier.

REPORT RACISM AT [WWW.IREPORT.IE](http://WWW.IREPORT.IE)

READ OUR LATEST REPORTS OF RACISM IN IRELAND AT [WWW.INAR.IE](http://WWW.INAR.IE)

## Reporting crimes and racist incidents

*This section excludes illegal discrimination and hate speech*

Thirty percent of those reporting crimes to iReport.ie also reported them to An Garda Síochána or to the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC). Less than one-third (28%) of assaults were reported to police. Just eleven percent of cases described as racist incidents were reported to Gardaí, even though they included some criminal offences and patterns which evidenced harassment.

Of those that reported to An Garda Síochána, 39 percent were very dissatisfied with the response they received. Poor responses included refusing to record crimes, refusing to accept logs of harassment (as advised by Citizens Advice Bureau), failing to take statements from victims and investigate crimes, and failing to communicate updates to victims. In one case of severe ongoing neighbourhood harassment, the victim alleges that the Gardaí laugh at her when she attends

the station after each incident and refuse to record the details. Another victim reported that she had been waiting for more than 4 months for an update on the investigation of an attack on her family.

A further thirty-nine percent indicated that they were waiting for updates on their reports and made no comment on the quality of service.

### Choosing not to report to An Garda Síochána

The iReport.ie survey asks 'If you didn't report this to the police, why was this?'. The most common reason for not reporting to Gardaí was "I did not think the Gardaí (police) would do anything" (27%), followed by "I didn't know how to report it" (13%), and "I was worried about the offender's response" (13%).

Although the survey also asked about bad experiences with police in other countries, or unwillingness to talk to or disclose personal details to

police, these answers were selected rarely. Low expectations of police effectiveness and good service are severely detrimental to the state's ability to reduce racist crimes and protect ethnic minorities and the communities they live in.

Respondents indicated that they would be most encouraged to report crimes to the Gardaí by the availability of anonymous reporting (44%), a self-report form 36%), and contact with a police officer from the same ethnic/religious group (22% of all cases, 29% of crimes).

### Reporting to other organisations

Twenty-eight percent of crimes were reported to other organisations. Reports were made to organisations including ethnic minority, migrant or anti-racist organisations, public and private sector employers of the perpetrators, and rights organisations. Others reported to doctors, lawyers, residents' associations, citizens' advice centres, housing organisations, councillors, public transport bodies and educational institutions. Most of these do not have any mechanism for recording and reviewing complaints of racism to them.

Thirty-eight percent of crimes and racist incidents were not reported to anyone except iReport.ie.

**'If I complain about the racist abuse I endure daily again I'll be fired. I've been warned already after complaining before'**

### Examples of successful outcomes

- A bus passenger photographed a female passenger of mixed background, and shouted insults at her when she moved away. Another passenger offered her support and reported

it to the bus driver. The bus driver confirmed with her that she was experiencing racism and removed the abusive man from the bus.

- A schoolboy was racially abused by a coach driver on a school tour. His mother reported: "My son is the only black child in the class. The driver said to him "Darky, get out of the way". Most of the kids from the class heard him say this. My son was really shocked and offended - the fact that it happened in front of his class and teacher was even more shocking and hurtful to him. The teacher challenged the driver and when they got to the destination contacted the bus company and had him replaced for the rest of the trip."

### Unsuccessful outcomes

- A South Asian man was racially abused in a supermarket checkout queue by another customer. The supermarket's staff refused to deal with it as they 'had not heard it'.
- A white European woman with a disability and her children, including a young baby, have been repeatedly harassed over 6 years by the extended family of an elderly neighbour. She reported: "They had previously threatened my family that they would break my house windows if we were to go out of our house. They have told us that .... we can't leave our house at all, that we have no rights to go outside of our house, as well as have threatened rape towards me and my older daughter." When she was pregnant, there was an attempted assault on her. She informed Gardaí of the harassment and attempted assault on several occasions, but no statement was taken. After several incidents, Gardaí spoke to neighbours, but did not progress the complaint. A Garda at the local station refused to accept a written statement. A complaint is being made to the Ombudsman.
- A young Black-Irish man was taken into police custody on discriminatory grounds and 4 others arrested when they complained about rough treatment towards him. One of the other young people alleges that one of the Gardaí in the station assaulted him several times while in custody and threatened to kill and sexually assault him. A complaint to the station by his mother about his injuries was disregarded. He was hospitalised the next day with his injuries.



