



What is the iReport?

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

iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by ENAR Ireland, which coordinates a network of over 30 civil society organisations in Ireland working in anti-racism (see page 6 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 11th July 2013. This first Quarterly Report, iReport Q1 2013, covers the period 11th July 2013 to 30th September 2013.

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 Criminology at the University of Hull. 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 and an Executive Committee member of the Sociological Association of Ireland.





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 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 2013 report on Ireland. As such, the system should be seen as neither an alternative to nor an extension of the criminal justice system's own recording mechanisms. As a non-state monitoring system, it fills the gap left by the reporting system of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Integration (NCCRI), when the organisation was all but wound down in 2009.

This system, supported by the Community Foundation for Ireland, and embedded in a network of over 30 locally-based organisations, allows for locally gathered information to be fed into, and data to be disaggregated back out of, a centralised web-based racist incidents reporting and information management system. While locally based and sectoral organisations retain locally gathered data, which they use to inform localised and sectoral responses to racism, the national data is analysed and compiled into quarterly and annual reports, and used to inform the public, support lobbying submissions, and contribute to a broader national conversation on racism.

iReport.ie is also a system which makes it as easy as possible for people to self-report racist incidents by using the online form, giving a way for people whose voices are often unheard, to have those voices heard. In this respect iReport.ie facilitates the inclusion of voices that

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

Barriers to recording include: A reluctance by people who experience or witness racism to report to police or other state bodies (our own research suggests that, for a variety of reasons, 5 out of 6 people would not report to Gardaí [the Irish police] 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, a reluctance to use forms which use complicated technical language and other off-putting vocabulary, and a reluctance to use a reporting system that is lengthy and unwieldy. These barriers mean that people from minority ethnic communities experience racism which goes unrecorded and unacknowledged by the state and wider society.

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



Reporting centres

Organisations which offer support to use iReport.ie include:

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

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

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

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

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

The Integration Centre,
Dublin:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Rights centre:
0 1 8780255
info@paveepoint.ie,
www.paveepoint.ie

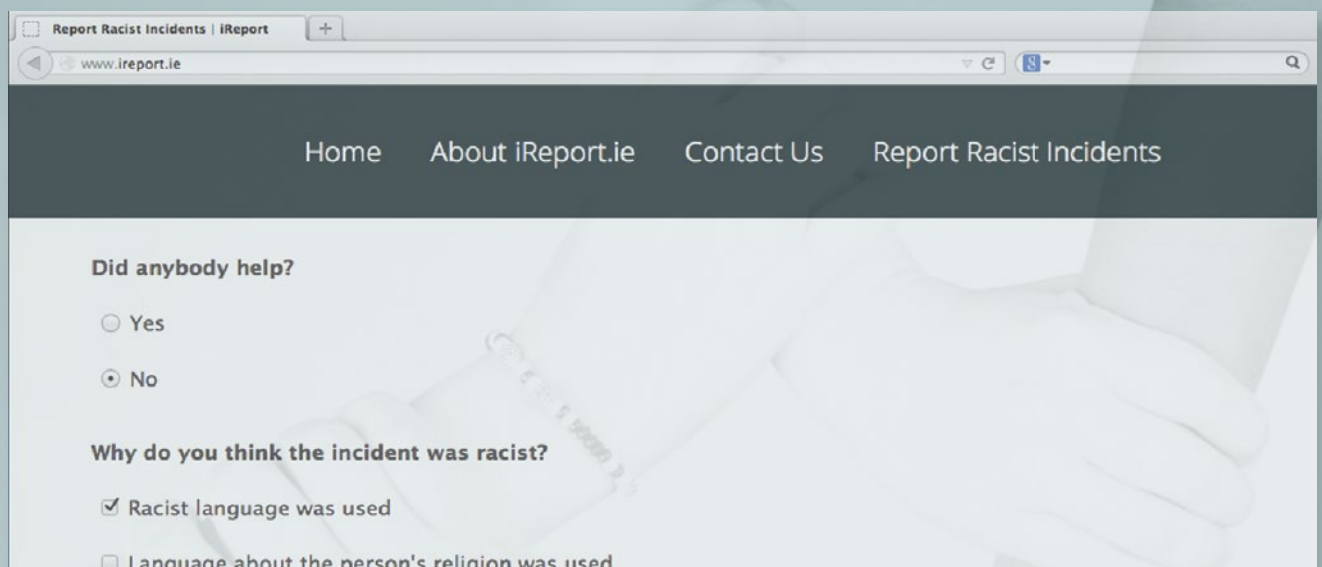
South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project:

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

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

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

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



Reporting a racist incident

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

The form can be filled in by:

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

What is racism?

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

What is a racist incident?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overview

The iReport system for the reporting of racist incidents in Ireland was launched in July 2013. Reports can be made directly through the website or through a partner organisation. Questions are designed to capture a large amount of detail about racist incidents, including information about where, when and how the incident occurred and details about the victim(s) and perpetrator(s). The system also captures information about why the incident has been perceived as racist, its impact on the victim and/or witnesses, and the interplay with age, gender, sexuality and disability. The recording system has been designed to allow comparison with international patterns and to facilitate understandings of racism which are particular to the Irish context. Analysis of the data has been carried out by Dr. Lucy Michael in consultation with Shane O'Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland.

Ninety-seven incidents were reported to the iReport system in the period between July and the end of September. Eleven of these were reported through another organisation. Doras Luimni, for example, recorded 7 of these. This partially accounts for the higher number of reports recorded in Limerick compared to other counties outside Dublin. It was expected that the number of reports may be low in the first recording quarter as the survey was publicised to allied organisations and publicly launched. However, victims and witnesses also used the iReport system to report incidents occurring prior to this period. Fifty-five incidents were reported as occurring in July to September, and a further 17 in the earlier months of 2013. It is expected that this pattern will continue through future reports. The reporting of incidents prior to this period is important. It points both to the severe impact of such incidents on victims and witnesses, which can last for years, and the absence of other appropriate reporting systems.

The most common forms of racist incident reported in these 97 incidents are shouting verbal abuse and harassment. However, there are significant numbers of physical assaults also recorded. The highest number of reports in this period came from North and South Dublin. Incidents occurred more frequently during

