

spectrum

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The Journal of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism



**21st March 2005
International Day
Against Racism**

What is the NCCRI?

The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) was established in 1998. The role of the NCCRI is to act as an expert body to develop an integrated and strategic approach to racism and its prevention and to foster interculturalism within Ireland. It also seeks to inform policy development and to build consensus through dialogue in relation to the issues of racism and interculturalism. It is core funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Spectrum is a publication of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism.

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Opinions expressed by contributors to Spectrum do not necessarily represent the views of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism.

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Editorial

This issue of Spectrum marks March 21, International Day Against Racism and European Week Against Racism March 13-21. The week is jointly coordinated by the NCCRI and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland with funding from Know Racism. It further marks the publication of the National Action Plan Against Racism 'Planning for Diversity'.

The overall theme of March 21 this year is 'Protection' and redress against racism, which is a key theme in the National Action Plan Against Racism. To mark the week there are a number of initiatives taking place in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These include:

- The launch of an information handbook on how to seek advice and redress against racism in Ireland and Northern Ireland
- A poster 'Racism is illegal-you have rights' and associated public awareness initiatives
- A major conference on March 15 in Croke Park Conference Centre, focussing on the role of community development and local development organisations in implementing the National Action Plan Against Racism
- A range of events happening at a local and regional level (see our website www.nccri.ie for further details)

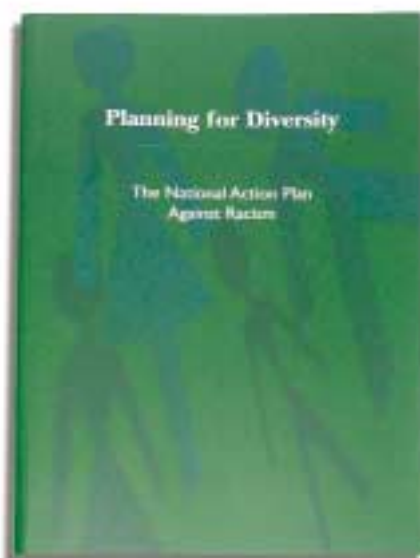
This issue of Spectrum focuses on a range of issues related to the theme of protection against racism including: a focus on the National Action Plan Against Racism and the forthcoming Race Equality Strategy in Northern Ireland; developments on combating racist crime at an EU level and the forthcoming opening of a new NCCRI regional office in Dundalk with a focus on North/South intercultural networking.

The launch of the National Action Plan Against Racism coincided with the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In this edition of Spectrum Lynn Jackson from the Holocaust Memorial Day Committee provides powerful insights into why we must learn from the past and ensure that the onus and responsibility is on everyone to stamp out racial hatred and intolerance.

Welcoming the 'National Action Plan Against Racism'

Philip Watt, Director, NCCRI

The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D., together with Michael McDowell, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform and Frank Fahey, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform launched Ireland's first National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR) on 27 January, 2005. The launch date coincided with the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.



The NPAR is the fulfilment of a commitment given by the Irish Government at the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban 2001 and further reaffirmed in Sustaining Progress, the Social Partnership Agreement 2003 – 2005. Speaking at the launch the Taoiseach stated the Plan was *“a clear demonstration of the Government’s commitment to adapt policy to the changing circumstances of a more diverse Ireland”*.

The NPAR (2005-2008) is underpinned by an intercultural framework which comprises five key objectives:

1. Effective **PROTECTION** and redress against racism, including a focus on discrimination, threatening behaviour and incitement to hatred;
2. Economic **INCLUSION** and equality of opportunity, including focus on employment, the workplace and poverty;
3. Accommodating diversity in service **PROVISION**, including a focus on common outcomes, education, health, social services and childcare, accommodation and the administration of justice;
4. **RECOGNITION** and awareness of diversity, including a focus on awareness raising, the media and the arts, sport and tourism;
5. Full **PARTICIPATION** in Irish society, including a focus on the political level, the policy level and the community level.

The Plan will form the cornerstone of the Government's anti-racism policy with its emphasis on the key concepts of inclusion by design and a whole system approach to policy formation.

A Strategic Monitoring Group is to be established by the Minister For Justice, Equality and Law Reform to oversee the Plan and the Group will have available to it an annual budget of €1 million to make targeted interventions to further the strategic goals of the Plan. This is in addition to the financial resources committed by individual Government Departments and Agencies to meet the NPAR's goals.

Implementation Strategy

A *‘Whole System’* approach will be applied to implementing the National Action Plan Against Racism. There are four key strategies that together combine to become a whole system approach, which are:

- Mainstreaming
- Targeting
- Benchmarking
- Engagement.

These concepts are defined as follows:

Mainstreaming:

- Link and build synergies with existing policy-making processes at both a national and European policy level.
- Infuse intercultural/anti racism approaches into all relevant policy areas, with reference to Ireland's commitments to equality and human rights.

Targeting:

- The development of specific policy priorities tailored to meet the needs of different groups based on research, needs analysis and consultation.
- Additional resources to meet the additional needs of groups experiencing inequalities and other forms of disadvantage.

Benchmarking:

- Setting targets and timescales for the achievement of targets.
- Developing data through which progress can be measured in meeting targets and timescales.

Engagement:

- The engagement of key stakeholders, including bodies involved in policy-making and the social partners in the NPAR.
- The engagement of specialised and expert bodies.
- The engagement of local communities and national interests, including those representing the interests of cultural and ethnic minorities.

Strategic Monitoring Group

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform will appoint a Strategic Monitoring Group to oversee the implementation of the Plan. The Group will be chaired by Ms Lucy Gaffney and will include representatives of Government, social partners and relevant interest groups. The final composition of the Steering Group was not completed at the

time of going to press. In welcoming the steering group the NCCRI has called on the Government to ensure that it is as inclusive as possible, including those groups representing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and Travellers.

Key Anticipated Outcomes

Some of the key anticipated outcomes included in the Plan include:

- The establishment of an Expert Committee on Racist Incidents
- The development of 10 Anti racism and Diversity (ARD) Plans in 10 pilot areas
- A major awareness and compliance initiative on workplace rights for migrant workers through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Additional resources to the labour inspectorate
- Revision of work permit schemes
- Traveller employment programme
- A national intercultural education strategy
- A national intercultural youth work policy
- The inclusion in the plan of bodies involved in the administration of justice, including the Gardai, the courts service, the prison service and agencies involved with refugees and asylum seekers
- An information and rights strategy for labour migrants
- A major North/South focus to the NPAR
- The enhancement of anti racism training within the public sector
- A new pilot initiative under the community development support programme to support NGO's

- The development of an Intercultural Forum
- A media code of conduct as part of the establishment of the Press Council.

