

Reported Incidents Relating to Racism

Jan - Jun 2007

**National Consultative Committee on
Racism and Interculturalism**

NCCRI Report of Incidents Related to Racism Draft Jan - Jun 2007

Introduction

In May 2001 the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) established a system for recording incidents related to racism in Ireland.¹ Incidents are analysed and compiled into six monthly reports.² There have been ten reports to date. This is the eleventh report, which covers the period January - June 2007. The reports aim to:

- Provide an overview of racist incidents reported to the NCCRI in the given six month period
- Draw out the key issues arising from the incidents logged
- Make recommendations to a range of relevant actors.

The incidents included in this report have been forwarded by victims, witnesses and non-governmental organisations on behalf of the victims, including key organisations working with Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers and migrants. Other incidents have been reported directly to the NCCRI by the victims.

The data that is generated by this reporting system is primarily qualitative and indicative of key issues that need to be addressed. This report does not aim to provide a comprehensive list of every racist incident in Ireland. Indeed evidence from other countries tends to reveal that with all such reporting systems, whether statutory or voluntary, there is likely to be significant under-reporting of incidents. However the NCCRI reporting mechanism plays an important role in complementing other systems such as the Equality Authority casework and Garda records.³

Organisations and individuals reporting racist incidents have also been encouraged to report the incident to the relevant authority responsible for investigating and addressing the complaint, for example, the Gardai (racist crime), the Equality Authority/Equality Tribunal (discrimination in the workplace, discrimination in the provision of goods and services etc.) and local authorities (graffiti, harassment on local authority housing estates etc.). In addition the NCCRI also encourages individuals and organisations to report articles or broadcasts in the national, regional or local media which they consider to be offensive to minority ethnic groups. In a small number of instances, those involved in or reporting the incident only want the incident to be logged by the NCCRI with no further action taken. These requests have been respected.

The NCCRI focus on a policy response to the racist incidents identified. We do not purport to respond to every racist incident reported to our office but to highlight issues such as gaps in service provision and we seek to encourage a national and localised response to incidents.

¹ Reporting forms can be accessed through the NCCRI website www.nccri.com.

² The six monthly reports are also available on our website www.nccri.com/publications.html

³ For official statistics regarding racially motivated crime, see Garda Annual Report 2004 at www.garda.ie

Analysis of Data

- There have been about 54 racist incidents reported to the NCCRI between January 2007 to June 2007.
- Two thirds of the incidents reported representing approximately 70% where reported from the greater Dublin area. About 30% outside of Dublin.
- Outside of Dublin, one incident was each reported in Newport, Co. Tipperary, Kildare, Wicklow, Waterford, two in Longford, two in Galway, three in Dundalk, three in Limerick, one in Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, and thirty-five cases were reported to have happened in the Dublin area. Four incidents were internet related.
- The breakdown shows a wide range of people experiencing racism including those of African descent, people from east and central Europe and members of the Traveller community
- The majority of incidents were targeted at adults, mostly male. However children were present in some of the incidents. Once again our findings indicate that people of all ages and gender are experiencing racism in Ireland.
- Statistics reveal again that racism is being experienced regardless of someone's legal status. Refugees and asylum seekers, Irish and EU citizens, including Travellers and non-EU citizens, mixed race are experiencing racism in Ireland.

Number of Incidents reported

Report	Period Covered	Number of Incidents Reported to the NCCRI
1	May - October 2001	41
2	Nov 2001- April 2002	40
3	May - October 2002	67
4	November 2002-April 2003	48
5	May – October 2003	46
6	November 2003–April 2004	42
7	May - October 2004	70
8	November 2004-Dec 2004	22
9	January-June 2005	81
10	July- December 2005	38
11	January – June 2006	25
12	July – December 2006	40
13	Jan – June 2007	52

The incidents reported relate to three main areas, which are:

- Assaults

- Abuse and harassment
- Misinformation and circulation of offensive material

1. Assaults, Abuse and Harassment

Racist abuse, harassment and in some cases physical attacks were the most common forms of incidents reported to the NCCRI.