2019

## VICTIMS OF RACISM

Racism in Ireland: iReport.ie Reports of Racism



## GENDER



Men are more likely than women to experience RACIST ABUSE and RACIST ASSAULT.



33%  
more likely to experience assault



33%  
more likely to experience racist abuse

## TARGETED GROUPS

## RACIST CRIME

37% African descent  
20% South/ East Asians  
13% Other white EU  
14% Muslims

## DISCRIMINATION

34% African descent  
14% Muslims  
10% Travellers



## IMPACT OF RACISM ON VICTIMS



81  
Psychological



38  
Social isolation



15  
Financial



33  
Physical



## IMMIGRATION STATUS

The largest group of victims are IRISH CITIZENS (34%) followed by VISA HOLDERS from non-EU countries (21%)

REPORT RACISM AT [WWW.IREPORT.IE](http://WWW.IREPORT.IE)READ OUR LATEST REPORTS OF RACISM IN IRELAND AT [WWW.INAR.IE](http://WWW.INAR.IE)

## Targeted groups

### Ethnic, religious and racialised identities

The group most commonly experiencing both reported crime and illegal discrimination is the group of Black-African, Black-Irish and Black-Other. They experienced 37 percent of all crime cases and 34 percent of all discrimination cases. The next largest group was that of South Asian and Other Asian, who experienced 20 percent of all crime cases and 25 percent of all discrimination cases. Black and Asian groups also experienced the highest rates of racist incidents.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of assaults and threats to kill or harm were against people identified as Black-African, Black-Irish or Black-Other. Eighteen percent of assaults and threats to kill or harm were against people identified as South Asian or Other Asian, and there is a high overlap with those identifying as Muslim (16%).

Reporting rates from Irish Travellers decreased in 2019. They experienced 6 percent of crime cases and 10 percent of discrimination cases.

Muslims experienced 14 percent of reported crime cases, and 14 percent of discrimination

cases. Hindus, Sikhs and Jews also experienced both crime and discrimination. Christians experiencing discrimination almost exclusively did so because of their ethnic or racialised identity.

### Nationality and immigration status

Irish citizens (of a wide range of ethnic and religious groups) made up 34 percent of those targeted in all cases, followed by non-EU visa holders (21%), and EU citizens (13%). Ethnic minority citizens are more familiar with crime reporting procedures and more likely to pursue complaints for discrimination. However young ethnic minority citizens are also more likely to have experienced racial profiling and to have lower trust in An Garda Síochána to deal with racist incidents.

### Gender

Men experienced a third (33%) more reported crime, abuse and discrimination than women, with 162 cases targeting males, and 122 cases targeting females. They were a third (33%) more likely to experience assault, and a quarter (25%) more likely to experience discrimination.

Two passengers on a bus verbally abused a Black-African bus driver. Another passenger

2019

## PERPETRATORS

Racism in Ireland: iReport.ie Reports of Racism



75%

of racist crime and abuse was by **WHITE IRISH PEOPLE**



50%

were **STRANGERS**, not known to their victims



47%

were acting **ALONE**.



28%

of cases were by **PUBLIC SECTOR STAFF**.



83%

**ADULTS** were 83% more likely to be perpetrators of racist crimes and abuse than young people.



2%

Less than 2% were under influence of **ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**.

REPORT RACISM AT [WWW.IREPORT.IE](http://WWW.IREPORT.IE)READ OUR LATEST REPORTS OF RACISM IN IRELAND AT [WWW.INAR.IE](http://WWW.INAR.IE)

reported: "They started to scream at him. They called him a "black \*\*\*" and continued to verbally abuse him until he stopped. Then as they got off the bus, they screamed multiple times using the n word. He told me that this happens regularly on that route and that drivers have had beer thrown on them."

### Age of targeted person(s)

People in the age groups '25-34' and '35-44' were the most likely (at 29% and 28%) of any group to be targeted in this period, followed by those

aged '18-25' (12%). People under 18 were reported as the primary target in 11 percent of cases, but also appeared in other reports as secondary targets.

