



European
Network
Against
Racism
Ireland

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“Growth in racist hate crimes alarming” warns anti-racism group, as [latestireport.ie](https://www.latestireport.ie) data reveals highest number ever of criminal racist incidents.

March 21, international day against racism, sees the launch of the latest 6 months [report](#) from ENAR Ireland (European Network Against Racism Ireland) which “represents a much 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 racist criminal offences including violence, and threats to kill or cause serious injury. The report also addresses the impacts on victims and the response from the criminal justice system 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 the highest levels yet of racist incident reporting, up to 246 from 190 for the previous period, with at least 155 of these being in the category of criminal offences. At the same time, Dr Michael’s study shows continuing low levels of confidence in An Garda Síochána among victims. “The high number of reports that indicate that the incidents are part of an ongoing pattern of racism, particularly those which have escalated to violence over a period of time, demonstrate that Garda efforts to tackle racism before it escalates needs to improve” she said.

The report also shows that half of the victims are Irish citizens, demonstrating the intergenerational and embedded nature of racism against minorities in Ireland. The analysis also provides insights into the extent and impacts of racism on minorities and the wider community in Ireland. “The report clearly shows that we in Ireland are not immune to the Brexit and Trump effects. When racist violence and dehumanising attitudes against minorities are not treated seriously, hate speech from overseas finds fertile ground in Ireland.” Said Shane OCurry, Director of ENAR Ireland. “The result is an alarming growth in racist hate crimes in this period in the short and medium term. The longer term damage is untold”

“As currently configured, the State in Ireland lacks the tools and resources it needs to combat racism and to provide equally for all who live here without fear or favour” said OCurry “It is not fit-for-purpose in terms of catering for the diverse society which we live in. 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 unchecked.”

“In terms of our EU and international obligations, Ireland is delinquent in not having Hate Crime Legislation, we need to address this urgently. International best practice tells us we also need a coherent vision and strategy in the form of a National Action Plan Against Racism. We call on legislators to provide leadership in shaping the kind of policies which can allow us to live in a Republic that cherishes us all equally.”

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 01 8897110 www.enarireland.org



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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 21 Mar 2017) more on iReport.ie generally [here](#)

The report author, Dr Lucy Michael, is available for interview and can be contacted before 9 am or after 12.30pm on March 21 at l.michael@ulster.ac.uk

ENAR Ireland Director Shane O'Curry is available for interview and can be contacted at shane@enarireland.org

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