

**MEDIA RELEASE: Tuesday 2 Aug 16.**

**Reports of racism increase in second half of 2015, new report says.**

The European Network Against Racism Ireland's [iReport](#) on racism recorded 165 incidents in the second half of 2015:

- 37 serious offences were reported. Racist language was used in 30 of these. Twenty-three of these were committed by strangers, of those 18 by male perpetrators.
- Assault appeared in 25 reports, including 7 with injury. 13 cases involved serious threat to harm or kill. This is the highest number of assaults reported in any period to date.
- Abuse was reported in 88 percent of cases, with 41 cases of repeated harassment (28%) and 3 cases of threat (26%). Verbal abuse was reported in 57 percent of cases.
- Two cases concerned sexual harassment, and one concerned rape.
- Damage was involved in 16 (10%) cases, including against business (2), houses (6), vehicles (6), windows (4) and missiles (3). Personal effects were damaged or lost in 6 cases.

Shane O'Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland said " It is appalling that we find ourselves yet again confirming in statistics what Africans, Travellers, Roma, Muslims, Migrants and Minority Irish already know; that racism is a fact of everyday life. We also have still more confirmation about the impact of hate crimes on the victim and their behaviour, and also, through the ripple effects of secondary victimisation, on community relations which can deteriorate as a result. We are also reconfirming, yet again, the clear link between the use of racist language and violence against all groups. The number of serious offences and hate crimes is alarmingly high"

"This report, and last weeks announcement by the European Parliament that it would be [inspecting](#) the Irish Government on its compliance with the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia, underscores yet again the urgent need for the Government to act now introduce hate crime legislation." Said O'Curry " We must have Hate Crime legislation to protect all minorities in Ireland, so that they can participate as equals in our society. That is why our group Action Against Racism has been leading the [Love Not Hate](#) campaign for hate crime legislation, involving 55 organisations. Our data shows that the likelihood of very serious hate crimes is consistently high, our members understand that we need hate crime legislation urgently. The Government must act now before it's too late."

Author of the report, Dr Lucy Michael of Ulster University, described the number of assaults in this period as "deplorable". She said "Given the number of academic and NGO reports on racism in Ireland over the last 20 years, it is outrageous that that state has still not developed any significant response to the problem. We see ongoing problems both with the recording of racist crimes by An Garda Siochana and communication with victims after reporting, as well as evidence of direct racist discrimination in a range of public services detailed in this report. There is a very clearly a culture of ignoring racism in our society amongst our public servants, and of perpetrating it."

Full report here: <http://bit.ly/iRepJulDec15> Other ENAR Ireland periodic reports on racism can be found [here](#).

**ENDS**

Notes to editor: [The Love Not Hate campaign](#) for hate crime legislation has been led by the ENAR Ireland group Action Against Racism, and has collected nearly 5,000 signatures for handing in to the Minister for Justice.

The European Parliament's [PETI inspection of Ireland](#) under the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia.

University of Limerick Hate and Hostility Research Group's findings on Hate Crime can be found [here](#)