The groups '25-34' and '35-44' remain most likely to be targeted in crime cases (at 22% each), but there is a significant increase in the targeting of under 18s, who are the primary targets in 20% of all crime cases. This is the highest proportion of under 18s victims of crime recorded in iReport.ie to date.

## Perpetrators

### Perpetrators of crime

Perpetrators of racist crimes or racist incidents were three times more likely to be adults than young people. Men were five times more likely to be perpetrators of racist crimes and three times more likely to be perpetrators of abuse incidents than women. Large groups of perpetrators were responsible for 37 percent of racist crimes and 10 percent of other racist incidents. Three quarters of racist crime and abuse was by white Irish people. Half of all crimes were committed by strangers. Staff in public sector bodies including the police were responsible for 15 cases of racist crime in 2019.

Just 12 incidents were believed to have been perpetrated by a person under the influence of alcohol, and 6 by a person under the influence of drugs. Racist language was the most common reason for crimes to be reported as racist. Racist language was used in 65 percent of crimes, and in 57 percent of other incidents. In 8 percent of crimes, the targeted persons wore clothes that were of a particular religion or ethnic group.

### Perpetrators of discrimination

Staff in the public sectors were perpetrators of illegal racial discrimination in 28 percent of cases.

There were 4 incidents of racist discrimination by someone working in Education or a Youth-responsible role.

Strangers accounted for only 4 incidents of discrimination. Men were almost three times as likely to illegally discriminate as women, and five times more likely in the workplace. Racist language was used in 30 percent of discrimination cases.

### **Institutional racism**

Institutional racism is evident in the policies and processes of a range of public sector organisations reporting in this period, and in a significant

number of cases in this period and previous periods, staff have openly and illegally discriminated against people on the basis of their ethnicity or nationality. This is despite the Public Sector Equality Duty created by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014, which obliges public bodies and publicly funded organisations to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, as well as to promote equality of opportunity and take steps to foster good relations, including taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

## **Impact**

Racism has a demonstrable impact on the lives of those targeted. An analysis of the data on impact shows that there is psychological impact on those targeted, impact on their social connectedness, and financial impacts through for example increased costs or lost income.

There were 15 reported cases that include financial impacts were caused by having to move house, avoiding public transport routes, lost employment, depressed wages and illegal denial of social security. Eighty-one reports were described as having a psychological impact on the victim.

***"I am currently suffering from PTSD, depression, anxiety and fear of the same thing happening again if I am ever in a situation where I need genuine help. After the false charges were dropped, I felt relief for a couple days, but my anxiety and fears keep coming back. I was told by immigration to remove these cases before renewing my visa which means I cannot work or study so I can't even afford to take medication."***

***"I am very sad, my self-esteem is very low, I am unable to sleep, I feel a lot of headaches and also very angry with everything that happened and now I am still being persecuted."***

Thirty-three cases included physical injuries, including hospitalisation.

***"My blood pressure became uncontrollable. I am now seeing a cardiologist and nephrologist. My GP has written two medical reports to the company stating anxiety, illness and medical investigation. This has been ignored."***

Thirty-eight reports demonstrated impact in causing isolation and low trust in others, includ-

ing in the victim's neighbourhood. These have significant consequences for long-term cohesion, particularly so in cases of repeated harassment, institutional racism and housing discrimination.

***"I'm no longer trusting of people. It brings back bad memories to me. I don't think I have full trust in the Garda system. I'm afraid of the future of young black children in Ireland."***  
***"I still feel nervous when going on the train, I feel insecure sitting next to a white person on the train and would rather stand than put myself in awkward position again. It has also discouraged my friends from attending events."***

Although INAR cannot offer direct support to many people targeted by racism, there is an evidenced need for greater direct support, and a role for INAR's network members to play in this regard. This is particularly so in cases of repeated harassment, institutional racism and housing discrimination.

### **Immediate bystander intervention**

There are ranges of ways in which others around those targeted by racism are able to help. Even where the racist behaviour is solely verbal, the effect of interventions is powerful and the impact on targeted persons likely to be significantly reduced. Across the 2013-2019 iReport data, there is clear evidence that when people are targeted by racism do not see help being offered or do not feel supported in any way by others in that context, they are more likely to report more severe psychological impact, poor physical health, and high levels of fear, and to take actions such as avoiding public spaces, transport, walking in their neighbourhoods which further increase their isolation and sense of exclusion and make them more vulnerable to racial harassment.