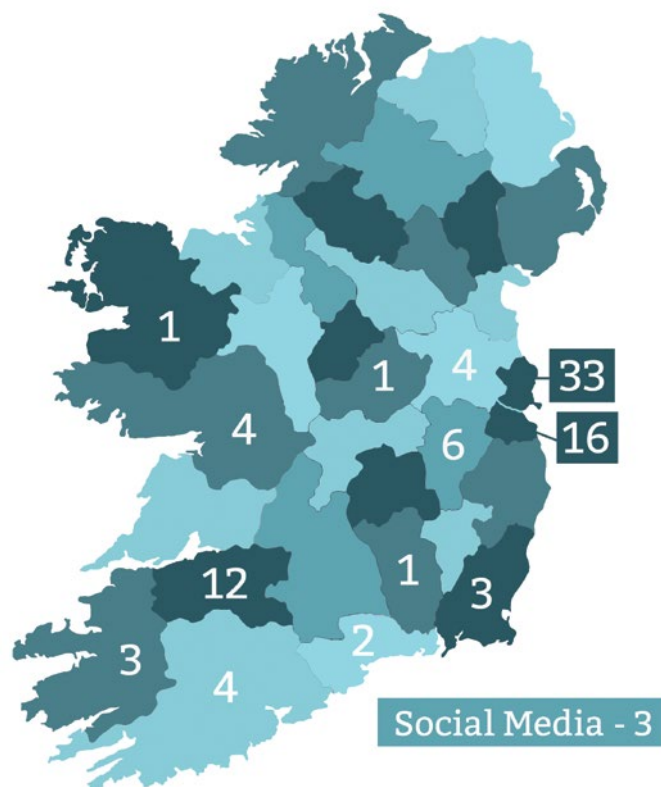
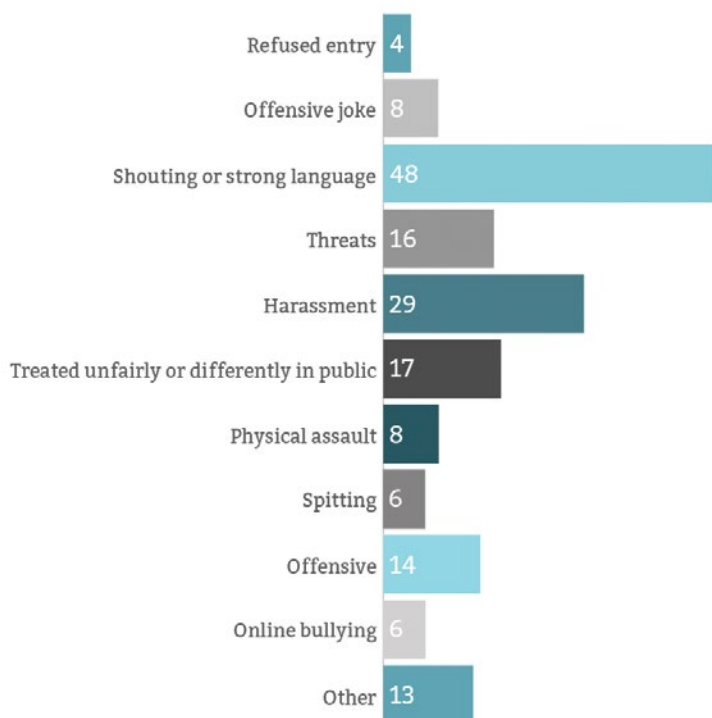
daylight hours, particularly in the afternoon, although there was also significant occurrence in late evening.

Victims were most likely to be aged between 25 and 55 years old, with a further significant number between 18 and 25 years old. Men experienced a higher proportion of incidents involving physical threat and assault. People identifying or identified as Black-African accounted for the highest number of victims. It is worth noting that victim numbers within this report do not fully capture the picture of secondary victimisation which occurs when family and friends who share a minority identity become aware of racial abuse. Perpetrators were most likely to be aged between 25 and 55 years old. Perpetrators in groups of 5 and more were more likely to be involved in physical assault than lone perpetrators or smaller groups. Those under 18 years old acted mostly in groups making threats. Racist language was used in 57 of the incidents. Comments on the victim's religion were made by perpetrators in 7 incidents. Eleven incidents of racial abuse were mediated by websites, local media, social media or telephone.

Levels of formal reporting via other recording systems were low overall, with less than a fifth reported to Gardaí and less than a third reported to any organisation. International research shows that victims require a great deal of public support, and confidence in the reporting system, to make formal reports. It is significant that nearly half of all incidents reported in this quarter to the iReport website were made by witnesses who had seen or heard about the incidents.

The variable level of reporting across the country and between different groups should not be interpreted to accurately reflect relative victimisation levels. Language fluency, education levels and feelings of belonging each affect reporting behaviours by victims and witnesses. For example, the low level of reporting from Roma groups, despite high levels of documented violence against them in recent periods, may be due to language and wider exclusion issues. Similar issues may affect reporting from other migrant groups.

What kind of incident happened?



Where did the incident happen?

Types of incident

The highest proportion of incidents reported in this period involved threatening behaviours such as shouting or strong language (50%), and harassment (30%). Spitting, physical assault and threats were distributed amongst the range of incidents. Each of the reported incidents usually involved multiple negative behaviours towards the victim. Refusal of service and admission was accompanied in the majority of cases by harassment and strong language, but sometimes also with physical assault.

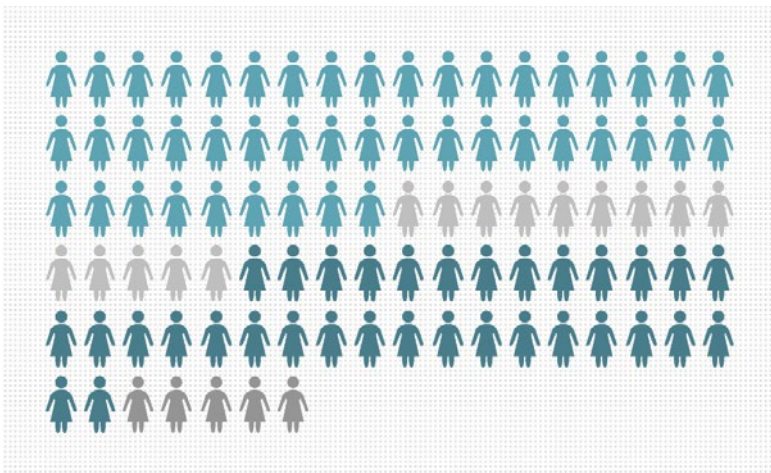
Some Incidents of physical assault

Eleven physical assaults were reported as occurring in 2013, and a further two which had occurred prior to this year.

- A physical assault in Limerick against a Muslim South Asian man left him bleeding and in need of medical attention. The man was out walking his dog when he was attacked by a group of teenagers and an older man, described as 'white Irish'. His attackers threw beer bottles at him, and shouted racial abuse, including slurs on his religion. The incident was reported to gardaí.
- In August, a young Colombian student was approached by a group of white Irish teenagers in North Dublin and physically assaulted.

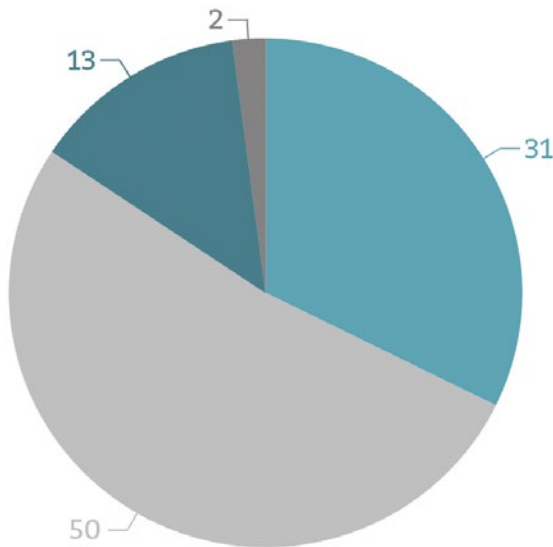
- A young Muslim woman was assaulted in Limerick by a young male, described as a 'white Irish Traveller' (* see panel on page 15), who followed her and her mother from their car outside a shopping centre, shouting and screaming at them using racial and religious slurs, and kicked the young woman in the leg so that she fell to the floor. The victim believed the perpetrator to be a drug user. The incident was reported to gardaí. The victim had experienced several incidents of verbal abuse from other people in the area in previous months, and lost confidence in gardaí handling of racial abuse after this incident.
- Muslims attending prayer in mid-afternoon in the St Patrick's Hill area of Cork were severely beaten with sticks by a group of men who had travelled to the area by car to carry out the attack. Verbal racial abuse accompanied the physical attack. A Garda investigation was undertaken.
- A Black African teenage girl was hit with a hurley stick and verbally abused in her own garden by a neighbour after a series of abusive confrontations. The neighbours entered her garden by force to smash her mobile phone when she tried to video the neighbour's repeated verbal abuse against her family. The girl and her siblings had been

Who did it happen to?



