



# REPORTS OF RACISM IN IRELAND

2nd quarterly report of iReport.ie  
 October-November-December 2013

Racism:  
 see it  
 send it  
 end it.





## What is the iReport?

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

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

iReport.ie was launched on 11 July 2013. This Second Quarterly Report, iReport Q2 2013, covers the period 01 October 2013 to 31 December 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, an Executive Committee member of the Sociological Association of Ireland, and the UK editor of the Irish Journal of Sociology.



# Reports of racism in Ireland

**2nd Quarterly Report of iReport.ie**

**October-November-December 2013**

Authored by **Shane O'Curry** (ENAR Ireland) and **Dr Lucy Michael** (University of Hull)





The launch of iReport.ie in Dublin on 11th July, 2013. At centre are comedian Tara Flynn (pink top), Dublin footballer Jason Sherlock and singer Maureen Aku Disu. Photo: Derek Speirs

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## About iReport.ie

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

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

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

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

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

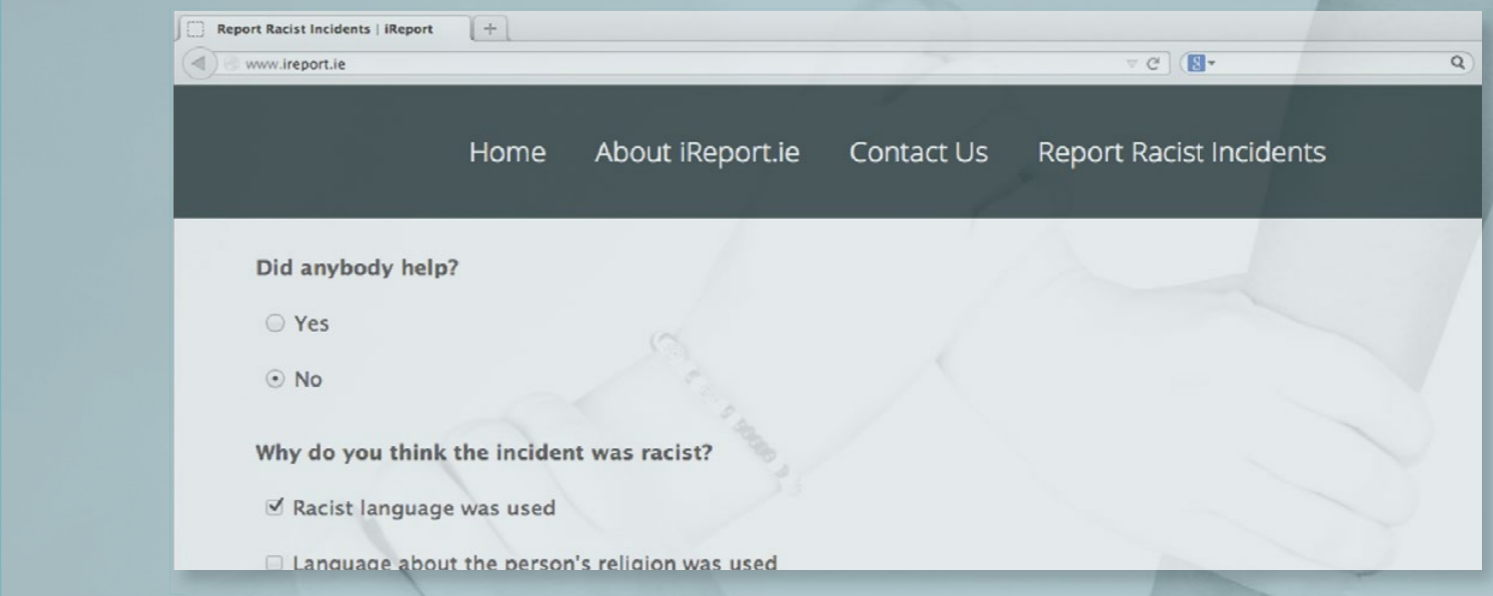
To overcome these barriers the iReport.ie reporting form guarantees confidentiality, is short and easy to use, is written in plain English, and can be filled in anonymously, if the person so wishes. The system also allows for people to be supported in recording racist incidents by organisations working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



# Reporting centres

Organisations which offer support to use iReport.ie include:

<p><b>Canal Communities Partnership:</b> 01-473 2196 info@canalpartnership.com</p> <p><b>Cairde:</b> 01 855 2111 info@cairde.ie www.cairde.ie</p> <p><b>Cultúr, Trim, Co Meath:</b> (046) 9093120 joana@cultur.ie www.cultur.ie</p> <p><b>Crosscare Refugee Service:</b> 01 873 2844 crs@crosscare.ie www.crosscare.ie</p> <p><b>Doras Luimni:</b> Limerick. 061 310 328 info@dorasluimni.org www.dorasluimni.org.</p> <p><b>The Integration Centre, Dublin:</b></p>	<p>info@integrationcentre.ie 01 6453070 www.integrationcentre.ie</p> <p><b>The Jesuit Refugee Service:</b> Limerick: 061 480922 Dublin: 01 8148644 info@jrs.ie www.jrs.ie</p> <p><b>The Irish Traveller Movement</b> or any of its member organisations: 01 6796577 itmtrav@indigo.ie www.itmtrav.ie</p> <p><b>The Irish Refugee Council:</b> (01) 764 5854 info@irishrefugeecouncil.ie www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie</p> <p><b>The Migrant Rights Centre Ireland:</b> 01 889 7570 info@mrci.ie www.mrci.ie</p>	<p><b>NASC Immigrant Support Centre:</b> 021 450 3462 info@nascireland.org www.nascireland.org</p> <p><b>The New Communities Partnership, Dublin:</b> 1 8727842 info@newcommunities.ie www.newcommunities.ie</p> <p><b>Offaly Traveller Movement:</b> 057 93 52438 info@otm.ie www.otm.ie</p> <p><b>Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Rights centre:</b> 0 1 8780255 info@paveepoint.ie www.paveepoint.ie</p> <p><b>South Dublin Intercultural Centre / Tallaght Roma Integration Project:</b></p>	<p>SDCC Intercultural Drop-in centre 01 464 9306 E.zuzana.tesarova@sdcpartnership.ie</p> <p><b>The National Youth Council of Ireland</b> 1 478 4122 info@nyci.ie www.nyci.ie</p> <p><b>The Union of Students in Ireland</b> (0)1 709 9300 info@usi.ie www.usi.ie</p> <p><b>A full list of the 40 ENAR Ireland and iReport.ie participating organisations can be found at:</b> www.enarireland.org/network-members/</p>
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# Reporting a racist incident

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

- The form can be filled in by:
- the person who has experienced racism
  - someone supporting a person who has experienced racism
  - someone who has witnessed racism
  - someone who has heard about a racist incident.