# Racist hate speech

There were 174 cases of racist hate speech reported in total in 2019.

**Racist hate speech in news media:** There were 14 reports of hate speech published by Irish newspapers (signatories to the Press Council Code of Conduct), and 7 reports of hate speech published by Irish broadcasters (subject to BAI Code of Conduct). A further 7 reports concerned hate speech from news sites or newspapers who are not signatories of the Press Council Code of Conduct. These contained the most serious cases of Incitement to Hatred published by any news media.

**Hate Speech online:** There were 132 reports about racist hate speech online. Facebook published 60 of these, Twitter published 30, YouTube published 16, Instagram published 15 and Snapchat published 7. Online forums hosted 4 of the reports containing explicit hate content. Twenty were published on other websites. These reports include content published across multiple platforms.

## Targeted groups

The groups most targeted by hate speech in the 2019 reports to iReport.ie were Black-African, Black-Irish and Black-Other (65 in total), Muslim (45), Traveller (24), South Asian (21), Chinese (14), Jewish (13), Kurdish (13), Roma (9), Hispanic (6). Asylum seekers and refugees were targeted in 5 reports.

***"It makes me feel afraid. I feel targeted and afraid that people out there actually think and feel this way. ... 'Tortured to death' he said - not even plain dead. That's frightening."***

***'Peter Casey made racist comments against the Traveller community... Then there was lots of hatred towards Travellers on social media by other people'***

***"I have family who are black Irish, and the violence being incited towards them over fake stories on Facebook is terrifying."***

Racist language was used in 153 instances, language about religion in 28 instances, and racist symbols or insignia in 21 cases.

## Racism in politics

There were 4 cases reported where elected politicians were involved in racist hate speech. Election candidates were the subject of a further 9 reports. Four cases concerned leaflets or flyers containing racist incitement to hatred.

***"Peter Casey made racist comments against the Traveller community on the radio, TV and newspaper. Then there was lots of hatred towards Travellers on social media by other people."***

***"Someone is trying to organise white Irish supremacist groups in Dublin inner city. Our flat complex community has been targeted by advertising over the last 3 years. For example, racist (multiculturalism is death) stickers and antisemitic posters (Jewish conspiracy)"***

## Reporting

Seventy-three cases reported by the public to iReport.ie were also reported elsewhere. Fifty-two of these were reported directly to the media platform that published the hate speech.

***"I was appalled that this comment, which is incitement to murder, was online for two months."***

Sixteen cases were referred to police. Three cases were referred to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, and two cases to the Press Ombudsman.

## A growing trend: far-right media

YouTube hosted the 3 accounts consistently publishing hate speech against asylum seekers and refugees. Twitter temporarily suspended one of the same users. Facebook refused to remove 11 instances of hate speech. Ten reports concerned hate speech hosted on far-right websites. Two reports concerned Facebook groups set up specifically to target asylum seekers and which were clearly named as such.

***"I am afraid for my community with dangerous individuals like her giving instructions to her 'patriots'."***

***"This is a growing problem among these far-right agitators that are now actively endangering and stirring up hatred against these young children which could lead to them being harassed by racists or worse attacked physically by these people."***



Did anybody help?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Why do you think the incident was racist?

- ☒ Racist language was used
- ☐ Language about person's religion was used
- ☐ There did not appear to be anything racist about it
- ☐ It was about something else, but racism came into it

Or briefly, in your own words:

# How to report an incident

You can report a racist incident online at [www.ireport.ie](http://www.ireport.ie) or through one of the iReport Reporting Centres listed overleaf (page 26)

## What information do I need?

Our survey is designed to collect the maximum information, but you do not have to fill in answers to every question. Here's a quick guide to some of the information you might like to provide.

*Questions marked \* are not optional*

### What type of incident are you reporting? \*

- ☐ Something racist in the media or on the internet?
- ☐ Physical harm / abuse / harassment / damage / discrimination?
- ☐ Graffiti?

### Graffiti

- ☐ Date & location
- ☐ Photo
- ☐ Who was it targeting?