The Challenges

A key challenge for the implementation of the NPAR is the establishment of specific targets and indicators for the Plan and to ensure that the Plan is given sufficient profile among the key stakeholders. A further challenge will be to ensure that the Plan is sufficiently resourced, while recognising that the mainstreaming strategy will require that most of the resources for the Plan will come from existing budget lines.

The NPAR is the first national action plan against racism in Ireland and represents a vital opportunity to plan for the cultural and ethnic diversity that already exists in Ireland. A copy of the NPAR is available on the NCCRI website www.nccri.ie or from the Department of Justice www.justice.ie

A Race Equality Strategy For Northern Ireland

Lisa King, Policy Manager, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

International Day Against Racism coincides with an increasingly urgent need to counter prejudice, ignorance, racism and race related violence in Northern Ireland. There have been incidents highlighted in the media, and specific examples of racist behaviour cited. Those who are subjected to racist behaviour and violence are not only the newly established communities working in industries which cannot recruit locally, but also those from long-standing minority ethnic communities living throughout Northern Ireland.

While there is a responsibility on us all to try to eliminate racism from our society, there is also a responsibility on our statutory and non-statutory agencies to show leadership and identify solutions. The tragic story of the Ukrainian woman who suffered frostbite and had her legs amputated as a result highlights a series of failures to support someone newly arrived in the country. All organisations, whether in the public or private sector, must make sure that services are delivered appropriately to all ethnic groups;¹ discrimination does not happen; and gaps in knowledge, awareness or understanding are overcome.

The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) aims to play a key role in tackling racism in Northern Ireland. We have responsibilities for eliminating discrimination, and promoting equality of opportunity and good race relations. In addition, we have an important role to play in helping public bodies implement Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act, which places on them a duty to have due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity and regard to promoting good relations between people from different racial groups.

We have both an enforcement and promotional role. Our promotional work includes advice, education and training. We work with employers, service providers, trade unions, voluntary and community organisations and the statutory sector. We also regularly engage with those who are making decisions on public policy and government programmes, to make sure that equality is considered from the outset.

We are concerned about the apparent rise in racism in Northern Ireland. Our current focus includes:

- Ensuring that employers and service providers are aware of the rights of migrant workers and the legislation which protects their rights;
- Working with others to tackle racist incidents, primarily through our involvement in the Northern Ireland Office and PSNI's new recording systems for racist incidents, and development of a multi-agency approach. We strongly supported the introduction of hate crime legislation;
- Addressing discrimination and inequality experienced by all Black and Minority Ethnic groups including the Traveller community, including the production of guidance on planning;²

- Ensuring equal access to employment, through the development and implementation of appropriate policies by employers; and
- Developing good practice guidance in sectors where a need is identified, such as health and education;³
- Implementing our good relations strategy which includes guidance on Section 75(2) and the establishment of a Good Relations Forum.

We want to make sure that what we do supports improvements to the quality of life for individuals and that our efforts influence outcomes. A central part of our work is to engage with those who are implementing policies to address race equality (alongside equality on the grounds of religious belief, political opinion, disability and sexual orientation, also the Section 75 grounds). The main vehicle for identifying and delivering actions across government will be the Race Equality Strategy.

The development of the strategy has been a lengthy process. A version was launched, by the Minister, for consultation in early 2003. At the same time, a Race Forum was established by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) to: help draw up action plans for the strategy; monitor its implementation; and advise the Departments on issues relating to consultation. The final strategy is due for publication this spring.

The vision set out in the draft version was of “a community in which racial diversity is valued and respected, where racism is not tolerated and where we can all live together and enjoy equality of opportunity and equal protection”. A cross-government approach is welcome and the strategy will be crucial in ensuring co-ordination, action and accountability across all main sectors and service areas. We made recommendations on issues that should be covered in the strategy, some of which are set out below. We also proposed service areas that needed to be prioritised, such as language support, housing and accommodation, health, criminal justice and education.

The strategy of course fits into a wider context. It needs to take into account relevant parts of the agenda from elsewhere in the UK, as well as developments on the island of Ireland. The Commission has consistently called on government to ensure that the strategy meets the commitments made in the Durban Declaration and the production of National Action Plans. Whatever the format of the strategy, it should be the defining document for the short and medium term for Northern Ireland, otherwise there is a risk that actions and implementation will be fragmented.

The action plans arising from the strategy will only be effective if they are based on evidence and good information, and they are set out in a way that can be monitored and evaluated. There are numerous performance indicators and targets against which the public sector is measured, from the Public Service Agreements at Department level, to school inspections. As with these areas of public service activity, equality indicators for the strategy should be built into existing systems where appropriate.

Those implementing the strategy must work in partnerships to achieve the outcomes; this is the best way to address the crosscutting nature of the work needed. Of central importance are:

- Matters of multiple identities, e.g. how to address the specific needs of disabled people from minority ethnic backgrounds;
- Those developing policies access and learn from emerging practice in other fields or sectors;
- A commitment to empower minority ethnic communities to contribute effectively to decision making; and
- Taking decisions in an environment where information, research and learning can be shared effectively with all concerned.

The strategy will provide a welcome framework for cross-government action to achieve race equality. It should provide a co-ordinated approach, with clear actions (or show how actions will be developed) and accountability mechanisms. It is, however, one part of the response needed to overcome racism and prejudice within our society. The test of success will be whether the strategy is widely understood, and helps us all to share the responsibility for building a community where we recognise, respect and value diversity.

¹ *A Wake-up Call on Race*, ECNI, 2002. This report challenged all public bodies to examine the ethos and culture of their organisations and change processes, attitudes and behaviour so as to ensure that everyone, including those from minority ethnic groups, will receive the services they need.

² The Commission is finalising a *Good Practice Guide to Promote Racial Equality in Planning for Travellers*, a document prepared by Community Technical Aid and the School of Environmental Planning at Queens University Belfast (QUB) for the Commission and the Traveller Movement (NI).