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

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

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

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

- Question 6: Why would you or the person it happened to say the incident was racist?**
- Racist language was used
  - Language about the person's religion was used
  - There did not appear to be any other possible motive
  - It was about something else, but racism came into it

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

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

# Overview

The iReport racist incident reporting system 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 was carried out by Dr. Lucy Michael in consultation with Shane O'Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland.

Ninety-one incidents were reported to the iReport system in the 3-month period of October to December 2013. Thirty-three of these were reported through a partner organisation. Of-faly Traveller Movement (OTM), for example, recorded 5 of these. This partially accounts for the higher number of reports recorded in Of-faly compared to other counties outside Dublin. Nasc, the Irish Immigrant Support Centre, based in Cork, reported the largest number of incidents (11) in this period.

It was expected that the number of reports may be low in the early recording quarters 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. 62 incidents were reported as occurring in the October to December period, and a further 10 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 91 incidents are shouting, verbal abuse and harassment. 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.

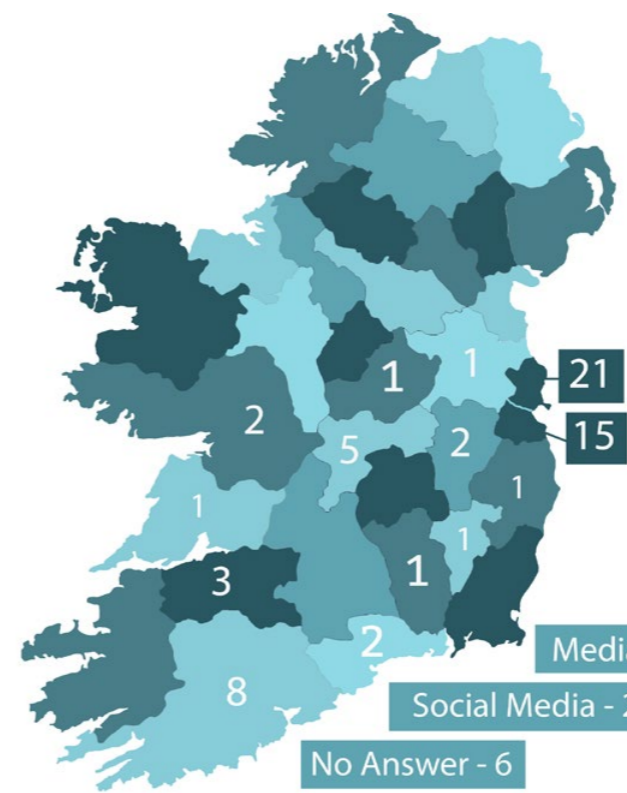
Victims were most likely to be aged between 25 and 55 years old, with a further significant number in mixed age groups. Perpetrators were most likely to be aged between 35 and 55 years old. Perpetrators in groups of 5 and more were more likely to be involved in physical assault than lone perpetrators or smaller groups. Women experiencing racist incidents were most likely to be aged between 18 and 35 years old (46%), consistent with reporting patterns in the previous period. Both men and women were equally likely to experience incidents as single victims (86% each) in this period. Men experienced a higher proportion of incidents involving physical threat.

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. Racist language was used in 57 of the incidents. Comments on the victim's religion were made by perpetrators in 8 incidents. Twenty-four 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 11 percent reported to Gardaí and 18 percent reported to other authorities or NGOs. The level of satisfaction with responses was low overall. Of those that reported to Gardaí, 4 reported a positive response, 5 negative responses and 1 neutral. 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 almost two-thirds of all incidents reported in this quarter to the iReport website were made by witnesses who had seen or heard about the incidents rather than by victims. A significant number of reports were made by people identifying as White Irish on behalf of victims with whom they had no prior relationship.

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.



Where did the incident happen?

# Types of incident

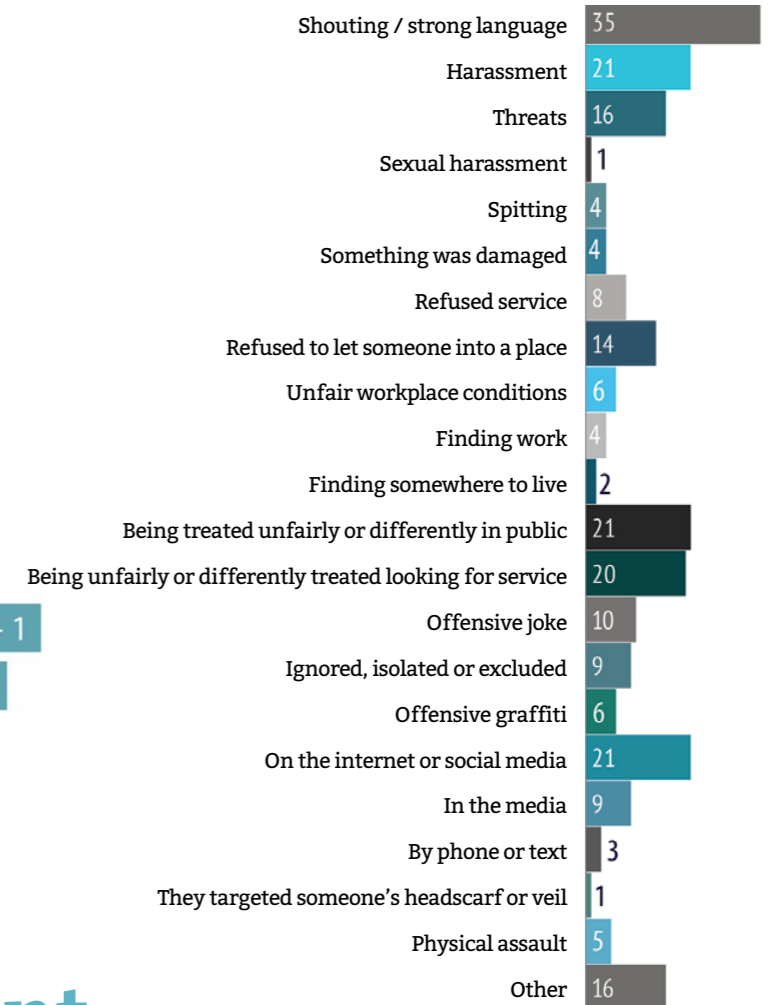
The highest proportion of incidents reported in this period involved 'Shouting or strong language' (39%) and 'Harassment' (24%). 'Being treated unfairly or differently in public' and 'Being unfairly or differently treated looking for service' each appeared in 23 percent of the incidents, as did 'Internet and social media'. Each of the reported incidents usually involved multiple negative behaviours towards the victim, and each of the categories above appeared in combination with others. Spitting was reported in 3 of the incidents.

## Incidents of physical assault

Four physical assaults were reported:

- A young adult (18-25) female EU national was violently pushed out of a shop in Galway city centre while the owner racially abused her and told her to 'go home', blamed immigrants for unemployment and poverty in Ireland, mocked her foreign accent and threatened violence if he saw her again in the city.
- An adult male (26-35) of unidentified ethnicity was punched in Waterford and his national flag burned. He is concerned that the Gardaí have not recorded the incident accurately.
- The now well-known case in October of the

# What kind of incident happened?



removal of Roma children from their families in South Dublin and Athlone by Gardaí involved physical assault. It was reported by an unrelated man. He reported that it made him 'fearful' about racial profiling by Gardaí.