Me - 45 I heard about it happening - 14 I saw it happen - 33
 No answer - 5

Level of violence



No physical threat - 31 Physical threat - 50 Physical assault - 13
 Property damage - 2

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continuously verbally racially abused by the neighbour and her children in previous months, and the family has been threatened with arson if they allow their children to play outside. Gardaí attended the scene.

- In September, a Black African man was verbally abused and then hit by a white Irish woman on a crowded bus in South Dublin. The victim pushed his attacker away. As he stood up to leave the bus, he was attacked by a white Irish man and again by the first

perpetrator, drawing the attention of other women on the bus, who joined in the verbal abuse. The bus driver was persuaded by the victim to call the gardaí, although some passengers insisted on removing him from the bus, saying he was 'the cause' of the problem. The first perpetrator also struck a female tourist who confronted her about her racism, and walked away from the scene. The perpetrator was reported by another passenger to be well known for her racist abuse of foreigners in the area but not previously known for violence. The victim continues to suffer panic attacks and reports his disappointment in the Garda response which blamed alcohol abuse.

- An Asian male reported having water thrown at him and verbally racially abused while walking to work at midday by a group of young adult men and women who passed by in a car. The incident took place in Limerick. The shock of the incident was severe, but it was not reported to gardaí.
- In August, a witness reported seeing a Bangladeshi man attacked by a group of young white Irish men who smashed a cake on him while he was walking down the road in South Dublin at 9.30pm on a weekday evening. No other motive for the attack was evident.

Two incidents occurring prior to 2013 were reported, including one involving the gardaí.

- A Black-African man was stopped on suspicion of drink driving and arrested because the car he was driving was registered to his Irish wife. While in custody, he was severely physically abused as well as verbally abused. He was later taken to hospital. His wife was also racially abused for being married to a Black man when she visited the station.

Levels of Violence

The combination of negative behaviours reported in all categories of incident required us to produce an understanding of the levels of threat and violence experienced by the victims in each of the reports. We used the categories above to compile an index measuring the level of violence involved.

Of the 97 incidents reported, the majority (65%) involved physical assault or physical threat. Less than one third involved no assault, damage or threat.

Region

Almost half of reported incidents occurred in the Greater Dublin area, with a third of all incidents in Dublin North. Forty-one incidents oc-

curred outside Dublin, distributed across 11 other counties, but with a notable concentration in Limerick of 12 incidents in the 3 month period.

Given the distribution of ethnic minorities in Ireland, with the largest concentration in North Dublin, it is unsurprising to see this geographical distribution of incidents. Like in North Dublin, the incidents reported in Limerick were perpetrated against a diverse range of ethnic identities. This suggests that there is no single group being targeted in the area.

Time of Incident

Racist incidents are not usually evenly distributed throughout the day. Confrontations are more likely to occur in public places, on public transport or the workplace, both of which are more heavily populated in the daytime. The chart shows that reported racist incidents in Ireland in the period July to September occurred throughout the day, peaking between midday and 4pm, and rising again between 10pm and 1am.

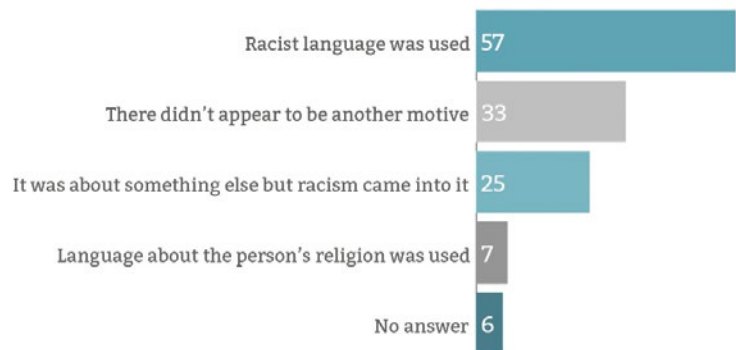
Racist incidents are often popularly imagined to be associated with the dangers of night-time in urban areas and particularly with the consumption of alcohol. However the reported incidents corroborate the findings of international research which shows daytime incidents to be more frequent and more likely to involve physical violence. One third of reported incidents took place between the hours of 6pm and 6am in this 3 month period. However, only 3 of the 13 reported physical assaults occurred in these hours. A slightly higher proportion of incidents involved threat, with 19 occurring as night-time incidents and 14 occurring during daylight hours. A quarter of reports in this period did not specify the time of the incident.

In line with international reporting patterns, a very small number of workplace incidents was reported in this quarter. Just 3 incidents were reported to the iReport website. In-depth international research studies show that the workplace usually accounts for a very significant proportion of incidents but that reporting is consistently low due to victims fearing losing their employment.

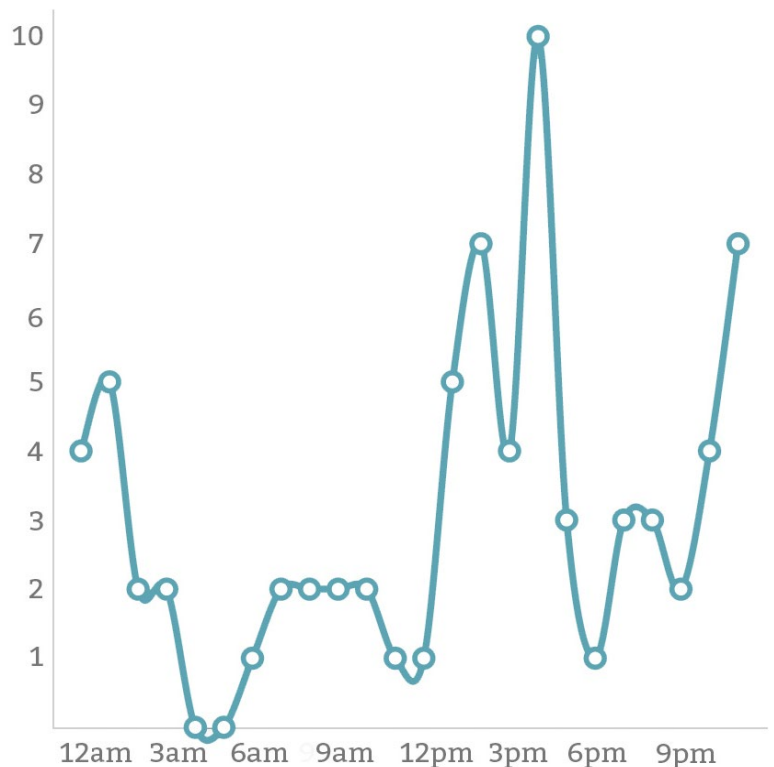
Spitting

Six incidents included spitting alongside verbal and sometimes physical abuse. There was no particular pattern to the occurrence of this in a racist incident. Three were Black-African men, one was a woman of mixed Black and white Irish background, one was an man iden-

Respondents' perception of racism



Time of incident



tifying as 'dark-skinned Asian', and one was a Muslim woman (no ethnicity identified). These incidents occurred in Dublin, Galway and Limerick. One of the Galway victims claimed that they had experienced being spat at in the street by strangers on several occasions, and that this was a common occurrence in the city. Perpetrators included men and women, groups and sole perpetrators. One incident involved being directly spat upon in a police station by a member of An Garda Síochána.