³ *Racial Equality in Education – Good Practice Guide*, ECNI, 2003. *Racial Equality in Health and Social Care – Good Practice Guide*, DHSSPS & ECNI, 2003.

Grass Roots Campaign Challenges Racism in the North of Ireland

Sara Boyce¹

North of the border, barely a week goes by without a media report of a racist attack or incident. The latest report concerns a threat issued by the UDA in North Antrim and Derry against 40 Ukranian workers due to take up employment in an Antrim coachbuilders. The UDA statement, issued in early February 2005, stated that "Loyalists don't want migrant workers in their areas as they bring nothing but drugs and trouble with them". It continued "If non-European nationals turn up on the shop floor they will get a hot reception. They are not welcome at the workplace and they will not be welcome in Ballymena if they move into houses". While such racist sentiments are also to be found in the south of Ireland, the source and nature of the threats sets them starkly apart from similar views expressed elsewhere. It is generally accepted that the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI) figure of 444 reported racist incidents between April and December 2004 under estimates the actual figure as most incidents are not reported. What is certain is that racist incidents in the North of Ireland have increased dramatically in the last few years.

This rise in racism, which led last year to the North of Ireland being dubiously dubbed by the tabloids as 'the race hate capital of Europe' has been clearly evident at both the individual and institutionalised levels. At the extreme end of direct, individualised racism, members of minority ethnic communities have been brutally physically assaulted and left for dead, pipe bombed, petrol bombed, verbally harassed, threatened and spat upon while going about their daily business and have had their homes and workplaces daubed with racist graffiti. Racist attacks have been targeted at the many different minority ethnic communities living in the North of Ireland,

including Chinese, Travellers, Indians, Bangladeshis, Zimbabweans, Ugandans, Latvians, Poles, Lithuanians, Ukranians, Argentineans and Portuguese.

Institutional racism, while often less visible, also exists. Examples include the discriminatory proof of residency requirements operated by the Housing Executive for members of minority ethnic communities, the letting policies operated by some estate agents, the lack of provision of culturally appropriate accommodation for Travellers after decades of waiting, the lack of an adequate PSNI response to racist crimes and an overall failure by government to prioritise and adequately resource an official response to the issue of racism. A Race Equality Strategy, due from the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister in the summer of 2004 has still not been published while the British government has reneged on its commitment to produce a National Action Plan Against Racism, in line with its 2001 Durban commitments.

In recent times the most horrendous and stark end result of such institutionalised racism has without doubt been the story of Oksana Sukhanova, a young Ukranian woman who had a double leg amputation in January 2005, a result of frostbite suffered because she was forced to sleep rough following the loss of her job in a poultry firm in Rathsharkin, Co. Antrim. Many questions remain to be answered by government as to why a young migrant worker, who had paid \$30,000 to a Latvian agent and who had a work permit tied to a sole employer for one year only, ended up in circumstances which directly led to her having to undergo a double leg amputation.



Anti-Racism demonstration in Belfast. Photography by Grainne Close

To date few serious attempts have been made, outside of Black and minority ethnic organisations, anti-racist activists and some academics, to understand what is behind this exponential rise in racism, and in particular the ongoing campaign of vicious racist intimidation and attacks. Some media commentators and politicians have attempted to 'explain' it in crude terms of "well, now that they are not killing each other they have to turn on somebody else", interpreted to mean that racism is the new sectarianism. This superficial assessment is not only untrue but unhelpful in that it gives credence to an analysis of racism that locates it firmly within the realms of the pathological as well as the inevitable. It also lends itself to supporting a response that is grounded in the tried and failed community relations model that has been applied in the past to the phenomenon of sectarianism.

The grim reality is that sectarian incidents, while certainly reduced, still continue. Yet while sectarianism and racism overlap closely they are two different dynamics and need to be addressed as such. Any response to racism must first involve much more serious attempts to understand what lies behind this phenomenon in the particular context of Northern Ireland.

Such an analysis must explore the close connection between sectarian intolerance and racism, the involvement of loyalist paramilitaries in racist attacks, extortion and intimidation of minority ethnic businesses, the enduring relationship between both the UDA and the UVF and far right groups such as Combat 18, the White National Party and the British National Party and attempts by the latter two to gain a foothold in the North.

The Anti-Racism Network emerged in late 2003, born out of discussions among Black and minority ethnic organisations, human rights activists, legal professionals, trade unionists, students and others. All of these organisations and individuals were concerned that, despite the range of Black and minority ethnic NGOs engaged in valuable anti-racism work, no mechanism existed for local communities, in solidarity with the Black and ethnic minority communities, to publicly express their opposition and to challenge the growing racism in the North of Ireland.

A grassroots campaigning organisation, the ARN is non-funded and non-affiliated. The Network's purpose is to take a public, visible and collective stand against all forms of racism in this society. In the early days of developing its own approach to tackling racism in the context of the North, the ARN was influenced by, and developed useful links with Residents Against Racism (RAR) in the south of Ireland.

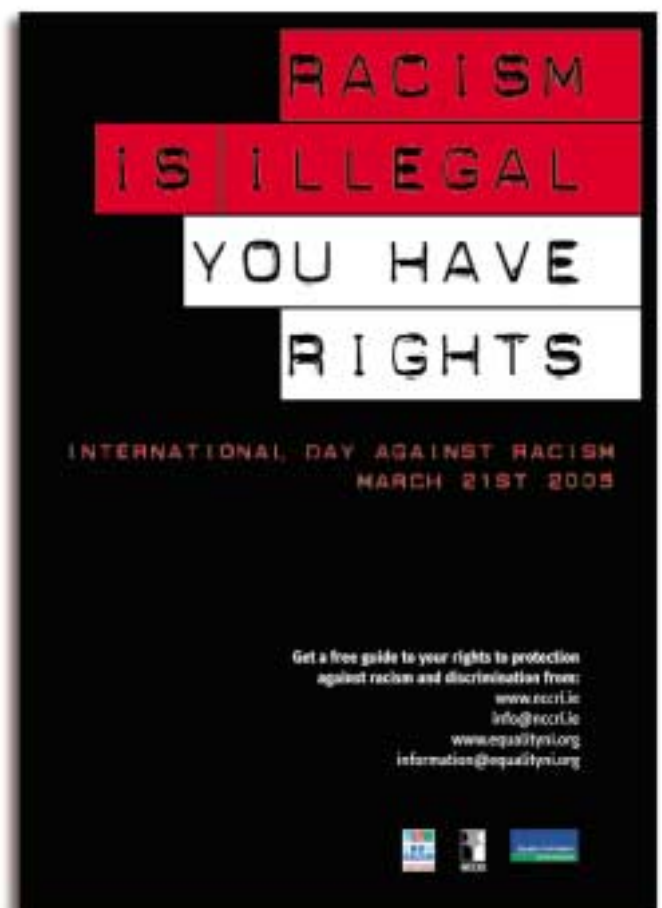
From its initial action of publicly challenging a UUP Councillor's opposition to the building of a Mosque in Craigavon to its more recent picketing of a Belfast estate agent found operating a discriminatory letting policy against minority ethnic communities, the ARN has been committed to taking a public stand against racism and in particular against institutional racism. During 2004 the ARN organised two major public rallies against racism in Belfast City Centre – a 'Stop the Attacks' rally on 27 January 2004 to coincide with International Holocaust Memorial Day and a 'No Excuses' rally in October 2004. Both rallies drew crowds in excess of 2000 people. These public rallies added significant impetus to local community efforts to mobilize against racism and also had the effect of publicly