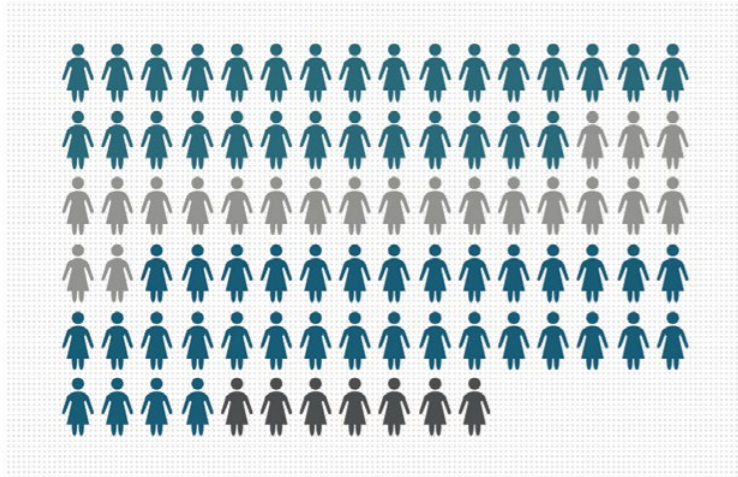
- A disabled woman of Black African ethnicity experienced harassment and assault in her workplace. She was the only non-Irish person in the workplace and felt that there was no other motive for the abuse she experienced from more than 10 of her colleagues. She reported the matter to several managers but no action was taken to resolve the matter.

## 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.

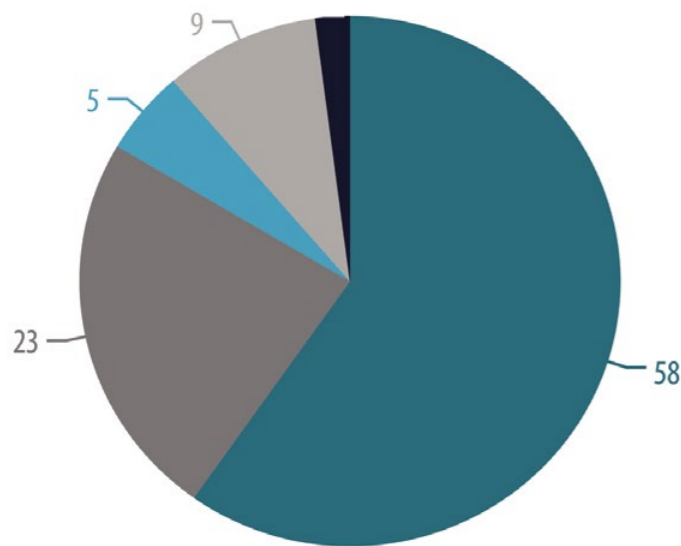
Of the 91 incidents reported, a quarter (25%) involved threat, and a further 5% involved physical assault. There was a large increase in this reporting period of non-threatening rac-

## Who did it happen to?



Me - 29 I heard about it happening - 21  
I saw it happen - 34 No answer\* - 7

## Level of violence



No physical threat - 58 Physical threat - 23  
Physical assault - 5 Property damage\* - 9  
\* of which 2 accompanied physical assault or threat

ist incidents and these made up 64 percent of reports made. Property damage accounted for 10 percent of reports, only sometimes accompanied by threats or violence.

### Region

Almost a quarter of incidents reported in this period occurred on social media. More than half of incidents with a physical location occurred in the Greater Dublin area, with 30 percent of these in Dublin North and 21 percent

in Dublin South. Twenty-six incidents (37%) occurred outside Dublin, distributed across 11 other counties, with notable concentrations only in Cork (7 incidents) and Offaly (5 incidents). 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 Cork were perpetrated against a diverse range of ethnic identities. This suggests that there is no single group being targeted in the area. All reported incidents in Offaly were perpetrated against people whose ethnicity was identified as Traveller, all being reported via the Offaly Traveller Movement.

### Time of Incident

Dates are available for 75 of the 91 reported incidents, of which 61 occurred during the reporting period, 4 in the previous month, and 7 in the preceding year. Rates of occurrence are relatively stable throughout the week, with a slight peak on Wednesday, higher peak on Friday and significant drop on Sunday. This matches the pattern observed in the 1st quarterly report covering the period July to September 2013.

Times are reported for 69 of the 91 reports, including 14 incidents involving social media. Half of the social media incidents occurred between 8pm and 8am, while just 12 of the 55 incidents not involving social media occurred in these hours. The overall pattern shows a high level of daytime victimisation.

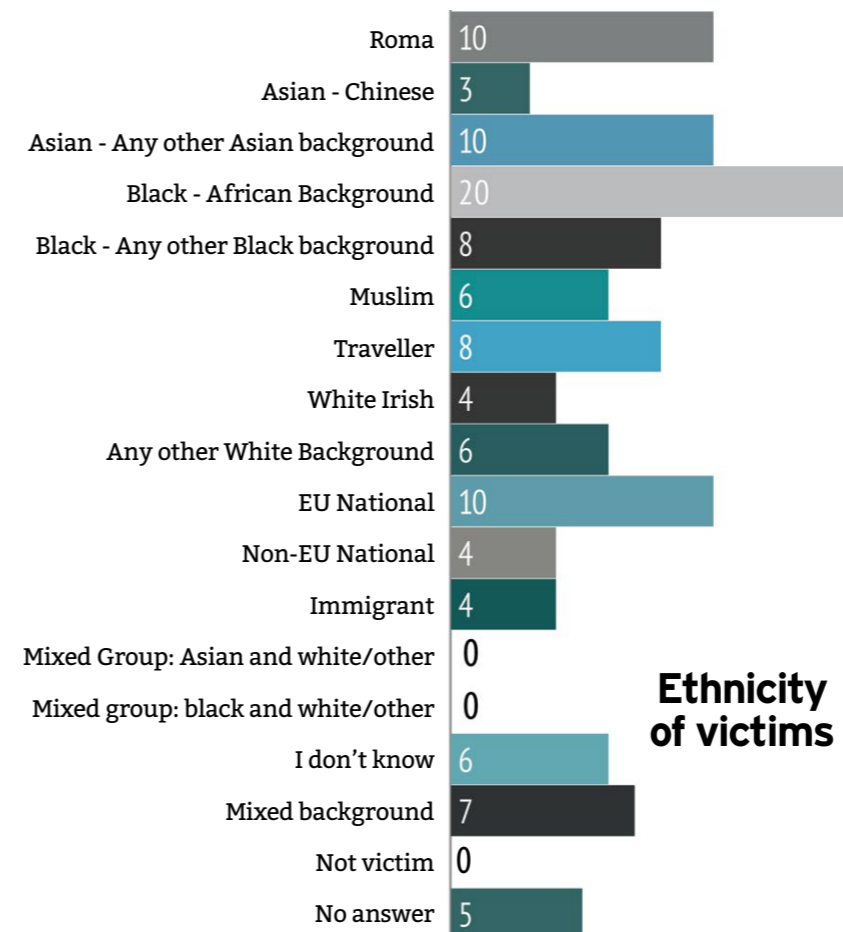
The data shows that the majority of reported racist incidents in Ireland in the period October to December occurred between 11am and 6pm, with a slight rise in the late evening. Only 1 of the 10 incidents against people of Roma background was reported as being after 7pm, all the others occurring through the day. Similarly, only 5 of the 28 incidents against people of Black African background occurred after 7pm. Incidents against people of Asian background were only slightly more likely to occur during the day, and these reports revealed two distinct patterns with abuse arising during evening use of city centre streets and pubs and criminal damage and abuse against East Asian and South Asian businesses at night.