Doc visits laid on by State ...for Romanian gypsies

STATE inspectors have expressed shock and disbelief that a sub-contract to providing a free GP service for people with no medical cards is provided only to Romanians. A number of local doctors have expressed their anger at the arrangement, which is being handled by the Health Service Executive (HSE). The HSE has a contract with a private company to provide a free GP service for people with no medical cards. The contract is for 10 years and is worth €10 million. The HSE has a contract with a private company to provide a free GP service for people with no medical cards. The contract is for 10 years and is worth €10 million.



Mour pain for Wenger

SHOCK TV EXCLUSIVE LOVE/HATE STAR'S FACEBOOK RACIST RANTS

Campaigners blast actor

The politician described his original remark as a quick quip made in passing that was in "no way intended to be racist or derogatory". "I am hugely involved with the lake; it was only my intent to highlight that we don't want people to fish there," he said. "The reference to restaurants is a bit of a sound-... professed to be... ect that... end up

Joe Crowley's 'crispy duck' comments ruffle feathers in Limerick

By Nicole Antonio

A LIMERICK activist for Fianna Fail has publicly apologised for purportedly racist comments he made in a local paper regarding Chinese restaurants in the city.

The *Limerick Leader* reported that Joe Crowley claimed groups of Chinese fishermen were attempting to capture ducks at the Westfield Wetlands in Limerick to use in "crispy duck in the Chinese restaurant".

Against Racism (EAR), whose director Shane O'Curry called on Fianna Fail party leader Michael Martin to "make good the Anti Racism Election Protocol (that the party) signed in 2011 and expel Limerick local election candidate Joe Crowley".

His sentiments were echoed by migrant rights NGO Doras Luimnigh, who said Crowley's remarks "appear to be another attempt to grab headlines by drumming up xenophobia".

oy, Crowley told *Metro Éireann* he has apologised for his comments, and written to Doras Luimnigh with an offer to meet with anyone who felt aggrieved.

The politician described his original remark as a quick quip made in passing that was in "no way intended to be racist or derogatory".

"I am hugely involved with the lake; it was only my intent to highlight that we don't want people to fish there," he said. "The reference to restaurants is a bit of a sound-... professed to be... ect that... end up

Metro Éireann
Ireland's multicultural newspaper
15-31 August 2013 • Vol 14 Issue 20

Mediated racist incidents

Eleven incidents of this type were reported in this period.

- A racist website outside Ireland.
- A racist Twitter account (outside Ireland) containing frequent references to Black people.
- An abusive email sent directly to a Black-African man in Ireland containing extreme racial abuse against Black migrants in Ireland.
- Slander on a website about a white Irish Traveller man and his family. The incident was reported to Gardaí.
- A photo shared in a South Dublin office as a joke was abusive of both Black and disabled people. A complainant was first told it was 'just a joke' before he threatened to send the image to the Gardaí.
- A local politician used local and social media to claim that Chinese residents of Limerick were fishing for ducks to sell for commercial

purposes. The slander received front page coverage in a local newspaper.

- Feedback on a product sold through an Irish online forum contained racial abuse about the seller. The website removed the post from public view, but it remains on the seller's profile.
- Racist comments to radio show on Limerick's Live 95FM in March 2013 about African migrants and towards commentator.
- Racist Facebook page targeting minority ethnic and religious groups in Ireland.
- Racist comments responding to an article on Travellers on the Journal.ie website. The page was reported to moderator, the Gardaí and Press Ombudsman but the report claims all refused to act.
- A migrant received a series of abusive phone calls from an Irishman after a conflict over money with another migrant. He was told "Keep in mind that you're just a Romanian citizen in Ireland", and his safety threatened. The incident was reported to Gardaí.

Information about victims

Reporting by victims

Of the 97 incidents, just 27 were known to have been reported to the gardaí or another authority as well as to the iReport website.

Forty-six victims reported the incidents to the iReport website themselves. Seventeen had also reported the incident to gardaí or another authority.

More than a third of incidents were reported by eyewitnesses rather than victims. These included a high proportion of strangers as well as family members and friends. Of all of those who heard about an incident or saw it, the highest proportion (64%) had no relationship with the victim. This may affect the accuracy of the data on, for example, the age, ethnicity, nationality or sexuality of the victim, and whether they had a disability.

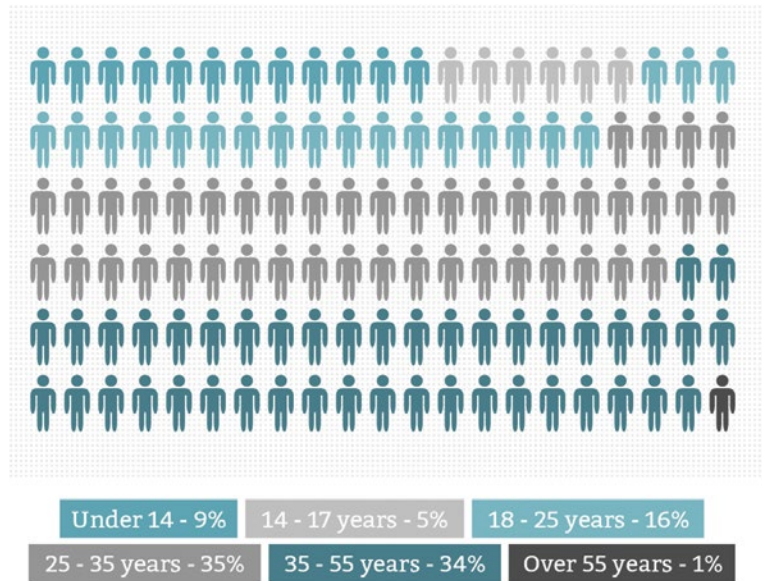
Age of victims

Victims of the 97 reported incidents were predominantly in the categories '25-35' and '35-55'. These two categories account for almost two-thirds of the incidents. However a significant number of the incidents involved members of family or friends who shared the same ethnic or religious identity and who witnessed the event. In some cases, these family members described themselves as co-victims but in others, they did not, particularly where there was a report of physical assault against one person.