challenging government as well as political leaders over their inadequate response to the growing phenomenon of racism. They also enabled ordinary people in working class communities, intimidated by the backdrop to many of the racist attacks, to gain the courage and support needed to come out in their numbers to declare 'Not in our name'. The ARN has also been to the fore in utilising the media to challenge racism and has succeeded in establishing itself as a leading commentator in both the broadcast and print media.

A key organisational priority for the ARN has been to establish branches across the North which can provide a local and community based response to racism. These local groups have been flourishing, expanding outwards from Belfast to Derry, Dungannon, North Antrim and beyond. For example the South Belfast Anti-Racism Network (SBARN) established a mobile phone tree network as a response to the large number of racist attacks on minority ethnic communities living in that area.

Support for the activities and the approach of the Anti-Racism Network has grown rapidly in the past year. The ARN is keen to expand its organisational base across the North as well as supporting members of minority ethnic communities to become more involved in the Network. It believes that one of its key strengths lies in its grassroots campaigning nature which allows ordinary people to stand beside minority ethnic communities in opposition to racism.

For more information on the Anti-Racism Network see www.arnni.tk or email antiracism_ni@hotmail.com



¹ Sara Boyce works with the Anti-Racism Network in Belfast.

Protection against Racist Crime: the European Approach

Anna Visser¹

Racist crime is a problem across all Member States of the European Union, however this is where the commonality ends; there are significant divergences when it comes to redress and protection. According to the Annual Report of the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) for 2003/2004 “there is and continues to be a problem with racist violence and crime in all Member States. In turn, there is great variation in policy and practical responses to racist violence and crime”. This is unsurprising in an area of EU law which has lacked a common approach, as Nickel (2003) points out: “Lawmakers usually react to certain social and/or political problems when reshaping or reforming criminal law. Thus, different standards have emerged for historical reasons, reasons which explain why, for example, Member State legislation may collide when an extradition is at stake”.

The recently launched National Action Plan against Racism acknowledges the significance of international and European instruments when it comes to protection against racist crime. It commits the government to completing the review of the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 in the context of emerging jurisprudence such as the Council of Europe Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention, and the EU Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia. Unfortunately linking national initiatives to developments in the European context is not always the most efficient approach; a case in point has been the EU Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia.

National Action Plan against Racism, Objective 1.7 (Protection):
“Maximise participation in policy developments at European and global levels to combat racism”.

Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia

Since the 1990s EU Member States have become increasingly aware of the need to address racism and xenophobia in a systematic manner. As in the domestic context three broad strands of activity can be identified: anti-discrimination legislation; public awareness initiatives; and measures to address racism as a crime. The manifestation of the latter came when the European Commission tabled a proposal for a Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia in 2001 (COM 2001/664final).² However negotiations on the Framework Decision have been fraught, and since February 2003 progress had come to a complete standstill. That is until Harry Windsor’s ill-fated attempts at fancy dress.

According to recent reports, following the incident, the Luxembourg Presidency of the European Union has decided to reinvigorate negotiations on the Framework Decision. The Presidency has suggested that it will table its proposals at the next formal meeting of EU Justice Ministers on 24 February 2005.

In its current state that Framework Decision seeks to ensure that racist and xenophobic behaviour is a criminal offence in all Member States and is punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. It identifies five broad areas of activity as criminal offences, these are:

- Public incitement to violence or hatred
- Public insults or threats
- Public condoning of genocide or crimes against humanity
- Public dissemination or distribution of tracts, pictures or other material containing expressions of racism and xenophobia
- Directing of a racist or xenophobic group.

Instigating, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit the above offences will also be punishable.

That is not to suggest that what is currently on the table is perfect, far from it, in fact many would argue that the current version of the Framework Decision is even weaker than the 1996 Joint Action Programme (96/443/JHA). Bell (2003) holds that the Council has reduced the range of offences, and that those that remain are generally subject to more restrictions. He concludes that “the simultaneous introduction of wide and sometimes ambiguous exceptions threatens to undermine the common minimum standards that the Framework Decision was designed to accomplish”.

Neither should one underestimate the resistance which exists to the adoption of the Framework Decision. The current political climate will not be an easy one for the Luxembourgers – the Council consists of 14 centre-right coalition governments, at least three of which include what have been identified as racist parties (Scaglotti, 2004).

The use of legal instruments against racism encounters numerous practical difficulties as well as debates concerning competing rights. Practically speaking racist crimes are difficult to pursue given under-reporting, there are also problems in securing prosecutions particularly where racist intent has to be proven. Concern has also been raised regarding the dangers of driving far right organisations underground, as well as the political difficulties associated with monitoring racist incidents. It is worth recalling that where there is an increase in the numbers of recorded racist incidents, this may reflect improvements in reporting procedures rather than a growing problem of racism in society – a message which can be politically difficult to sell. Opponents to the Framework Decision have also pointed to the need to protect the rights to freedom of speech, as Iganski (2002) has pointed out:

“Legal instruments against racism and anti-Semitism confront a dilemma of striking a balance between the potentially conflicting rights of the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of not being subjected to hatred on the basis of ‘racial’, ethnic, or religious identity, especially of the hatred leads to discrimination or violence”.