An investigation of time and location shows that this pattern is largely consistent regardless of region. In Dublin North, 15 of 18 incidents, for which a time was reported, occurred between 8am and 7pm, while in Dublin South,

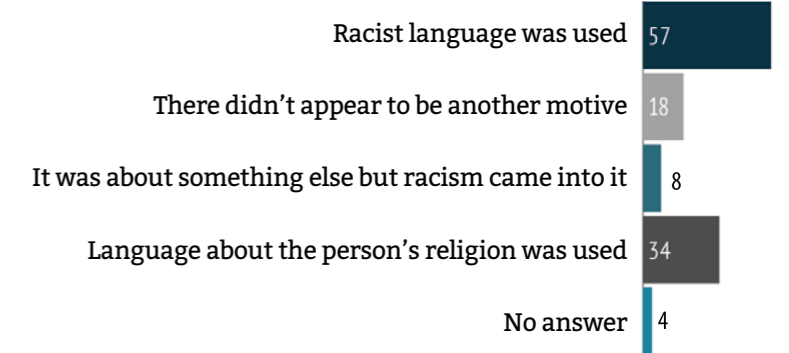
10 of 15 incidents occurred in the daytime period. In Cork, all 5 incidents, for which a time was reported, occurred between midday and 6pm, while in Offaly 2 of the 4 incidents occurred at 6pm.

Comparing this data to international patterns, it may be extrapolated that 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. Ethnic minorities are also more likely to participate in mixed spaces during the day.

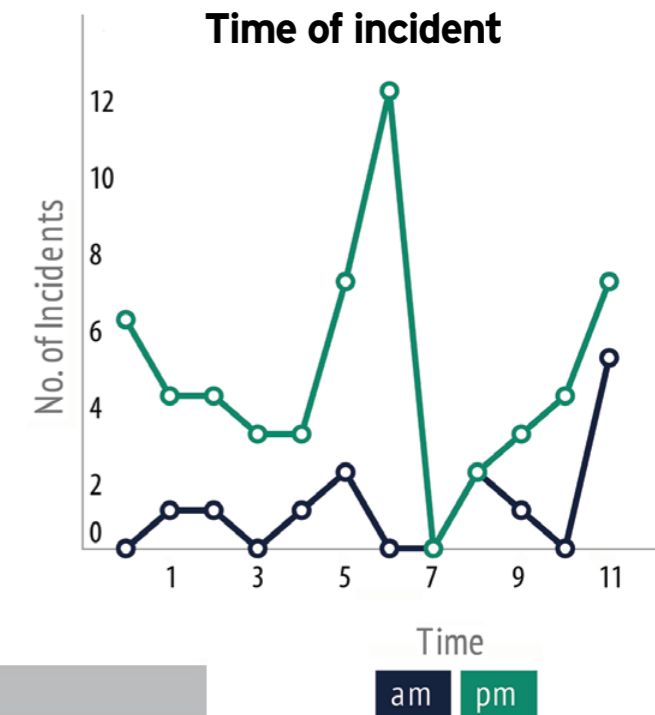
However, in line with international reporting patterns, a very small number of workplace incidents were reported in this quarter. Just 5 incidents were reported to the iReport website. In-depth international research studies show that the workplace usually accounts for a very significant proportion of incidents but that reporting is consistently low due to the perceived risk to their job by the victim. A further 3 incidents occurred while the victim was seeking employment. No single ethnicity was victimised in the workplace or in seeking employment.



## Respondents' perception of racism



## Time of incident



# Information about victims

## Reporting by victims

A third of the reports (32%) received by iReport, came directly from victims. A further 37 percent were reported by eye witnesses. The latter included a high proportion of strangers as well as family members and friends. Overall, strangers reported 34 percent of all incidents in this period. 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. Five reports came from family members, and three from the victim's boyfriend.

Of the 91 incidents, just 26 were known to have been reported to the Gardaí or another authority or NGO as well as to the iReport website. Only 10 of these were reported to Gardaí, 8 by victims themselves.

## Age of Victims

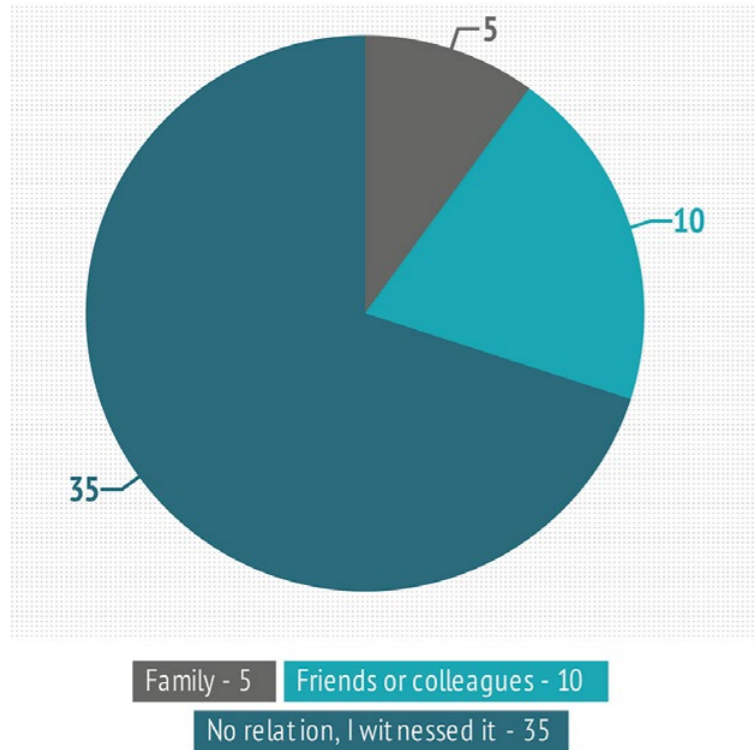
Victims of the 91 reported incidents in this period were most likely to be in mixed age groups (26%), followed by the categories '35-55' years (24%) and '25-35' years (20%). This result is significantly affected by the number of social media based incidents reported. Excluding these, the number of mixed age victim groups is halved, and the other age categories are each reduced slightly. Victims under 18 and over 55 years old reported no instances of physical assault or threat.