### Physical harm / abuse / harassment / damage / discrimination

- ☐ What type of crime or incident is it - choose from list

AND/OR

- ☐ What type of discrimination is it, e.g. employment, housing, access to goods and services?
- ☐ How many people were targeted?
- ☐ Where was it?
- ☐ Date
- ☐ Is it repeat harassment?
- ☐ Were there injuries
- ☐ Please describe the incident

## Racism in the media

- ☐ Date & publication
- ☐ Screen shot or URL

## Reporting

We ask about reporting so that we can track the responses of relevant authorities and the effectiveness of them.

- ☐ Did you report it to anyone else e.g. Gardaí, local authority, school, Twitter, etc?
- ☐ What was their response?

## Why do you think the incident was racist?

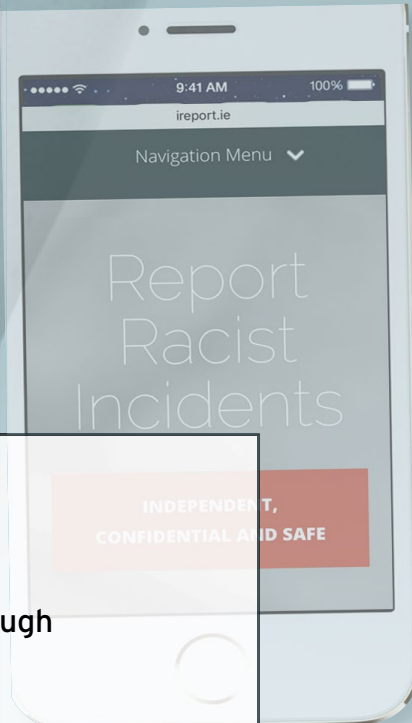
- ☐ Racist language, images or symbols
- ☐ Religious-associated clothing on targeted person
- ☐ There was no other motivation
- ☐ It was about something else but racism came into it

## Impact

Racism can have very serious impacts on individual, family and community life, and we would like to understand better how incidents affect those targeted.

- ☐ What impact did it have?

We will always ask the ethnicity and religion of the targeted person(s). We will also ask details about age, disability, and gender, and how many people were targeted. We will also ask for this information about the perpetrator(s), and your relationship with them, but this is used for analysis only. We use this information only to guide our analysis of racism in Ireland. We will always consider any identifying details in choosing what to publish from our data. Your safety is our priority.



# iReport Reporting Centres

You can seek help reporting from any of the groups listed below. Groups that are marked \* offer follow-up support to people targeted in racist and religious hatred incidents.

## AMAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

T: 01 453 3242  
E: amal.hope@outlook.ie

## \*CAIRDE, Dublin & Balbriggan

T: 01 855 2111  
E: info@cairde.ie  
WEB: www.cairde.ie

## \*CULTÚR, Navan, Co Meath

T: 046 9093120  
E: info@cultur.ie  
WEB: www.cultur.ie

## \*CROSSCARE REFUGEE SERVICE

Dublin  
T: 01 873 2844  
E: crs@crosscare.ie  
WEB: www.crosscare.ie  
DOLPHIN'S HOUSE Dublin  
T: 01 4544682  
E: debbie-m3@hotmail.com

## DONEGAL INTERCULTURAL PLATFORM

Letterkenny  
E: donegalip@gmail.com

## \*DORAS LUIMNI Limerick

T: 061 310 328  
E: info@dorasluimni.org  
WEB: www.dorasluimni.org

## \*DUBLIN CITY CENTRE CITIZEN

INFORMATION SERVICE Dublin  
T: 076 107 7230; in person: 13A  
O'Connell Street Upper, Dublin 1

## F2 CENTRE Dublin

T: 01 471 6700  
E: info@f2c.ie  
WEB: www.f2c.ie

## GALWAY TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

T: 091 765 390  
E: info@gtmtrav.ie  
WEB: www.gtmtrav.ie

## JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

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

## ISLAMIC FOUNDATION OF IRELAND

Dublin  
T: 01 453 3242  
E: info@islaminireland.com  
WEB: www.islaminireland.com