However there is much to be gained from an instrument which would level up protections against racist crime across the EU Member States. Adopting measures to address racist crime recognises that the impact of such incidents extends much further than the immediate acts committed, and thus constitute more serious offences than the same acts of violence committed without such motivation (Iganski, 2002). Consequently the decision by the Luxembourg Presidency to draw this draft instrument in from the cold is a very welcome one.

Council of Europe Approach to Combating Racism and Xenophobia

At the European Conference against Racism in 2000 the Council of Europe underlined the importance of combating impunity, including for crimes with a racist motivation. However progress has not been as significant as one might have hoped. According to

Coomber the operating framework and methods of the European Court of Human Rights have mitigated against the lifting of the veil of impunity for racially motivated human rights violations (2003). However there have been developments in terms of the work of the European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), emerging jurisprudence, Protocol 12, and the protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime.

“Leafing through the annals of the Court, an unformed observer would be justified to conclude that, for over fifty years democratic Europe has been exempted from any suspicion of racism, intolerance or xenophobia” - Judge Bonello, *Anguelova v. Bulgaria*, June 2002

In 2002 the European Commission on Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published its General Policy Recommendation No. 7. Recommendation 7 seeks to set forth the key elements to be included in national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination. In the recommendation the ECRI calls on the Member States of the Council of Europe to ensure: “more effective legal protection from acts of racism and discrimination on the basis of race, colour and national or ethnic origin, but also of language, religion and nationality... recommends that all public authorities be subjected to a legal obligation to promote equality and to prevent discrimination in carrying out their functions.”

The European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms includes a limited prohibition on discrimination; Article 14 is expressly limited to the enjoyment of rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention. However the recent case of *Nachova v. Bulgaria* (2004) has been identified as a progression in terms of the Convention. The case appears to represent a shift in the burden of proof, an element of substantive equality, and the recognition of racial motivation as an aggravating factor. The full Court judgement in this case is still awaited.

In response to criticisms of the weakness of Article 14 of the Convention and to recommendations of bodies such as ECRI, Protocol No. 12 was introduced on 4 November 2000. By extending the prohibition on non-discrimination it is hoped that Protocol 12 will increase the Court’s focus on issues of equality and will pave the way for more forceful jurisprudence on discrimination. Until Protocol 12 enters into force, Article 14 remains the only serviceable prohibition against discrimination (Coomber, 2003).



(L-R): Natalie Prouvez, Secretary to the UN CERD Committee, Philip Watt, Director, NCCRI, Martin Bell, Dr. Alpha Connelly, Chief Executive, Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and Dr. Maurice Manning, President of the IHRC attending an information seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and its monitoring process. The seminar was jointly organised by the NCCRI and IHRC and took place in Dublin in November 2004. Photograph supplied by IHRC.

Protocol 12, Article 1

"The enjoyment of any right set forth by law shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status."

As of February 2005 the Protocol had been signed but not ratified by 23 states including Ireland,³ and ratified by 11 states: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Netherlands, San Marino, Serbia, and Macedonia. Protocol 12 will enter into force on 1 April 2005; the protocol reached the threshold of ten ratifications in December 2004.

The government has committed to ratifying the Council of Europe Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the criminalisation of acts of racist and xenophobia nature committed through computer systems. The Protocol requires States to criminalise the dissemination of racist and xenophobic material through computer systems, as well as racist and xenophobic-motivated threat and insult including the denial, gross minimisation, approval or justification of genocide or crimes against humanity. It also defines the notion of this category of material and establishes the extent to which its dissemination violates the rights of others and criminalises certain conduct accordingly. Ireland signed the Convention on Cybercrime in 2002 but has not yet ratified it. The Convention came into force in July 2004, following ratification by five countries.

In recent years developments with regard to European instruments to combat racism as a crime have been slow to get off the ground. While the political motivation to drive these initiatives forward has been less than inspiring, recent developments do provide a case for optimism. Given the commitment to protection in the National Action Plan against Racism the Irish government must grasp this opportunity to move the Framework Decision forward, and to ratify Protocol 12 of the European Convention on Human Rights as soon as is practicable.

¹ Anna Visser is Research and Policy Officer with the NCCRI.

² Framework decisions are a type of instrument which can be negotiated by the Member States of the European Union in the area of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. They are used to approximate the laws and regulations of the Member States binding them to the result to be achieved but not to how it is achieved.

³ In response to a Parliamentary Question in September 2004 the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that "Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which extends the anti-discrimination provisions of the Convention, was signed by the then Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on 4 November 2000 in Rome... Ireland, has, therefore, already provided in national law for many of the provisions of Protocol 12. The question of the ratification of Protocol 12 is a matter for the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform."

Holocaust Memorial Day

By Lynn Jackson¹



Gate-tower and Ramp at Auschwitz-Birkenau: Courtesy Panstwowe Muzeum, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Poland

It is opportune that the Irish Government launched the National Action Plan Against Racism on the 27th January, the same day as Holocaust Memorial Day as the Holocaust is the supreme example of racism. In confirming that Holocaust Memorial Day is now an annual event, Michael McDowell, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform said: *it is vital that we and the generations to come remember the evil of terrifying proportions which humanity was capable of. The memory of the suffering and destruction must live as a monument to those who died and those who survived but also as a lasting testimony to the human values and the goodness which stands between us and the same abyss.*

The Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration took place on Sunday 30 January 2005 in Dublin's City Hall. It was addressed by the Taoiseach, with readings by Minister Michael McDowell, former Taoiseach, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, Ruairi Quinn TD, and Senators Henry and Norris. Also participating were John Bowman, Theo Dorgan and David Begg. This year marked sixty years since the liberation of the death camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. The ambassadors to Ireland representing the

nations of the Allied armies: the United States, Britain, Canada and the Russian Federation gave readings about the liberation of the camps which lent a significant dimension to the Holocaust Memorial Day proceedings.

