

Racism is a "fact of daily life in Ireland", according to new report from European Network against Racism Ireland.

ENAR Ireland's latest report recorded a total of 182 racist incidents across the state over a 6 month period ending in December 2014. The latest iReport.ie figures were released today, and were compiled from data from the on line racist incident reporting system www.iReport.ie.

ENAR Ireland Director Shane O'Curry said:

“Assault appeared in 16 cases, with a further 17 cases involving serious threat. Reports in this period showed Dublin South, Dublin North and Cork together made up 55% of incidents, with a significant rise in incidents in South Dublin. Among the disturbing incidents reported were a racist attack on a pregnant woman, an arson attack in Cork and an assault on a Traveller child in Dublin.

The overall picture is of racism as a consistent, albeit grossly under-reported fact of everyday life for all racialised groups in Ireland today. In the absence of a National Action Plan Against Racism, this worryingly persistent problem is set to become a major societal issue in years to come. International events have an impact on Ireland as they do across Europe: a number of reports of anti-Semitic and islamophobic incidents suggest a context relating to overseas conflicts. "

O'Curry also expressed concern about racism in the media and online.

“Almost one third (31%) of reports in this six month period concerned racism in the media, or perpetrated through social media. This represents a steady rise in media related case to iReport.ie. Fifty seven incidents involving media and social media were reported in this period. Social media is increasingly reported as the medium for racial abuse. There is a need for vigilance on the part of media organisations and social media platforms.”

Key findings:

One hundred and eighty-two incidents in the iReport.ie system in the six month period of July to December 2014 were analysed.

The most common expressions of racism reported in this quarter occurred in face-to-face encounters as well as harassment of people at their homes.

Fifty-seven incidents involved media and social media, with a very small proportion of reports concerning direct online harassment of an individual.

Victims were most likely to be aged between 36 and 55 years old, with a further significant number in mixed age groups.

Perpetrators were significantly more likely to be male (and acting alone), than female in this period. Men and women were equally likely to experience racism.

Racist language was common to 57 percent of the reported cases.

Ends

Note to Editors:

[FULL REPORT INCLUDING INFOGRAMS FOR DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

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. iReport.ie and the iReport are managed by ENAR Ireland, which coordinates a network of 44 trade union and other civil society organisations in Ireland working in anti-racism.