Examples:

- In Dublin, an Indian man alleged that he was called racist names such as “terrorist and f—king Paki” by a white Irish man.
- A prominent member of the Jewish community in Ireland has been receiving racist e-mails including ‘Why don't you go back to Israel? Irish people want to limit immigration and people like yourself try to superimpose your will on the wishes of Irish people’
- A group of youths broke down the front door and through raw eggs at a Romanian national in Dublin and shouted racist abuse at him e.g. ‘you Gypsy bastard’
- In Galway, a landlord has had his house picketed by protestors with placards bearing slogans about ‘absentee landlords’. He believes it is because his house is rented by Travellers.
- An African taxi driver had these words yelled at him when he complained that a white taxi driver jumped the queue in a taxi rank in Galway. “I don’t give a f**k, you can get you black a**e back to your own country”.

Delivery of Public and Private Services

There have been a number of incidents reported to the NCCRI in relation to the delivery of public and private services. The following serve as examples:

- A couple, of Chinese ethnicity got on a Dublin bus and left their pram in the appropriate place leaving enough space for another pram. Later on, another woman got on with a pram. The driver started shouting at the Chinese couple to move their pram elsewhere but didn’t ask the Irish woman with a pram to move her pram elsewhere. The driver spoke very rudely to the Chinese couple and passengers started telling him he was racist. This resulted in the driver threatening to call the Guards. He pulled the bus over and refused to go any further. He asked all the passengers to get down and take another bus to their destinations.
- Another Dublin bus driver from Romania claimed he was victimised by another driver (Irish). He said he was racially abused and racist comments were made about his daughter.

Misinformation and the Circulation of Offensive Material

- The NCCRI received complaints about offensive and alarmist information circulated by candidates associated with the Immigration Control Platform
- Notices have been circulated in Limerick City by an organisation called “Movement to save Ireland” stating “MULTICULTURALISM IS EVIL, THE IRISH PEOPLE REJECT IT”, “mass immigration is harming you and your children”.
- Also in Limerick, copies of a poster targeting a prominent member of the Jewish community in Ireland with her photograph said, ‘This Israeli promotes multiculturalism here. In Palestine, the natives are murdered. Here the Zionists can’t quite murder the Irish yet, so they promote multiculturalism to harm them instead’.
- During the World Refugee Day Awards event in the Civic offices of Dublin City Council, newspaper photographs depicting African women with racist slurs superimposed over them were pasted on display boards prior to the event.
- A website for taxi drivers www.taxi.ie had comments of a racist and offensive nature in its discussion forum/chat room section.
- The NCCRI continues to receive some racist and offensive e-mails following media attention of our work. The NCCRI also receives many e-mails of support.

Recommendations and Further Action

The NCCRI would make the following recommendations based on an analysis of reported racist incidents between Jan and June 2007.

- A Press Council has been established by the Government, which has been broadly welcomed by the NCCRI although we have stated our concerns and reservation about its powers
- The NCCRI will be seeking to bring together key stakeholders from the taxi industry to address a number of problems including racism towards black taxi drivers by some other drivers
- The Gardai in partnership with the NCCRI launched a poster to encourage the reporting of hate crime as part of intercultural week, March 2007
- A discussion paper on responding to racism as a crime was published in March 2007 as part of the National Action Plan Against Racism. The report was

undertaken by the University of Limerick as part of the National Action Plan Against Racism. The final report will be published in the autumn of 2007.

- In June 2007, The NCCRI in partnership with the UNHCR re-launched an updated information leaflet challenging the myths and misinformation on Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- The NCCRI contacted the moderator of www.taxi.ie to remove racist postings on their chat room part of the website. The postings were removed after the NCCRI contacted the Irish Times and subsequent media attention. The website has also issued guidance to prevent future mis-use of the website,