More than eleven million people perished in the Nazi Holocaust. Six million Jews and over five million other victims the Nazis considered unfit to live: people with disabilities and disabling conditions, Gypsies, homosexuals, black people and mixed-race people, Christian victims and political dissenters. The inclusion of representatives of all of these victim groups at the commemoration by giving readings and lighting candles, has set an important precedent for other Holocaust commemorations throughout Europe. As Europeans, we live under the shadow of the Nazi era and it is up to all of us to learn the lessons of the Holocaust in order to teach them to our children. The Nazi Holocaust reminds us where unchecked prejudice and bigotry can lead. Recently there has been a deplorable upsurge in anti-Semitic and racist incidents. As the Taoiseach said: *for the safety of all, we must each agree to become each other's keeper.*

Expressions of racism usually begin with a whisper, often a derogatory remark muttered behind someone's back. Those remarks become written words, cartoons and illustrations and ultimately racist actions. It is essential we eliminate the whispers before they reach a roaring crescendo modelled on Hitler's rhetoric. Oliver Donohoe, chairperson of the Holocaust Memorial Day committee reminded us that: *anti-Semitism prepared the way for the Holocaust. Small acts that developed step by step until they reached a momentum where innocent men, women and children could be marched to their deaths while their neighbours and the world looked the other way.*

Sixty years, less than a lifetime. As survivors can still recall the horrors of the Nazi death camps, we acknowledge the importance of education as the main ingredient in the fight against racism. The onus and responsibility is on everyone to stamp out racial hatred and ethnic intolerance.

**For more information or a copy of the Holocaust Memorial Day brochure
Tel. 01-6690593 or email het@clifton-house.com**

¹ Lynn Jackson is a member of the Holocaust Memorial Day Committee.

Combating Racism on the Internet

Jacqueline Healy, NCCRI

Introduction

Ensuring effective protection against racism requires tackling the growing phenomenon of racism on the Internet and other forms of information technology, increasingly being referred to as an aspect of 'cybercrime' (crime generated through computers). In recent years there has been an emergence of a small but growing number of websites containing racist content in Ireland, content that would have been prohibited if printed and distributed in Ireland. Unless challenged, such websites can proliferate and can provide a platform for those seeking to spread racism in Ireland and in the worse cases can be a form of incitement.

To date there has been little research on the link between hate material on the Internet and crime in Ireland. However through its racist incident reporting system the NCCRI has noted the emergence of sites targeted at an Irish audience, which have been aimed at spreading explicitly or implicitly racist sentiment. These sites are often hosted by Internet servers outside of Ireland as a means of avoiding prosecution under the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989.

A recent example reported to the NCCRI was a website that hosted Holocaust denial discussions and which claimed that Ireland 'had a non-white problem'.¹ The website is believed to belong to an individual(s) based in Cork called the REO which has been known to distribute leaflets and conduct recruitment campaigns in other parts of Ireland. The NCCRI has reported the website to the Gardai.

Legislative Framework

Any legislative or linked policy response to tackling racism on the Internet needs to walk the tightrope between the right to freedom of expression and the need to restrict this right when reasonable and necessary in particular where such expression explicitly or implicitly contains a threat of a criminal nature or incites other people to carry out activities contrary to public law and order. In the United States, freedom of expression as enshrined in the

First Amendment to the US Constitution has always been given precedence whereas in the European Union and Canada the view has been that there are justifiable restrictions to freedom of expression in certain defined circumstances, particularly in respect of incitement to hatred. This divergence in legislative, judicial and policy responses to the issue of freedom of expression between the United States and the EU has sometimes militated against international cooperation on this issue, particularly since some of the sites targeted at EU countries are hosted on servers outside of the reach of EU law.

In Ireland the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 created the offence of publishing or distributing material, or broadcasting visual images or sounds, or using words or behaviour etc. that are threatening, abusive or insulting and are intended or are likely to stir up hatred. Hatred is defined as "hatred against a group of persons in the State or elsewhere on account of their race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, membership of the Travelling community or sexual orientation."

The current review of this Act will need to take into account the Council of Europe Protocol to the Cybercrime Convention on combating racism and xenophobia through computer systems and the EU Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia.² There has been a divergence of opinion among some EU States on the merit of these instruments, which has also had the impact of delaying the Irish Government's review. The NCCRI has advised the government that if the incitement legislation is revised it should also include a specific reference to the Internet.³

In the National Action Plan Against Racism, which recognises the problem of racism on the Internet, the government has indicated its intention to ratify the Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime. The Protocol requires States to criminalise the dissemination of racist and xenophobic

material through computer systems, as well as racist and xenophobic-motivated threat and insult including the denial, gross minimisation, approval or justification of genocide or crimes against humanity. Ireland signed the Convention on Cybercrime in 2002 but has not yet ratified it. The Convention came into force in July 2004 after five countries had ratified it.

System of Self-Regulation

The Irish Government established a Working Group in 1997 to examine and report on the issue of illegal and harmful use of the Internet and their report was published in July 1998.⁴ The main recommendation of the Report was for a system of self-regulation by the Internet service provider industry.

One of the components of such a system was the development of the Internet Advisory Board (IAB) which was established in February 2000 and which is chaired by Audrey Conlon. The IAB oversees and monitors the self-regulatory regime for the Irish Internet Service Providers helping them to deliver an effective model, in accordance with an agreed Code of Practice and Ethics for the Industry. This Code of Practice for the Internet industry was agreed in February 2002, setting out the duties and responsibilities of each Internet service provider.⁵ The NCCRI participates on the Board of the Internet Advisory Board.

Another essential component of the system of self-regulation is the public hotline for reporting potential illegal material found on the Internet. This was established in 1999 and is funded by the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (ISPAI)⁶ with the support from the EU Safer Internet Action Plan. The Internet hotline provides an anonymous reporting service on websites and emails. The primary focus of the hotline is reporting on child pornography but other illegal material may be reported that one may suspect to be illegal such as racist websites and emails. Special protocols operate between the Gardai and the Hotline to maximise co-operation on law enforcement issues.

The Hotline works closely with and is a founding member of the International INHOPE Association,⁷ a network of European hotlines which is expanding to all parts of the world. The INHOPE Association develops procedures and shares information on the best practices for the tracing and tracking of illegal content on the Internet.

Future Challenges

One of the key objectives of the National Action Plan Against Racism 2005-2008 is to ensure effective protection against incitement to hatred. The Plan aims to complete the review of the effectiveness of the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989 which will include a review of recent jurisprudence, the implications of EU policy in relation to cybercrime and the EU Framework Decision which is due to be considered again under the Luxembourg Presidency.

However it is important to remember that jurisdiction issues come to play when attempting to prosecute for hate crimes. Therefore global co-operation of governments is essential to effectively eliminate the phenomena of racism on the Internet.

What Can You Do?

