

MEDIA RELEASE (EMBARGO 18TH JANUARY 00:00) :

“Garda failings on racism an opportunity for change” says anti-racism watchdog, as latest data report confirms systemic failures in Garda practice amid 33% increase in racist incidents.

In the period January-June 2017, 330 Reports of racism were made to The European Network Against Racism Ireland (ENAR Ireland) through the iReport.ie racist incident reporting system. This represents a 33% increase on the previous period according to an analysis of the data conducted by Dr Lucy Michael of Ulster University.

“The latest findings show a stark increase in incidents which follow a sadly familiar pattern of racist violence and other serious crimes against minorities. A four-year analysis in this report shows long-term systemic failures in An Garda Síochána’s ability to respond adequately and appropriately” Said Dr Michael.

“This failure in our state’s ability to protect minorities is wholly unacceptable in a republic which purports to cherish everyone equally” said Shane O’Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland whose iReport.ie system has been monitoring racist incidents in Ireland since 2013 “Yet there is an opportunity this year with the hearings of the [Commission on the Future of Policing](#) for us to present evidence-based recommendations for changes in our policing practice that can bring Ireland in line with European obligations on racism and hate crime, and ensure that minorities enjoy the same protection as everyone else”

Overview of report:

A total of 330 completed reports, up 33% on previous six-month period, in which 245 reports were received.

Reporting significantly higher than all previous periods & shows a consistent rise since launch of iReport.ie in July 2013.

Assault appeared in 19 cases in this period.

Weapons used in 6 cases.

13 cases of threats to kill or cause serious harm

Sexual assault was reported in 3 cases.

3 reports of arson.

26 cases of ongoing harassment.

12 reports about single or multiple counts of criminal damage.

18 reports of racist graffiti.

33 about incidents such as verbal abuse, ‘racist jokes’ or aggressive questioning. Frequently precursors to discrimination or racist crime.

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

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20 cases of discrimination in the workplace.

22 reports of discrimination in access to goods and services.

111 reports of racist hate speech online.

Social media companies published 82 of these, with 37 on Facebook, 35 on Twitter and 10 on YouTube.

61 reports of hate speech published by Irish newspapers .

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

Ireland is the focus of an ongoing [investigation](#) by the European Parliament's PETI committee, triggered by ENAR Ireland, in respect to its non-compliance with the 2008 EU Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia.

ENAR Ireland is a network organisation of 79 Irish civil society [member organisations](#) working collectively to combat racism. It is the Irish coordination of the [European Network Against Racism \(ENAR\)](#) which has members across 30 states.

Latest iReport.ie data on racist incidents can be found **Here** more on iReport.ie generally [here](#)



The work of ENAR Ireland and iReport.ie are made possible thanks to Pobal, SSNO (Scheme to Support National Organisations) and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government