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“Racism figures climb in context of political hate speech.”

The Irish Network Against Racism (INAR) today released two-year figures on racist hate speech, hate crime and discriminatory incidents recorded through its iReport.ie racist incident reporting system. Figures for [2018](#) and [2019](#) show an increase in overall reported incidents as well as continued growth in serious incidents, including violent crimes. The growth in serious incidents was recorded against a marked increase in racist hate speech by political figures, and an explosion in race hatred in social media.

There were 530 reports received in 2019, an increase of 140 on 2018. Criminal offences excluding incitement to hatred constituted 112 reports. There were 174 reports concerning hate speech. In 2019, INAR also recorded the highest ever number of racist assaults (50 reports), with a high rate of physical injury and mental health consequences. INAR also recorded the highest rate of repeat harassment cases to date (92 reports).

“2019 data disappointingly shows continuing low rates of trust in An Garda Síochána” said Dr Lucy Michael, author of the report. “It confirms our previous findings of failures in garda responses to serious incidents, an absence of policy to deal with repeat harassment, and discriminatory treatment of minorities at the hands of Gardai, including racial profiling. The flip side to this is that there are clear pathways to addressing this, as recommended by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN CERD), the [Future of Policing in Ireland](#) report, and previous [INAR policy](#) submissions. This is a problem we can solve.”

“Our reports, once again point to a need for serious leadership and concerted efforts at the highest level in combating all forms of racism, which are inter-related.”, said Shane O’Curry, Director of INAR. “Comments by Presidential candidate Peter Casey in late 2018 sparked an increase in volume, intensity and vehemence of online hatred, hate activity and incitement, fed by the activities of an emboldened far right. This is what caused the increase in recorded serious and violent racist crimes. But the conditions enabling this increase also lie in the repeatedly identified failures at a governmental and institutional level. The UN CERD’s [Concluding Observations for Ireland](#), published in Dec 2019, make it clear; Ireland must develop a National Action Plan Against Racism, enact hate crime legislation, outlaw racial profiling, bring forward measures to combat hate speech, and follow recommendations for eliminating structural, institutional and cultural racism. The good news about this bad news is that we know what we have to do: we need our government provide leadership on racism.”

ENDS

INAR is a national network of organisations working collectively to highlight and combat racism in Ireland.
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REPORT RACIST INCIDENTS AT: www.iReport.ie



Notes to Editor:

The Irish Network Against Racism [INAR](#) (formerly ENAR Ireland), who coordinate a network of 104 civil society organisations in Ireland, have pioneered the [iReport.ie](#) racist incident reporting system since 2013, logging thousands of incidents, and producing from their data cutting edge reports and policy submissions to national and international reporting bodies, government and media. Its complete periodic reports on racism can be found [here](#). INAR is also an active member of the European Network Against Racism ([ENAR](#)), a network of 160 organisations from 30 European States. INAR submits data reports and other submissions to Government, National Authorities, European Union, OSCE, Council of Europe and UN bodies on racism and discrimination in Ireland. INAR prepared and presented the Irish Civil Society collective Shadow Report to the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination hearing on Ireland in November 2019.

In this period, INAR have also developed the capacity of their network members to support people to respond to racist incidents including the [“Responding to Racism Guide”](#), a highly accessible 226 page directory of institutions, public bodies and their procedures with regards to racism and discrimination. These resources are also now brought together in a new iReport App, available for Android and iOS devices on the new [INAR](#) website. The App is aimed at members of minority groups who experience racism, as well as their allies and advocates, encouraging the latter to ‘speak up’ and make racism visible. The **iReport.ie App** is available to [download here](#).

Full Data Report 2018: <http://bit.ly/iReportData2018>

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