If you suspect a website to contain illegal racist content, you can report it to the Internet Public Hotline and the NCCRI. If you receive an email of a racist nature you can also report it to the hotline or report it to the Internet company who hosts the email account and request that they delete the account. Many Internet server companies, including those based outside of Ireland, have 'Acceptance of Use' policies in relation to email accounts which stipulate that the account cannot be used to transmit emails of a racist or offensive nature.

Further Information

Internet Public Hotline

Website: www.hotline.ie
Email: report@hotline.ie
LoCall: 1890 610 710 Fax: 1890 520 720

Internet Advisory Board

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Old Faculty Building, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4.
Website: www.iab.ie
Email: iabsec@justice.ie
Tel: 01-602 8661

International Network of Anti-Cyber Hate (INACH)

www.inach.net

Partners Against Hate

US based organisation
Website: www.partnersagainsthate.org

Stop the Hate

Website: www.stopthehate.org

OSCE Conference in June 2004 on the Relationship between Racist, Xenophobic and Anti-Semitic Propaganda on the Internet and Hate Crimes

see www.osce.org/events/conferences/anti-racism for Conference declaration and background.

¹ See also C. O'Keefe Irish Examiner "Attacks on Jewish Community lead to calls to ban racist website" 27 January 2005.

² COM (2001) 0664

³ See NCCRI Submission on Racism on the Internet www.nccri.ie

⁴ See Report of the Working Group on the Illegal and Harmful Use of the Internet July 1998 available on www.iab.ie

⁵ The Code of Practice and Ethics can be downloaded from www.ispai.ie

⁶ The ISPai was established in January 1998 by the Irish Internet Service Providers. The organisation represents approx. 95% of the service provider market. All ISPai members must sign up to the agreed code of practice and ethics.

⁷ See www.inhope.org

North/South Intercultural Initiative

Joe Lenaghan, Regional Development Officer, NCCRI

Racism and discrimination know no boundaries and in the developing intercultural societies in Northern Ireland and Ireland it is both common sense and effective use of resources to explore strategies to tackle racism and promote interculturalism on a North/South basis. This approach also enables those key agencies tasked with tackling racism to share their experiences, identify and disseminate good racial equality practice. That was the thinking in 2000 when the NCCRI and the Equality Commission for NI jointly published *Developing a North/South Agenda for Anti-Racism and Racial Equality Strategies* which originates from the ECNI/NCCRI's first North South Roundtable on Racism held in Dundalk in 1999.

Although the political and administrative structures in both jurisdictions differ, when it comes to accessing services the experiences of Black, minority ethnic and Traveller communities, north and south, are similar. Those at the margins of society are less likely to enjoy service provision developed 'for the majority by the majority' and delivered with a 'one cap fits all' approach. These experiences of course are more acute in isolated rural communities and this is further compounded in the 'border counties' region where historically policy and planning for service delivery has tended to be determined centrally and with 'backs to the border'.

In areas of deprivation it is the most vulnerable groups in society which are at the greatest disadvantage. Minority ethnic groups (including the Traveller community, migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers) are amongst the most vulnerable groups in Irish society, both North and South. As identified in a range of studies and reports the conflict in Northern Ireland has undermined the community development infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the border counties. While there has been some progress in recent years minority ethnic groups remain vulnerable. Either they do not have access to services and/or service delivery is not culturally responsive and

therefore fails to take into account the needs of different racial groups.

There has been much research undertaken and other work is currently ongoing, which details the experiences of these communities, both north and south. It is worth noting that the PEACE 1 Ex Ante Evaluation highlighted the continuing socio/economic disadvantage in the border counties of Ireland. A conclusion which has been supported by a range of other studies, in particular the National Anti Poverty Strategy also highlighted the need for improved service delivery to marginalised communities in border county areas. The former Commission for Racial Equality for NI (Equality Commission NI) undertook research *Building Bridges* (1999) into the needs of black and minority ethnic communities in the North and concluded the need for a community advocacy programme to enable such groups to access *culturally competent* services.

The NCCRI has recently commenced an interesting piece of research commissioned by the Centre for Cross Border Studies which will form a part of the NCCRI's north south initiative. The research will examine how public authorities provide services for ethnic and immigrant groups within the prescribed legal framework in three jurisdictions: Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland. It will draw on experiences across a range of sectors including: health, social services, education, employment, housing, interpreting, information and advice, and policing.

Although the primary focus will be to identify how Northern Ireland public authorities can learn from experience within Northern Ireland and from their nearest neighbours: Republic of Ireland and Scotland this piece of work will also inform our development work in the north and the border counties. By analyzing the challenges which diversity presents to public service providers, the project will explore models for responding to the needs of three main target groups:

- longstanding migrant and minority ethnic communities, particularly Travellers
- refugees and asylum-seekers
- migrant workers.

The growing rise in racism and the need to develop intercultural strategies grounded in a community development approach, has been widely promoted by agencies and groups in the North and the South. Both the NCCRI and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland have identified the need for capacity building for minority ethnic groups, and the centrality of effective participation in policy making processes. This fundamental strategic aim is reflected in both the Northern Ireland draft Race Strategy and the Irish Government's recently published National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR). Specific measures with sustained budgets are now required to be put in place to achieve this aim otherwise it will be impossible to deliver other key elements of these government racial equality plans.

The current policy context provides a unique opportunity to build on existing initiatives in the implementation of an effective North/South approach in the fight against racism and discrimination. The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission together with voluntary, community and trades union groups have specifically identified the need for both action plans (NPAR) to contain a reference to North/South cooperation. The Irish Government's recently published National Action Plan Against Racism has prioritised 'cooperation to combat racism in Ireland on a North/South basis' in the Plan's Objective One: Protection. In January the UK Government published its *Improving Opportunity Strengthening Society: The Government's Strategy to Increase Race Equality and Community Cohesion* (Home Office) which it says reflects its commitment to the UN World Conference on Racism to publish a National Action Plan. However the UK strategy is largely focused on Britain and as yet does not take into account the development of the Northern Ireland Race

Strategy currently being finalised by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister following widespread consultation in the north. One of the key statements in the consultation document was that the Northern Ireland Race Strategy would 'form the backbone' of the Northern Ireland input to the UK National Action Plan Against Racism reflecting the 'East/West' dimension. Respondents to the Northern Ireland draft Race Strategy, including the Equality Commission NI, encouraged the identification and inclusion of common north/south measures, particularly in the key areas of Travellers, labour migrants as well as asylum seekers and refugees. The NCCRI has been successful in developing a new North/South Intercultural initiative which will bring a degree of focus on these key issues in the forthcoming period. The three year initiative is based in Dundalk and will focus on the border counties and Northern Ireland. This initiative is funded through the EU INTERREG Programme which is delivered by Cooperation Ireland.