## \*IRISH TRAVELLER MOVEMENT or any of its member organisations:

T: 01 6796577  
E: itmtrav@indigo.ie  
WEB: www.itmtrav.ie

## \*IRISH REFUGEE COUNCIL Dublin

T: 01 764 5854  
E: info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie  
WEB: www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie

## MAYO INTERCULTURAL

ACTION Castlebar  
T: 094 904 4511  
E: miamayo@eircom.net  
WEB: www.facebook.com/MayoInterculturalAction

## \*MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND

Dublin  
T: 01 889 7570  
E: info@mrci.ie  
WEB: www.mrci.ie

## \*NASC, THE IRISH IMMIGRANT SUPPORT CENTRE Cork

T: 021 450 3462  
E: info@nascireland.org  
WEB: www.nascireland.org

## NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF

IRELAND Dublin  
T: 01 478 4122  
E: info@nyci.ie  
WEB: www.nyci.ie

## \*NEW COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

Dublin  
T: 01 8727842  
E: info@newcommunities.ie  
WEB: www.newcommunities.ie

## \*OFFALY TRAVELLER MOVEMENT

Tullamore  
T: 057 93 52438  
E: info@otm.ie  
WEB: www.otm.ie

## \*PAVEE POINT TRAVELLER & ROMA

RIGHTS CENTRE Dublin  
T: 01 8780255  
E: info@paveepoint.ie  
WEB: www.paveepoint.ie

## RIALTO COMMUNITY NETWORK Dublin

T: 01 473 2003  
E: annswords@rcn.ie  
WEB: www.rcn.ie

## \*SOUTH DUBLIN INTERCULTURAL

CENTRE / TALLAGHT ROMA  
INTEGRATION PROJECT Dublin  
SDCC Intercultural Drop-in Centre  
T: 01 464 9306  
E: zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie  
WEB: www.sdcpartnership.ie

## ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dublin  
T: 01 453 0744  
E: centremanager@standrewsrialto.ie  
WEB: facebook.com/standrewsrialto.ie

## ST MICHAEL'S FAMILY RESOURCE

CENTRE Dublin  
T: 01 453 3938  
E: ailishfrc@eircom.net

## UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Dublin  
T: 01 709 9300  
E: equality@usi.ie  
WEB: www.usi.ie

# After reporting, what next?

## Getting help

Organisations listed on the previous page can help you to report the incident also to An Garda Síochána if it is a crime, or to another relevant body in the case of crime or discrimination.

INAR cannot offer direct support but many of the organisations which are part of the network do offer support, and we will be happy to refer you to a local or specialist organisation to help.

## The criminal law in Ireland

There is no specific hate crime legislation in Ireland. Nonetheless, racist crimes are still crimes, and can be investigated, prosecuted and punished as crimes, regardless of the bias motivation. Victims are entitled to the same rights as victims of any other types of crime, and to the same support.

All crimes that are reported to iReport.ie should also be reported to An Garda Síochána. Victims should be able to report confidentially, be provided with a crime number, and referred to a local Victim Support Office. Victims may ask to have direct contact with the Garda Ethnic Liaison Officer for that district if they wish.

Despite having legislation that can be used to investigate and prosecute racist hate crimes, there is evidence that reported racist crimes in Ireland are frequently not recorded or investigated adequately. The bias motivation may not be recorded, or evidence collected. If you experience any of this, please use iReport.ie to add this information to our data.

## Laws against discrimination

The Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015 and the Equal Status Acts 2000-2015 outlaw discrimination in employ-

ment, vocational training, advertising, collective agreements, the provision of goods and services, including professional or trade services, health services, access to accommodation and education, and facilities for banking, transport and cultural activities.

A Public Sector Duty introduced in 2014 obliges all public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity for all staff and service users, and protect the human rights of members, staff and service users. Public bodies include government departments, local authorities, the Health Service Executive, most educational institutions, and all companies or bodies financed by government or that act in the public interest.

All public bodies should have a mechanism for making complaints and must consider all recognised grounds for equality.