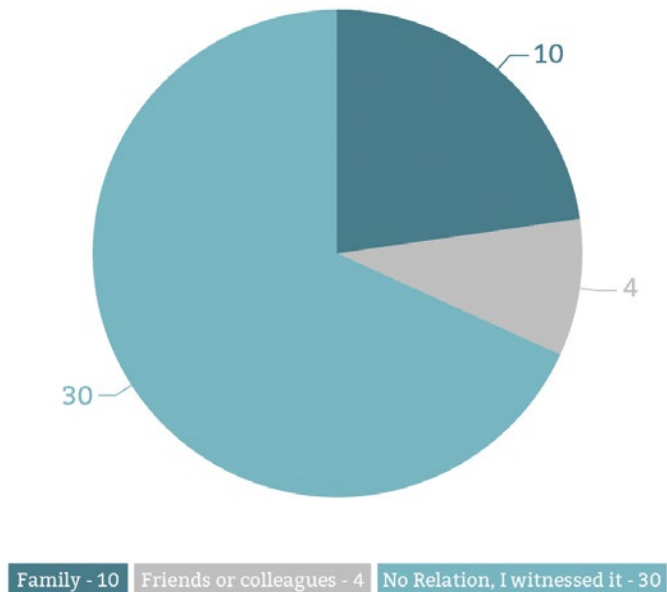
The age of victims found in racist incident and hate crime surveys usually correlates to those who most frequently use public spaces and public transport. However the reports in this quarter include no incidents of racist bullying and violence in schools and few against young people generally. We might predict that this would change over time as the iReport website becomes more widely known amongst young people.

The reports in this quarter include a large number of incidents which have occurred in or near institutions providing specific services for foreign nationals, including the Immigration Bureau, Gardaí, housing and social welfare offices, and migrant rights groups. The

Age of victim



What relation to you?

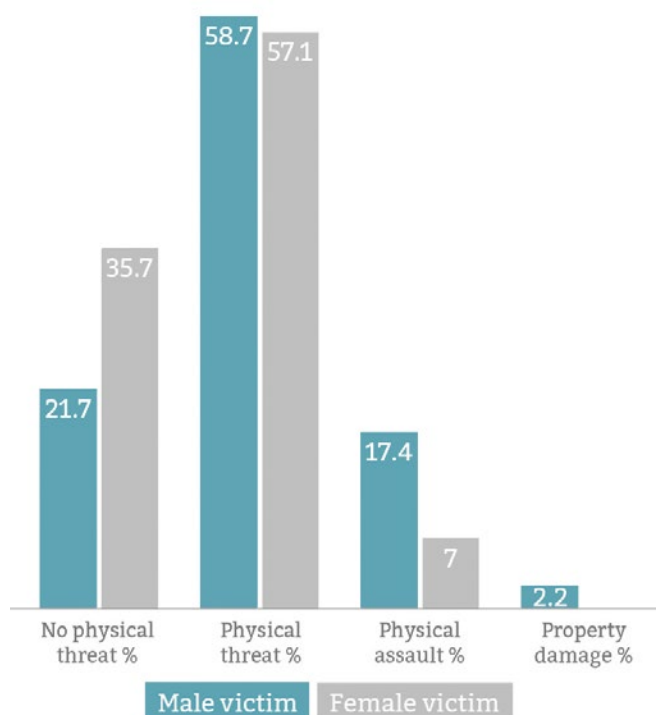


users of these services are more likely to be of working age, and to have a higher level of contact with these organisations and their offices than Irish nationals. This may partly explain the higher level of reporting by people aged 25-55 years old.

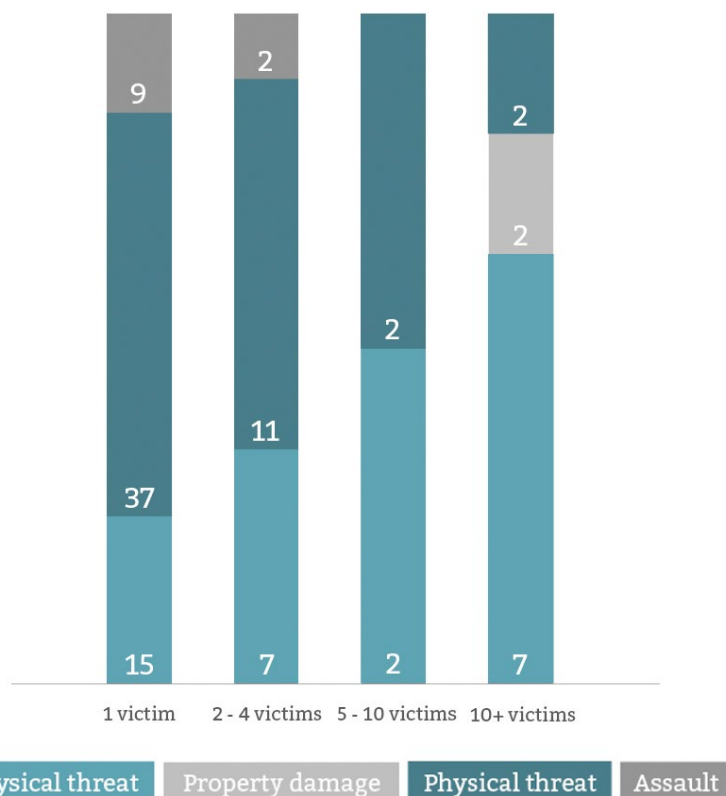
Ethnicity of Victims

The largest number of incident reports concerned Black-African victims, followed closely by those described as 'Other Asian background'.

Level of violence in relation to gender of victim



Level of violence in relation to number of victims



The iReport website allows people reporting incidents to choose more than one category of identification for 'person this happened to'. The numbers in this chart (page 10) therefore exceed the number of reports. This means of categorisation allow us to see the multiple ways in which people identify themselves and are identified by others, and the impact this may have on victimisation. The numbers featured in the table also relate to the number of incident reports, rather than the exact number of victims per incident. These can be found in the next section.

The chart on page 15 also includes a number of incidents which happened to people describing themselves as white Irish, but which concern racist remarks made about other people or groups, including a range of foreign national, religious and Traveller groups. These have been categorised as 'Complainant White Irish' to distinguish them from reports of racism against 'White Irish'.

There may be some ambiguity in the identification of both victims and perpetrators because of the perception of who is 'likely' to be a perpetrator or victim. It is sometimes difficult for the reporting person to accurately distinguish between ethnic identities, religious allegiances or age groups. This may be especially the case if the reporting person is someone who has witnessed the incident.

The categories of Traveller and White Irish Traveller have been combined in the graph to highlight the level of victimisation against all Traveller groups. Roma victims are shown separately.