The reports in this quarter include a number of incidents which occurred in relation to employment and the use of public services. This may partly explain the higher level of reporting by people aged 25-55 years old. However, there are other issues, such as literacy and familiarity with and access to internet based services, which may reduce likelihood of reporting to the iReport website by older or younger groups.

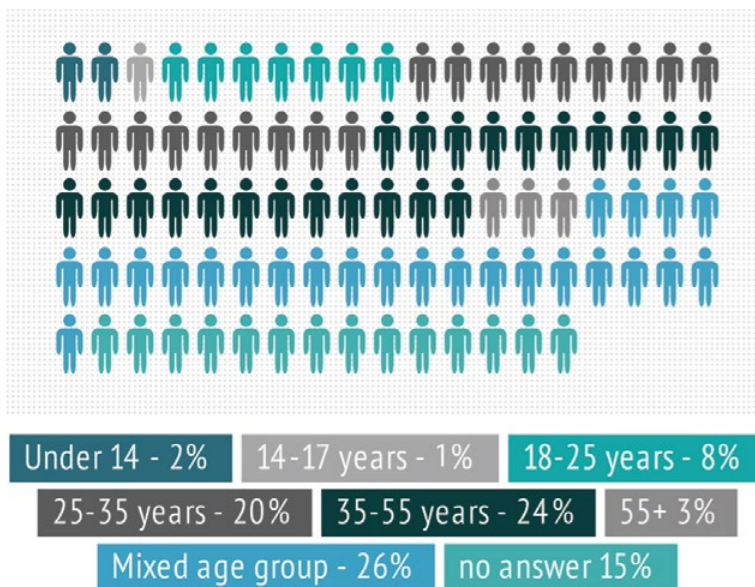
## Ethnicity of Victims

The largest number of incident reports concerned Black-African victims (22%) at more than twice the rate of victimisation of any other group. Rates of victimisation were lower and broadly similar amongst other groups. Roma, non-Chinese Asian background, and EU National victims each reported 11 percent followed closely by Other Black background and Traveller at 9 percent each. Muslims, other White, White Irish and those of Mixed background reported 7

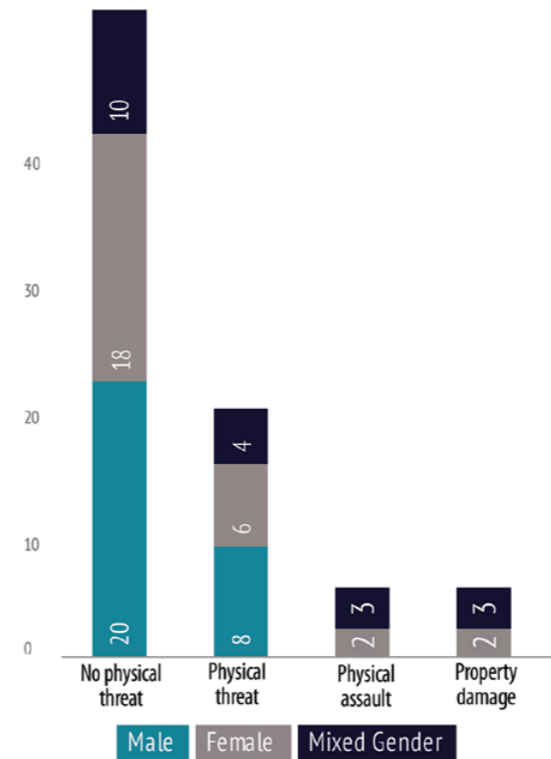
## What relation to you?



## Age of victim



## Level of violence in relation to gender of victim

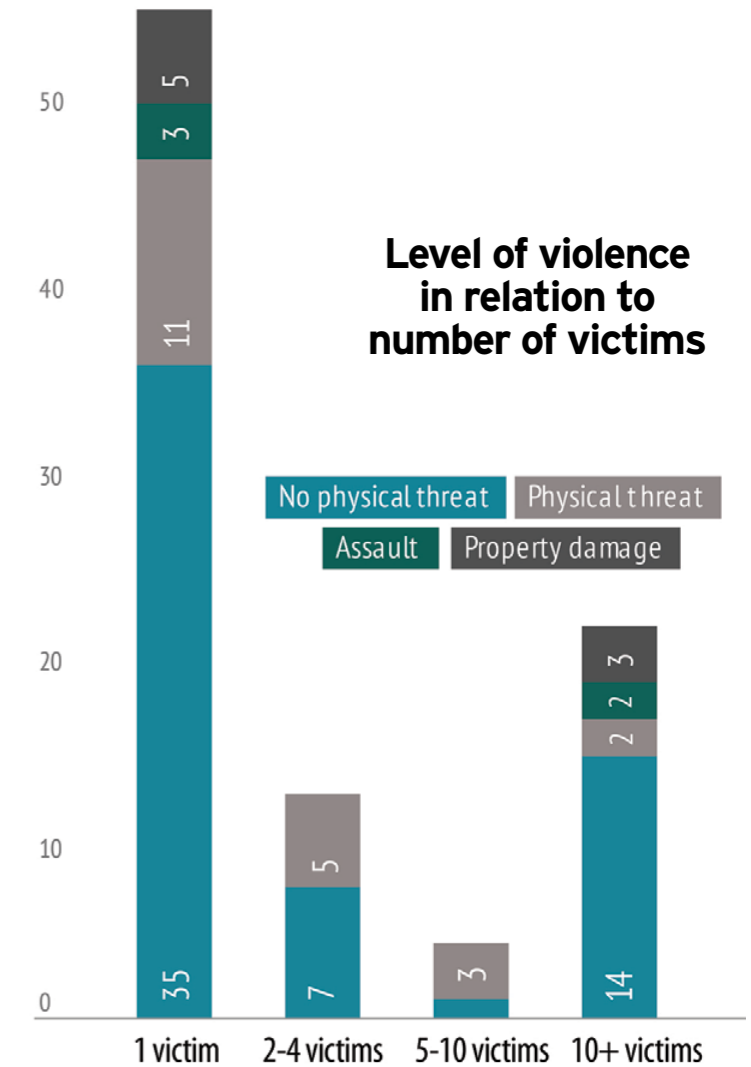


percent of incidents each. It is however worthy of note that the most visible racialised category is that of 'Black', making up almost a third of all reports (31%).

The iReport website allows people reporting incidents to choose more than one category of identification for the 'person this happened to'. The numbers in this chart, therefore, exceed the number of reports. This means of categorisation allows 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 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. Three of the four 'White Irish' victims in this period were victimised because of their personal or professional relationships with people of another ethnicity. One woman was abused in her workplace because of her marriage to a Black African man, another woman was refused entry to an entertainment venue because of her friend's ethnicity, and racist comments were made to a man working for an NGO who specialise in development work in Africa whilst driving a van with the NGO logo.

