



European  
Network  
Against  
Racism  
Ireland

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**“Let’s not sleepwalk into an Irish Trump, or Brexit scenario” warns anti-racism group, as latest iReport.ie data reveals consistent growth across the full range of racist incident types.**

The latest 6 months report from ENAR Ireland (European Network Against Racism Ireland) “Represents a higher level of reporting than the previous six-month period, and a significantly higher level than all previously recorded periods” according to report author Dr. Lucy Michael of Ulster University. The report charts increased levels of violence, threats and illegal discrimination in public spaces, workplaces, neighbourhoods, public services and institutions in Ireland.

The report was made by Dr Michael from the information on racist incidents submitted to the iReport.ie racist incident reporting website. The data reveals high levels of verbal abuse on the streets, with significant levels of violence and threats to kill, overt racism and hostility from public servants, and unacceptably high levels of racism and inappropriate behaviour from members of An Garda Síochána. Dr Michael’s analysis also provides insights into the extent of impacts of racism on minorities and the wider community in Ireland.

“The report reveals worrying levels of institutional racism which both reflect and reinforce attitudes in which people from minority backgrounds are regularly marginalised and dehumanised. We must clearly understand this: these attitudes and practices have the effect of normalising racist crimes against people.” Said Shane O’Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland.

“ When we consider that minorities in Ireland face racist attitudes from Councillors and TDs, when going about their daily business in public, when seeking accommodation, when going out, in obtaining services, when dealing with Social Welfare Officers or Gardai, and across the media and social media, then our society is in real danger of bringing about a racist scenario from which we might not be able to roll back” said O’Curry.

“We need to be proactive in confronting racism. It is not good enough to blame minorities for the failure of society to integrate them when such high levels of racism are allowed to fester. The responsibility must be on the state to first address the racism in its own institutions.”

“While we are all talking about what a Trump victory and Brexit means for us in Ireland, we must remember that it is far more important for us to acknowledge and address the systemic racism in Irish society. To do this, we need a National Action Plan Against Racism, encompassing Hate Crime Legislation, buttressed by root-and-branch reform of all areas of state policy, its agencies and their practices, including Garda reform and comprehensive training on anti racism and interculturalism for all public servants. This requires political leadership urgently”

ENAR Ireland has been collecting reports on racist incidents through the online iReport.ie Racist Incident Reporting System since July 2013.

**Notes to Editor:**

Full report can be found [here](#) (after 00:00 on 08 Dec 2016) more on iReports [here](#)

*ENAR Ireland is a national network of 70 organisations working collectively to highlight and combat racism and the National Coordination for the European Network Against Racism.*

ENAR Ireland, 37 Dame St, Dublin 2, Ireland. [info@enarireland.org](mailto:info@enarireland.org) 01 8897110 [www.enarireland.org](http://www.enarireland.org)