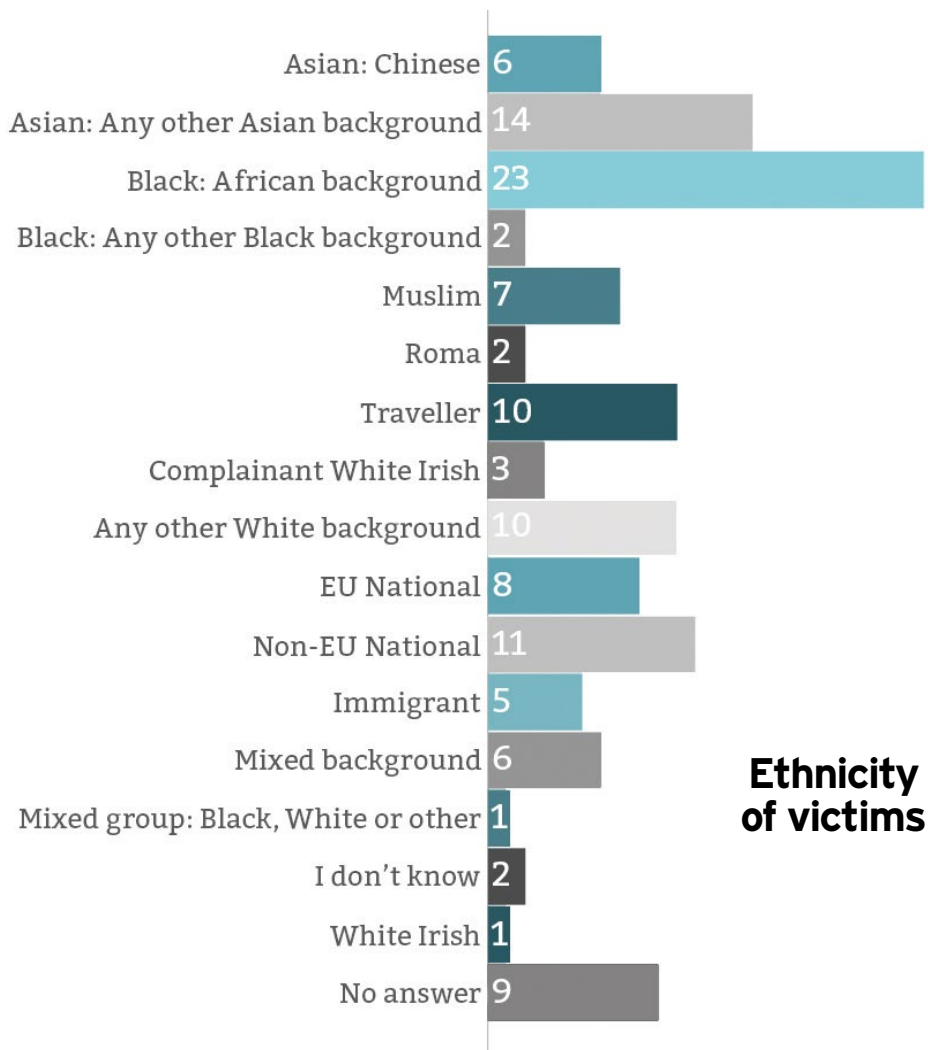
Single and group victimisation

Eleven incidents were described as involving more than 10 victims. These included 5 mediated instances with a wide general audience, 2 instances of graffiti, 2 refusals of service or access, and 2 incidents of verbal harassment against groups of family and friends, one which was predominantly South Asian and one which was Irish Traveller. Single victims were proportionally experienced both higher numbers of physical assaults and more incidents of physical threat than couples or larger groups.

Victimisation, gender and other identities

Gender has a significant impact on the experiences of victimisation in racist incidents. Male individuals or groups were victims in 47 incidents in this period, while female individuals and groups experienced 28 of the incidents. An additional nine incidents involved both men and women – excluding incidents of general victimisation.

Women experiencing racist incidents were most likely to be aged 25-35 years old (43%),



Ethnicity of victims

and to experience incidents as single victims (68%). Men were slightly more likely to experience incidents as single victims (83%), and then most likely to be in the age categories 25-35 (33%) and 35-55 years old (28%).

Levels of violence vary with gender. The chart opposite shows the levels of violence involved in each incident depending on the gender of the victim. It shows that while the level of threat is roughly similar for men and women (excluding incidents where both are present), the risk of physical assault is higher for male victims. The figures have been adjusted to account for the higher number of males experiencing racist incidents.

Attacks on the Veil

Five of the reported incidents targeted a headscarf or a veil. They occurred in Galway, Limerick and Dublin South against Muslim women. All occurred in daylight hours. Four involved at least verbal harassment from strangers, and one involved a member of staff in a government institution asking a woman to remove her veil before providing service. One of these incidents also involved threats and spitting, while another involved physical

assault. Three of the incidents were reported by the victim, one by the victim's husband, and one by an eyewitness.

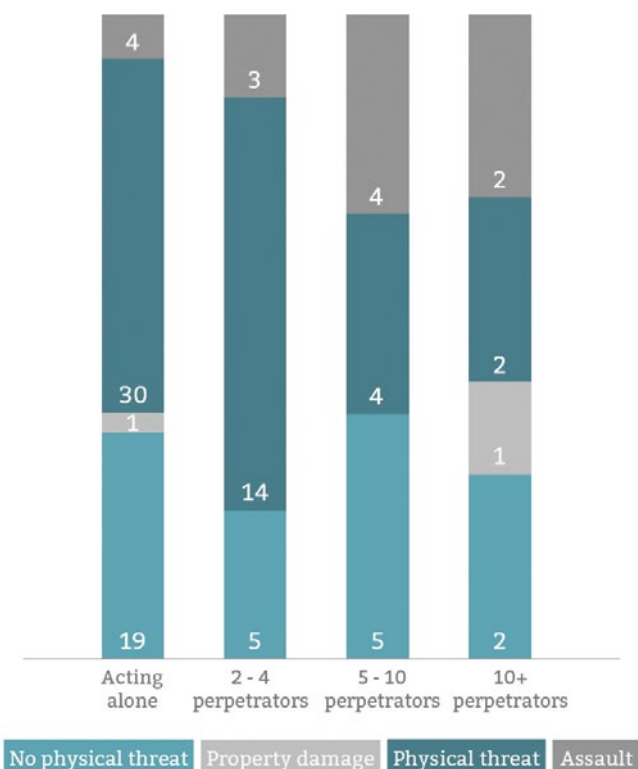
Sexuality and disability

Racist incidents are frequently perpetrated against people who identify with, or are identified in terms of, sexual orientation, transgender experience or disability. In line with international evidence, it would be expected that a number of victims in this period define themselves with, or were defined by, several of these identities. Of the victims described in this period, 2 reports included Transgender and 3 reports included Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB) as well as describing a minority ethnic identity. A further 5 identified the victim as having a disability. But the overlap is largely attributable to the reports of group victimisation, where LGB sexuality was not attributed directly to a single or identifiable victim. No report specifically mentioned sexuality. Only two of the reports specifically state that the victim had a disability. One of these concerned offensive literature circulated in a workplace, and one concerned verbal abuse against a Traveller family which included a child with disability.

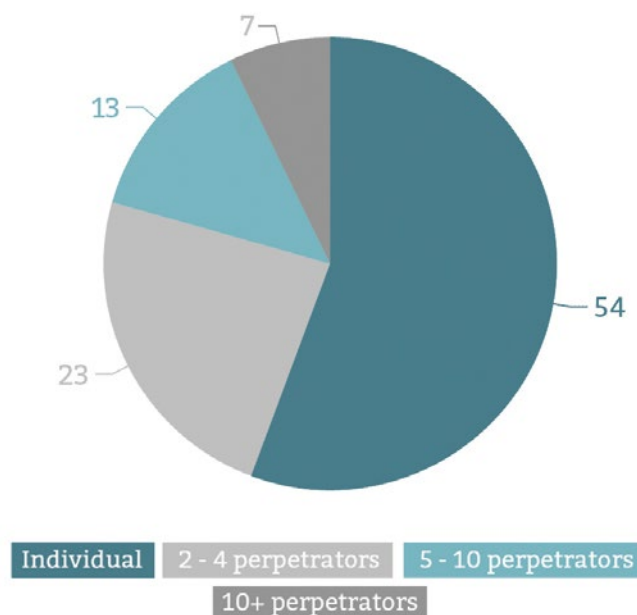
A note about incidents attributed to Travellers

Perpetrators may in some instances have been falsely identified as being "Irish Travellers". Confusion as to the identity of perpetrators may arise if, as community contacts have communicated to ENAR, the victims are told by witnesses or neighbours that the perpetrators were "knackers". In Irish society the term "knacker" is a racist term of abuse often directed at Irish Travellers. The term is also used to pejoratively describe working class youth, with the connotation that they engage in anti-social behaviour. This second meaning may not be known to people who are relatively new to Irish culture, who may therefore mistakenly assume that they have been told that the perpetrators are Travellers.