## Level of violence in relation to number of victims



## Single and group victimisation

Twenty two incidents were described as involving more than 10 victims. These consisted of 15 social media or national media instances with a wide general audience, and two instances of graffiti, a flyer distributed in Limerick city centre, a poster on a bus, and a statement by Gardaí to a shopkeeper about the likely ethnicity of burglars.

More than half of the 91 incidents involved single victims (60%), although this rises to 71 percent when incidents involving social media or national media are excluded. Continuing to exclude these for other categories, small victim groups of 2-4 people are involved in 16 percent of reports, and larger victim groups of 5-10 people in just 3 percent of reports. This is similar to the patterns observed in the previous reporting period.

Single victims proportionally experienced both a higher rate of physical assault but incidents of physical threat were more likely to be experienced by couples or larger groups. This is at variance with the patterns evident in the previous reporting period, but a more consistent pattern may be discernible over several reporting periods.

# Comment piece in *Irish Times*, 22 January 2014

## Language can so easily be used to dehumanise other ethnic groups

By Shane O'Curry, Director, ENAR Ireland

**T**welve Years a Slave is a striking film in many respects. It is striking in its dramatic pace and in the protracted attention to the minutiae of violence with which director Steve McQueen brings Solomon Northop's wrenching story to life. The film is most striking for the significance it attaches to the intimate connection between language and violence and the role that this plays in legitimising the dehumanising regime of slavery.

It is easy to dehumanise others; indeed we all do it to some degree. Research reviewed in the latest New Scientist demonstrates that the ability to dehumanise members of a group other than our own is innate.

What the deployment of dehumanising language adds is a code for others to participate in the organisation of that tendency into a regime of racial hierarchy, subordination and violence. In 12 Years a Slave, this is demonstrated when one of Northop's captors beats and whips him to get him to abandon his given name and status as a free man and accept instead an imposed slave name, telling him "You're just a runaway n\*\*\*er from Georgia."

Accepting this term means accepting and normalising the violence that goes with it. When it comes to racism and the legitimisation of violence, words count, a lot; when it comes to journalism, even more so.

On Monday, the press ombudsman upheld a complaint I made on behalf of the European Network Against Racism in Ireland (Enar Ireland) about an *Irish Independent* article by Ian O'Doherty published on September 30th last year. iReport.ie, a racist incident-reporting tool

managed by Enar Ireland, received a complaint about the article.

Finding in Enar Ireland's favour, the press ombudsman ruled that the *Irish Independent* article was in breach of the press code of practice under principle eight – prejudice. The article made a number of prejudicial generalisations about Roma, including referring to them as a "parasitic, ethnic underclass".

The article also called for the State to engage in the ethnic profiling of Roma, by deporting "any Roma who doesn't have a job". The article also made use of the term "Criminal Roma", a term recently identified as intended to stir up racial hatred by the European Court of Human Rights.

The use of dehumanising language against Roma and the associated appeals for racial profiling by opinion-formers is sadly all too common across Europe, with grave consequences. In his warning in October last year against a rise in racism and xenophobia, European Commission president José Manuel Barroso did not lightly make the connection between the language being used in the public sphere and our continent's all-too-recent history of nationalist chauvinism, conflict and genocide.

For Roma the spectre of the porajmos ("the Devouring"), during which some 500,000 Roma, Sinti and Travellers were exterminated in Nazi camps, with millions more dispossessed and displaced, is never far away.

Today, tens of thousands of Roma live in sub-human conditions in camps in Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and elsewhere. Organised violence against Roma is rife across Europe. Racist murders are commonplace. In Russia, Roma rights activist Pavel Limanskyi has been detained without trial for eight months. An investigation by the Czech ombudsman has found that some 90,000 Roma women have been involuntarily sterilised by the state in the former Czechoslovakia since the 1970s. The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) has recorded such cases as recently as 2007.

In Ireland, in the same time frame as the *Irish Independent* article, the *Sunday World* published a number of articles decrying the use of taxpayers' money to set up a pilot "GP bus" for Roma in Tallaght in west Dublin.

That this innovative HSE scheme for delivering healthcare to a marginalised group is widely recognised as successful and cost-saving did

not detract from the opportunity it presented to some to demonise and stigmatise Roma. The articles were republished by a number of west Dublin newspapers. Since then, a significant number of reports were made to Enar Ireland about acts of racism against Roma in Tallaght.

At the same time as these articles were published, a moral panic erupted across Europe – the "Maria Story" in Greece, a story strongly reminiscent of the ancient racist myth of gypsies stealing children.

On October 21st, the HSE and gardaí removed a seven-year-old blonde-haired Roma girl from her family in Tallaght. They were acting on a tip-off from a television presenter contacted by a neighbour of the family. The next day, gardaí in Athlone removed a second blond-haired Roma child from his family, again in spite of objections.

Let us hope that these incidents will remain the lowest point in recent Irish race relations history. Let them be a warning against the dangers of irresponsible journalism and the reckless use of language by those seeking to make capital

out of controversy.

Let this be the rejoinder to the spurious claim that it is "political correctness" and fear of being labelled racist that stifles informed debate.

As Enar's research shows, it is racism that stifles informed debate about our inter-cultural reality and silences the voices of those at its sharp end.

With the European and local elections looming, we need to redouble our efforts to make racist language unacceptable. The recently published first quarterly report of iReport.ie makes for shocking reading. It also makes clear the connection between racist language and the potential for people in vulnerable situations to have their rights violated, as in the example of the appalling removal of two children

from their families.

As the news of our favourable Moody's re-rating sinks in, perhaps we ought to be thinking as much about how we are rated internationally as an open, harmonious and cosmopolitan society. The language we use about minorities will count a lot towards this.

**Let us hope that these incidents will remain the lowest point in recent Irish race relations history. Let them be a warning against the dangers of irresponsible journalism and the reckless use of language by those seeking to make capital out of controversy**

## Mediated racist incidents

**Twenty-one incidents involving social media and three incidents involving media were reported in this period.**

- Two reports concerned racist language against Polish people used in several Facebook posts by a white English male, aged between 25 and 35.
- A Neighbourhood Watch page set up for Ballyfermot published racist language against Travellers and accused them of crime in the area. The published posts were written by a large group of white Irish people. The publication caused hurt to a female Traveller who was working and living in the area and previously felt accepted.
- A website published in order to denigrate black people and make hate statements, with large participation through public forums, was reported by a black Nigerian male who came across it while conducting research. It left him appalled and pained.
- An internet forum for motorcyclists in Ireland published a post from a user regarding

the case of the removal of a child from a Roma family by Gardai. A discussion then ensued with 18 of the participants making extremely racist remarks about the Roma people. This website was reported by an Irish woman who was very shocked at the language used and racial hatred.