**If you have reported a racist incident to iReport.ie and are seeking further redress from the authorities then there are two basic ways, depending on whether it was a racist crime, or racist discrimination** (the following are abridged excerpts from ENAR Ireland's forthcoming "Reporting Racism" resource, due out in 2018):

**1. Racist crime - serious crimes, assaults, threatening behaviour, harassment and incitement.**

**2. Racial discrimination - in employment or in the provision of goods and services.**

**1. RACIST CRIME:** Contact your LOCAL GARDA STATION or THE EMERGENCY SERVICES. You can also ask for the assistance of an ETHNIC LIAISON OFFICER in the nearest Garda station. Remember, in an emergency any member of An Garda Síochána can assist you.

List of all **GARDA SÍOCHÁNA LOCAL STATIONS** in Ireland can be found here: [www.garda.ie/stations/default.aspx](http://www.garda.ie/stations/default.aspx)

**THE EMERGENCY SERVICES**, T: 999 (from landlines) or 112 (from mobiles)

It may also be advisable to contact the **ETHNIC LIAISON OFFICER** or **COMMUNITY LIAISON SERGEANT** in your local station, or the **GARDA STATION SUPERINTENDENT**, whose contact you can obtain from your local Garda station.

Up to date list of **ETHNIC LIAISON OFFICERS (ELOS)** in Ireland: [www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=154](http://www.garda.ie/Controller.aspx?Page=154)

If you are not satisfied with the service from your local Garda station contact Garda Racial & Intercultural Office (GRIDO) or Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC).

**GARDA RACIAL, INTERCULTURAL AND DIVERSITY OFFICE (GRIDO):** Harcourt Square, Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 T: 01 6663150/6663817  
WEB: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

**GARDA SÍOCHÁNA OMBUDSMAN COMMISSION (GSOC):** 150 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1 T: 01 8716 727 LoCall: 1890 600 800 E: [info@gsoc.ie](mailto:info@gsoc.ie) WEB: [www.garda-ombudsman.ie](http://www.garda-ombudsman.ie)

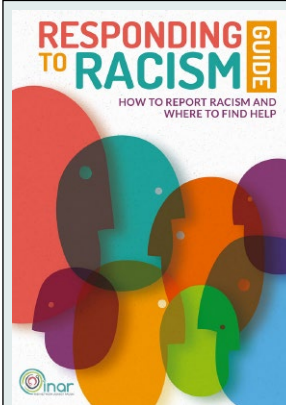
**2. RACIST DISCRIMINATION:** There are two main bodies for ensuring that the equality laws are upheld. Those are the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which is similar to a court, and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). Claims of discrimination in relation to clubs and licensed premises are dealt with separately in the District Court.

**THE IRISH HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY COMMISSION (IHREC)**  
16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7  
T: 01 858 9601 Lo Call: 1890 245 545  
E: [publicinfo@ihrec.ie](mailto:publicinfo@ihrec.ie) WEB: [www.ihrec.ie](http://www.ihrec.ie)

The IHREC may in some cases provide legal assistance or representation to people before the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC - see below) or other relevant Courts including the District Court. Guidance on applying for legal assistance is available on request. You do not need IHREC assistance to take your case to the WRC. You can represent yourself or be represented by a Citizens Information advocate, lawyer, trade union, or other representative.

**WORKPLACE RELATIONS COMMISSION (WRC)**  
Workplace Relations Customer Service, Dept of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, O'Brien Road, Carlow Lo-call: 1890 80 80 90 T: 059 917 8990  
WEB: [www.workplacerelations.ie](http://www.workplacerelations.ie)

**Citizens Information Services (CIS):** [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) A full list of local offices can be found at: <http://centres.citizensinformation.ie/>  
Citizens Information Phone Service (CIPS) is nationwide: 0761 07 4000, Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm.



**RESPONDING TO RACISM** GUIDE  
HOW TO REPORT RACISM AND WHERE TO FIND HELP

For more detail on how to follow up on racism, download our *Responding to Racism Guide*: <https://inar.ie/reporting-racism-in-ireland/>

## What they have said about iReport.ie

"I would like to commend all involved in the production of this robust and comprehensive report . . . INAR'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 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**

Racism:  
see it  
send it  
end it.



**Download the iReport app**



### **Irish Network**

#### **Against Racism**

28 North Great George's Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 HY46

Tel: 01 8897110

Email: [info@inar.ie](mailto:info@inar.ie)

Web: [www.inar.ie](http://www.inar.ie)  
[www.enar-eu.org](http://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](http://www.iReport.ie)

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