Level of violence in relation to number of perpetrators



Number of perpetrators



Perpetrators

The described ethnicity of perpetrators in the 97 incidents was predominantly 'White Irish' (74%), with White Irish also appearing in groups of perpetrators with other ethnicities. Four of incidents involved 'White- other background', and four involved 'Travellers' (*see panel). Just one incident involved a perpetrator described as 'Black'.

Single perpetrators were involved in 54 of the reports, with groups involved in 43 reports. Groups of 2-4 perpetrated 23 incidents, while groups of 5-10 people were responsible for 13 incidents, and groups of more than 10 were responsible for a further 7 incidents.

Levels of violence varied depending on the number of people in the perpetrator's group. While assaults were carried out by lone perpetrators, they were more likely to be carried out by groups.

Incidents were most perpetrated by people in the age categories '25-35' and '35-55'. Together these made up 47% of incidents where the perpetrators age was reported. In contrast, just 3 incidents involved children under 14. Less than a third of incidents involved those in the teenage '14-17' and young adult '18-25' categories.

In 14 of the reports, perpetrators were aged un-

der 18. In most of these incidents, the perpetrator acted as part of a group and was involved in making threats. Only one incident involved physical assault by perpetrators aged under 18 years.

The largest number of reports identified racist language being used as indicating that it was a racist incident. However in 25 of the 97 reports, racism was introduced into an incident around something else.

Gender of perpetrators

The largest number of incidents involved lone male perpetrators (60%). These incidents most commonly involved male victims, but also a significant number of female victims. The number of incidents involving groups of male perpetrators was much smaller, but the size of the groups involved necessitated an overall number of male perpetrators equal to that of lone perpetrators. In other words, men were as likely to perpetrate racial abuse or harassment acting as lone perpetrators or as part of a group.

Female perpetrators were more likely to act alone, and mostly against other women. Mixed gender groups were most likely to perpetrate racist incidents against male-female couples and other mixed gender groups.



Impact on victims

Direct reporting of Impact

In addition to descriptions of the incidents, the reporting system also asks about the impact of the incident on the reporting person. Whether victim or eyewitness, it is evident that the majority of reported incidents had significant impact in terms of health, feelings of inclusion, and ability to work and form relationships. In particular, the perception that there was a general tolerance for racist views had significant impact. "I was disgusted and shocked that no other customers in the shop said anything."

As noted above, a significant number of the incidents involved wider secondary victimisation through family, friends and colleagues who were affected by the racist abuse. White Irish witnesses to racist abuse against people of other ethnic or national identities also reported experiencing shock, anger and fear for the victims which continued after the event. An analysis of the responses to the question 'How did you feel?' shows that respondents overall felt shock and fear as a result of being a victim of or witness to racial incidents. For a significant number, anger was a part of their emotional response to the incident(s), and this usually co-existed with other emotions and feelings of hurt. See word cloud on page 18.

- 25 Shocked, Appalled, Disgusted, Speechless
- 23 Scared, Afraid, Fearful, Fearing, Threatened, Intimidated
- 19 Angry / Anger
- 17 Hurt, Pain, Sick, Devastated, Horrible
- 12 Helpless, Lost, Alone, Confused
- 11 Upset, Depressed, Down
- 10 Ashamed, Embarrassed
- 9 Humiliated, Less than human
- 8 Annoyed
- 6 Abused, Discriminated, Violated
- 5 Crying, Sad
- 4 Offended
- 4 Shaken, shaking

Support for victims

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

Our partners providing this support include:

Akidwa Migrant Womens Network:

info@akidwa.ie, 01-8349851, www.akidwa.ie

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

Cultúr: Trim, Co Meath: (046) 9093120

www.cultur.ie, joana@cultur.ie

Doras Luimni: Limerick. www.dorasluimni.org. 061

310 328 info@dorasluimni.org

The Integration Centre, Dublin: 01 6453070 www.

integrationcentre.ie, info@integrationcentre.ie

The Immigrant Council of Ireland, Dublin:

info@immigrantcouncil.ie Tel: 01 674 0200

The Jesuit Refugee Service: www.jrs.ie, info@jrs.ie

Limerick : 061 480922, Dublin: 01 1 8148644

The Irish Traveller Movement and any of its

member organisations: www.itmtrav.ie 01 6796577

itmtrav@indigo.ie

The Irish Refugee Council, Dublin:

www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie (01) 764 5854,

info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie

The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Dublin:

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

NASC Immigrant Support Centre, Cork:

www.nascireland.org 021 450 3462 Email

info@nascireland.org

The New Communities Partnership, Dublin:

www.newcommunities.ie

01 8727842, info@newcommunities.ie

Offaly Traveller Movement:

057 9352438 Email: info@otm.ie

Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Rights centre:

info@paveepoint.ie, 01 8780255, www.paveepoint.ie

South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project:

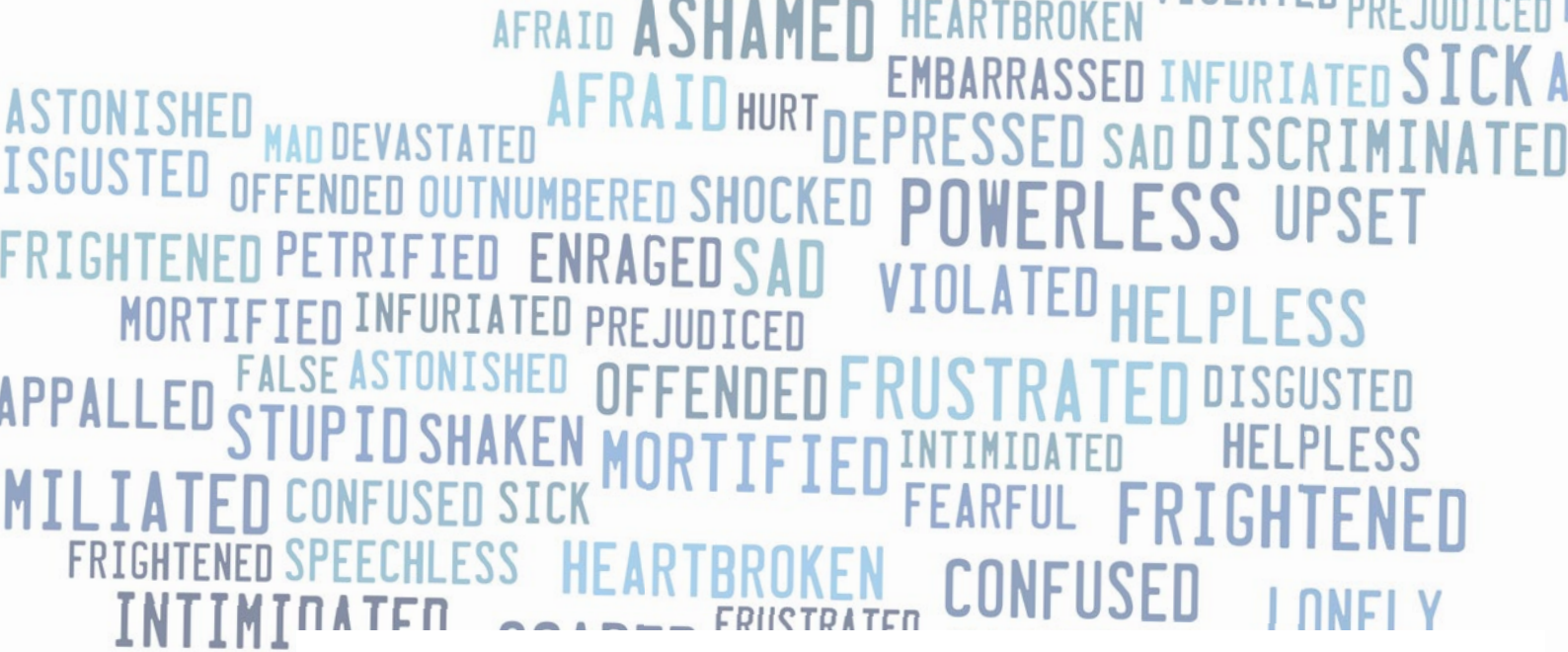
SDCC Intercultural Drop-in centre, 01 4649306,

zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie

A full list of ENAR Ireland participating organisations can be found at:

www.enarireland.org/network-members/

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



Witnesses and victims

A separate analysis of reporting witnesses and victims shows a significant overlap in the emotional impact of racist incidents. Witnesses described shock, intimidation, disgust, embarrassment and feeling sick as a result of seeing incidents of harassment, threat or violence.

Garda response and impacts

The response of the gardaí to reported racist incidents appears to play a role in the impact on victims. Sixteen of the 97 incidents were reported as having been reported to An Garda Síochána (Irish police force). Only one was able to verify receipt of an incident number.

- Garda called the house to ask if the complainant was still a resident of Ireland. No further communication to victim.
- Gardaí on the scene advised victim to contact another station. Named garda could not be contacted.
- Gardaí visited the Travellers site and joked about the incident. No further communication to victim.
- A senior Garda sent written response in Gaelic to Black African man complaining of abuse in custody.
- Gardaí advised that refusal of service to Travellers in a restaurant was a civil not criminal matter and could not be reported to gardaí.
- Victim reported verbal racial abuse to a Garda on foot patrol nearby but he would not take report or address the perpetrator.
- Gardaí on scene of assault took details and said they would examine CCTV. Commented to victim that alcohol or drugs may be to blame for perpetrators behaviour. No further communication to victim.
- Gardaí took report of refusal of entry to a bar. No further communication to victim.
- Gardaí took report of physical assault at scene but told victim that they could not find perpetrator. Victim called police on same day to report whereabouts of perpetrator but was told

gardaí were too busy to respond. No further communication to victim.

- Gardaí sent letter confirming incident number and ongoing investigation.
- Gardaí advised reporting to Press Ombudsman. Press Ombudsman advised it was matter for gardaí. Neither took formal report.
- Gardaí requested that a College acknowledge and address racial abuse by students. Garda noted to be very helpful.
- Gardaí visited neighbour who threatened a woman and her children over a noise complaint to talk to him about his behaviour.
- Gardaí offered to send officer to scene to move teenagers away and advised victim to remove himself from the situation.

The poor level of communication with victims in most cases caused upset and confusion. Victims were unclear about whether formal reports were under investigation, and confused by additional questions about their citizenship and residency. Additional reports on Garda behaviour were not reported to gardaí. These included the following:

- Gardaí told white Irish man reporting car break-in that Travellers were probably responsible for the crime before undertaking any investigation.
- A Garda questioning walkers at a popular tourist site questioned one man aggressively about car break-ins on identifying his surname as one common in Traveller families.
- A family visited a Garda station to request an official stamp required on forms. The Garda on duty questioned them at length, then stamped the hands of their child jokingly several times as well as the forms. The family left humiliated and patronised.

These reports show mixed levels of service from gardaí in relation to a range of matters. They demonstrate a need for clarity and good communication in all matters, but in particular in relation to the reporting of racial abuse.

The above word cloud is based on respondents' answers to the question: 'How did you feel?'



Concluding remarks

A unique recording system

This report is a first in the independent reporting of racist incidents in Ireland; it is the first national report to come from a network-conducted racist incident monitoring project, which uses a standard reporting system and is independently verified. The system derives its strength from network members' collective willingness to include in the monitoring process all of the groups which racism seeks to exclude. This diversity of ownership guarantees Human Rights standards by securing the project's commitment to working to ensure adherence to Article 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights: "...Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction [their] rights and freedoms ..."

How data will be used

The iReport monitoring system is, at this early stage, already producing data which will be useful in thinking about preventative work. Patterns by age group, type of incident, time of day, location and so forth will inform community and law enforcement solutions. The system is already being used in this way in some locations, and the data generated here will be useful to communities, organisations, local authorities, employment sectors and statutory bodies in devising action plans for addressing racism.

Informing policy and practice

The main purpose of the data is to provide an evidence base for policy and practice. This work provides a reliable and freely available resource for anti-racist organisations, and statutory and non-statutory bodies alike to make evidence-based policy recommendations. Over time, it will provide decision makers with the information to track the effectiveness of policy. It will also inform organisations, and statutory and non-statutory bodies, in bringing forward changes in practice. For example in the elaboration of diversity, integration or anti-racism action plans.

The purpose of the data is also to inform the debate around policy and legislative change at a national level. ENAR Ireland and its member organisations are already very actively engaged in discussions with policy makers and legislators, arguing for far-reaching positive change.

Recommendations for institutions

Some of the data may also make for uncomfortable reading, and it is clear that there is some work for the Gardaí in promptly addressing issues of racist victimisation, and recognising the impact of poor communication on victims. But it would be wrong to single out Gardaí for blame, when, as ENAR and its partners argue elsewhere, the main shortcoming is in the under-provision of the policy, legal and material wherewithal for the State as a whole to address racism.

The data gathered here points to an overlap in patterns of discrimination and victimisation based on race, disability, gender and LGBT identities that we are not fully capturing. This calls for ENAR Ireland to develop its capacity to capture these forms and to work more closely with organisations that work with communities in monitoring parallel forms of discrimination and victimisation.

Future reports

Subsequent quarterly and annual reports will help us identify trends and emerging patterns, some of which will be explored in later theme-based reports. This in turn will generate new sets of recommendations. Over time the system can also help us to think about what we are doing well, and to exchange good practices. The standardised system allows us to make best use of European and international comparators and feed into continent-wide analyses through our membership of the European Network Against Racism.

Photos: Derek Speirs

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