- An Irish athlete posted a racist comment about the Roma child removal case on Twitter. He later deleted the post and apologised, only after public response to the comment. This was reported by an Irish male.
- An adult Irish male of mixed ethnicity received an anonymous message to say that a thread had been started about him on the Nationalist Movement Ireland forum. Racist and threatening statements were towards him and his family members. He also received more than 10 phone calls involving racial abuse shouted at him.
- A male EU national of mixed ethnicity reported a website publishing racist statements

### European Network Against Racism Ireland and the Irish Independent

THE Press Ombudsman has decided to uphold a complaint made by Mr Shane O'Curry, Director of European Network Against Racism Ireland (ENAR), that an article in the *Irish Independent* on 30 September 2013 was a breach of Principle 8 (Prejudice) of the Code of Practice for Newspapers and Magazines.

Mr O'Curry complained that the article, entitled "Begging - but I thought it was freedom of expression?" was in breach of Principle 8 of the Code because it advocated the expulsion of all unemployed Roma people from Ireland, because it stated that Roma beggars formed "a parasitic, ethnic underclass who look on this country as a giant stupid cow to be milked whenever they see fit", and it asserted that many locals had "found themselves surrounded by beggars - all of whom were Roma - and then had their







against foreign workers in Ireland. The website was being publicised through flyers distributed in Limerick city centre.

- An Asian man reported the use of internet and social media as part of a larger and extended campaign of racism against him which involved violence and threats.
- A Facebook page purporting to protect children from paedophilia contained a high number of racist comments against foreigners, Muslims, Pakistanis, Turkish people, and Roma. It was reported by an adult male 'disgusted' by the racist language used.
- A male Irish Twitter user made comments denigrating the need for Traveller Accommodation to Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre at the time of the Traveller Accommodation protest outside Fingal County Council and copied to mainstream media outlets. The tweet was deleted following interjection from @MiriamDonohoe, a journalist with the Irish Independent, who termed the comment harsh.
- A video on YouTube publishing racist comments against immigrants in Ireland was reported by a female student in Cork, also an immigrant, who found it while doing research for an assignment.
- A case of online bullying, harassment and racial abuse by a white

Irish male against a group of male and female EU nationals aged 18 to 25 years old. The case was also reported to Gardaí and was awaiting a response at time of reporting to iReport.ie.

- A website publicising racist comments about people of African background was reported by a black person living in Ireland.
- A person of mixed ethnicity living in Ireland reported a Facebook page publishing threatening and racist statements against immigrants to Ireland. The page was reported to Facebook who refused to remove it.
- An Irish male posted statements that were racist about black people and threatening execution on Twitter. The Tweets was directed at footballer Stan Collymore. It was reported by a person living in Ireland.
- A white Irish teenage male used racist terms on Twitter to describe and denigrate black people.
- A video about an African woman was posted to a 'Spotted' Facebook group in Louth prompting hundreds of racist comments, including some which called for the murder of immigrants.
- A report was made about racist statements made to and published in mainstream media outlets by the former Mayor of Naas on his re-admittance to the Fine Gael party.
- A Twitter user promulgating 'whiteness' in their username used Twitter to publish racist abuse towards two young black girls who appeared on RTE's Late Late Show.
- An internet gaming site published a series of racist statements in its public forums. It was reported to iReport.ie after the administrators published these statements. They have now been removed.

## Perpetrators

The described ethnicity of perpetrators in the 91 incidents was predominantly 'White Irish' (74%), with White Irish also appearing in a group of perpetrators with a person or people of Black background. Five of the incidents were perceived to involve 'White- other background', and one 'Travellers'. Just one incident involved a perpetrator described as 'Roma'.

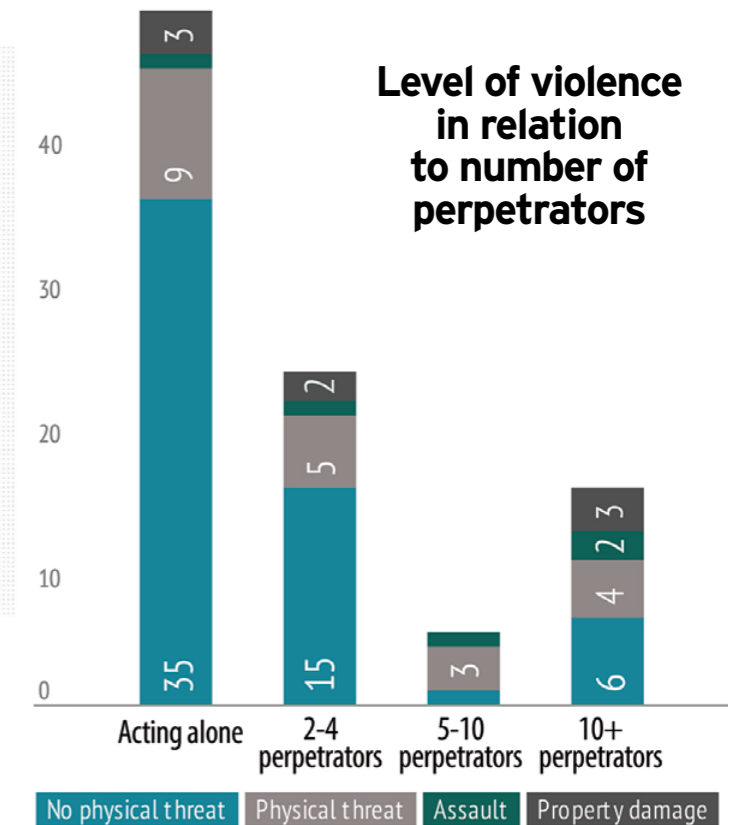
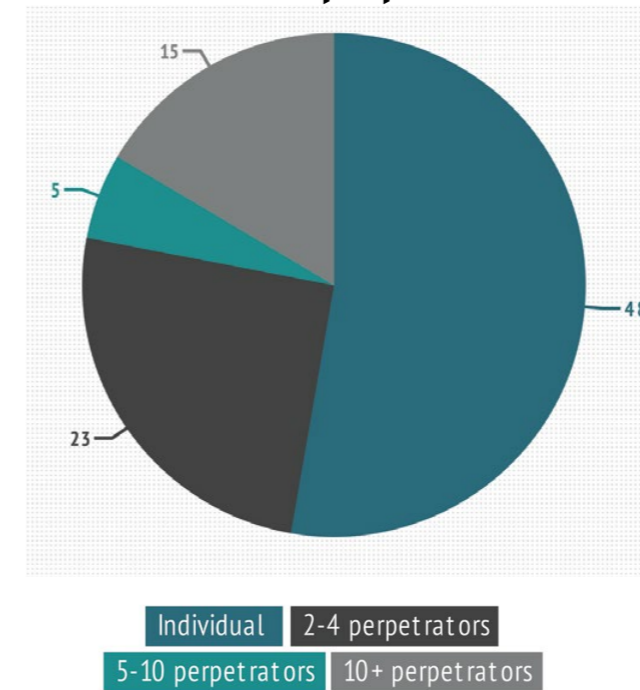
Single perpetrators were involved in 48 of the reports (52%), with groups of between 2 and 10 people involved in 28 reports. Groups of 2-4 perpetrated 23 incidents, while groups of 5-10 people were responsible for 5 incidents. Groups of more than 10 (including institutions) were responsible for a further 15 incidents.

Levels of threatened violence varied depending on the number of people in the perpetrator's group. This was significant for groups of 5-10 perpetrators.

Incidents were mostly perpetrated by people in the '35-55' years age category (22%) and mixed age groups (21%). These perpetrators were equally likely to be male and female, and mixed gender groups.

Perpetrators aged '25-35' were involved in 12 percent of the reports, mostly as individuals and small groups. Those aged under 25 were involved in 13 percent of reports, predominantly male and acting as individuals.

## Number of perpetrators



### Perceptions of racism

Racist language was the only reason given in 21 percent of reports for perceiving the event as racist. However, racist language was used by the perpetrator in 62 percent of the reports. Reports were more likely to feature multiple reasons for perceiving the incident as racist. Only 21 percent of reports relied solely on the reason 'There did not seem to be any other motive', although a further 16 percent of reports mention this reason in combination with another. Language about the victim's religion was used in 9 percent of reported incidents.

In 36 percent of reports, the reporting party perceived that racism was introduced into an incident around something else. There was no discernible pattern in these reports by ethnicity of victim, number of perpetrators or victims, location, time of day, perpetrator type (i.e. institution or persons). The majority were classified by our research team as 'no threat' incidents.

### Gender

Gender has a significant impact on the experiences of victimisation in racist incidents. Male individuals or all-male groups were involved in more than 3 times the number of incidents involving female perpetrators. The impact of the increased reporting of mediated racist incidents in this period is visible in examining the role of gender in this period, with mixed gender groups (including institutions) making up a third of all reports. Victims were equally likely to be male as female with each involved in 30 percent of reports and mixed groups involved in a further 21 percent of reports.

Women experiencing racist incidents were most likely to be aged between 18 and 35 years old (46%),

consistent with reporting patterns in the previous period. Both men and women were equally likely to experience incidents as single victims (86% each) in this period. Men were however most likely to be in the 35-55 years old age category (46%). There was in this period no discernible variation in the levels of violence correlated with gender.

### Attacks on the veil

Only one incident relating to a headscarf or veil was reported in this period; this concerned a website.

### 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, 9 reports included Transgender and 10 reports included Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual (LGB) as well as describing a minority ethnic identity. A further 9 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 workplace abuse against someone with a disability, and one involved criminal damage and graffiti where the victim had a disability. A further report notes that the victim's child has a learning disability and that this was mentioned in the racial abuse.

## 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: 011 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

## Impact on victims

In addition to descriptions of the incidents, the reporting system 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.

A 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.

As in the previous reporting period, victims and witnesses expressed shock and anger.

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.

21 Angry/enraged/fuming/furious/infuriated  
 15 Disgusted/disturbed  
 14 Ashamed/Shamed/Humiliated/Embar-

rassed/Disappointed  
 12 Shocked/appalled/Horrified  
 11 Depressed/upset/deflated/demoralised/sad  
 9 Awful/horrible/bad  
 7 Afraid/scared/fearful  
 6 Gutted/heartbroken/hopeless/Despairing  
 6 Insulted/Offended  
 5 Belittled/worthless/undermined/unimportant  
 5 Anxious/worried/confused  
 4 Annoyed/vexed/frustrated  
 4 Intimidated/bullied/cheated  
 4 Threatened/compromised  
 4 Uncertain/unsure/uneasy/uncomfortable  
 4 Unprotected/unsafe/vulnerable/defenceless  
 3 Hurt/damaged  
 2 Isolated/disconnected

The full range of expressions used in the reports is reproduced here to accurately represent the mental and physical impact of racist incidents on victims, co-victims and witnesses.

A further selection of responses to this question demonstrate the physical aspect, with reporting parties describing the incident as leaving victims and witnesses in tears, speechless for considerable lengths of time, experiencing stress and terror, and, in one case, fearful that the incident had induced a heart attack.



## Concluding remarks

This second Quarterly Report, as with the first Quarterly Report of iReport.ie, demonstrates that a wide range of groups in Irish society experience racism daily. With reporting rates for people who identify as Black or of African descent highest in this report, the racism experienced by Travellers, Roma, Muslims, Migrants and Minority Ethnic Irish is also shown to be unacceptably high.

ENAR Ireland's research has identified a wide gap in the number of racist incidents actually occurring and those reported to any official body. The iReport system goes some way to closing this gap, although in common with all racist incident monitoring systems, it is limited in its ability to capture enough data to support broad claims about overall rates with any degree of certainty.

With these limitations in mind, the data does demonstrate that racism is common to different communities in Ireland, and that manifestations of racism may vary depending on the background of the person experiencing it. It also suggests that gender, disability and sexuality may impact on people's experiences of racism, requiring further investigation into the relationship between 'hate incidents' and variations in these intersecting identities.

The data also shows consistency over time in the nature and types of incident experienced, and in the locations and times of day they occur. They also evidence consistency in the data about perpetrators and the type of incident experienced. Consistently low rates of reporting to Gardaí also suggest a continued lack of confidence among minorities in the police force in Ireland.

The dependability of the data generated, and its use of international standards, means that it is verifiable and comparable, and it can be used in a variety of ways. The iReport data is already being used as a resource by researchers, human rights bodies, journalists, activists, elected representatives and policy makers.

In the broadest measure of its success, iReport.ie is already fulfilling its aim to be a mirror, reflecting the various faces of racism in Irish society. iReport.ie has provided hard evidence of both the extent of racism and the range of experiences of those subjected to it, establishing the problem of racism in Irish society as an undeniable fact which needs to be addressed.

The Irish media's reception of iReport, and the attention now given to the stories that people tell of their experiences of racism, are testament to the evolving nature of the national conversation. They are evidence of the shift from a position of asking whether racism exists, to one where that racism is now being acknowledged, and where there is more interest in finding out what people's experiences of racism are. This is a welcome development and a first step on the road to mobilising Irish society as a whole to eliminate racism.

Another welcome development is the international attention iReport.ie has received, with global human rights organisations citing it as international best practice. ENAR Ireland and iReport.ie are now actively working with European partners to establish an EU-wide standardised reporting regime for monitoring racism.

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

## What they have said about iReport.ie

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

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

"iReport.ie is very well done. It gives a thorough insight into the current situation and challenges and on top of that it is well written and accessible. I look forward to see how the project develops further and seeing its impact. FRA considers making a good-practice-box about the report in the up-coming annual report together with a similar initiative in Greece."

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

"The best way for everyone to help stamp out racism is to recognise and report it."  
**Irish Examiner Editorial December 16th, 2013**

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

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

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

**Ethel Buckley, SIPTU**

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

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

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