The overall thrust of this North/South initiative is to develop strategies for the inclusion of minority ethnic groups, including Travellers, with a specific focus on their participation in policy development and implementation and provision of culturally competent service delivery. This initiative will also provide a unique opportunity to facilitate the development of cross border structures of participation for minority ethnic groups, through a series of cross border networks and participation in a policy forum.

The NCCRI has developed this North/South intercultural initiative with the following objectives:

- To consult with minority ethnic groups and to identify opportunities for integrated cross border policy development and service delivery in the context of an increasingly intercultural society.
- To establish a support structure to build the capacity of voluntary, community and trade union groups working in and with

minority ethnic groups, including the development of long-term fundraising strategies. This structure will include the development of vibrant North/South networks aimed at improving access to services for marginalised and disadvantaged minority ethnic and Traveller communities.

- To provide a structure and model of good practice for effective partnership between policy-makers and the community and voluntary sector, in order to promote consensus based community solutions aiming to deliver culturally competent services.

The initiative will complement or build on existing community development initiatives by building capacity to work with minority ethnic communities, and by working with those groups who are already engaged in this work. A focused approach to capacity building will include the establishment of networks in order to promote learning, development of skills such as fundraising and training, and the promotion of strategies to facilitate meaningful policy engagement.

This initiative will demonstrate an innovative approach through the establishment of partnership structures in order to effectively identify and respond to the needs of minority ethnic groups in the border counties and Northern Ireland.

The North/South Intercultural Initiative will be launched on March 21st by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dermot Ahern, T.D., in Dundalk.

For further information contact Joe Leneghan or Hazel Murphy on Tel. 01-4785777.



SchoolCAP: Learning with Laughter



Photograph by Treacy O'Connor

What is SchoolCAP (School Cultural Awareness Programme)?

SchoolCAP is a one-hour powerpoint presentation designed to assist with positive integration in Irish society targeting primary school children.

Johnie K is a circus trained professional clown who has been applying his skills in a humanitarian capacity in the orphanages, and borstals of Romania, the refugee and displacement camps throughout the former Yugoslavia, Albania, Chechnya, Russia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Implemented by many international NGOs as a mental health program, the clown show reaches all ages and clearly benefits sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder, irrespective of language.

How does it work?

By applying laughter as an educator Johnie K designed SchoolCAP to educate Irish children in the positive aspects of culture. SchoolCAP provides an alternative perspective on ethnic minorities celebrating cultural diversity in all of its forms.

Principals and teachers nationwide agree that SchoolCAP is a very effective,

revolutionary and highly entertaining way to deliver important lessons about today's intercultural society.

Johnie K intends, through support from funding bodies, to train additional presenters of SchoolCAP to bring the program annually to every primary school nationwide. Johnie K's life has been the focus of an RTE documentary titled 'Behind the Painted Smile' as part of the 'Would You Believe' series and he was also one of the first recipients of a World Refugee Day award 2003.

All those interested in booking SchoolCAP for their school, please contact Johnie K at SchoolCAP@eircom.net.

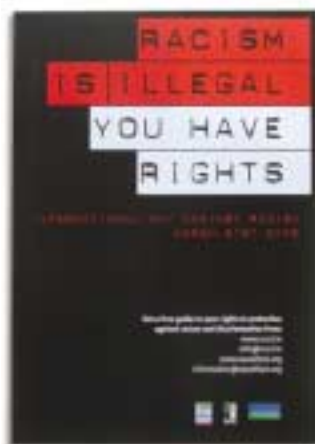
Notice Board



Conference:
“Implementing the National Action Plan Against Racism: The Role of Community Development and Local Development Organisations”

NCCRI and ADM in partnership with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Family Support Agency are hosting a conference entitled “*Implementing the National Action Plan Against Racism, the role of community development and local development organisations*” on March 15th as part of International Week Against Racism. The conference will be opened by Dr. Maurice Manning, President of the Human Rights Commission and is aimed at ADM programme beneficiaries, Family Resource Centres and projects funded under the National Community Development Programme and groups representing Black and minority ethnic groups. The Conference aims to explore and agree strategies and actions appropriate to the advancement of the National Action Plan Against Racism.

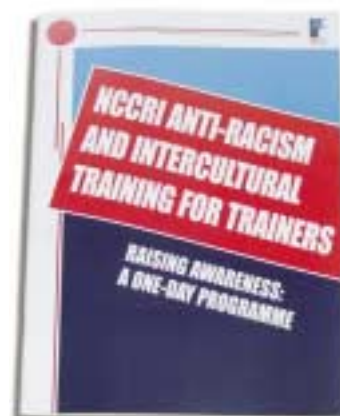
For further information contact;
Jennifer Wallace, Community Development Support Officer, NCCRI Jennifer@nccri.ie



New North/South Guide on Redress Against Racism and Discrimination.

To mark International Day Against Racism 2005 the NCCRI and Equality Commission for NI have published a comprehensive information guide outlining where and how to seek advice, support and redress against racism and discrimination. The guide entitled “*Seeking Advice and Redress Against Racism: An Information Handbook*” provides information to individuals, community groups and advice organisations on where to seek redress against the different forms of racism in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Copies can be obtained from the offices of the NCCRI or ECNI or online at www.nccri.com or www.equalityni.org



Anti-Racism and Intercultural Awareness Training for Trainers Course.

The NCCRI is organising a series of Anti-Racism and Intercultural Awareness Training for Trainers. The Training for Trainers programme is a two-day training programme targeted at people who already have a background in training and facilitation. The aim of the training is to provide trainers with the necessary tools and knowledge to deliver anti-racism and intercultural training in their organisations. There are 15 places available on each training course and the cost per participant for two days is €150.

The training for trainers programme will take place on the following dates:

- March:** Tuesday the 1st and Wednesday the 2nd
Tuesday the 8th and Wednesday the 9th
- May:** Tuesday the 10th and Wednesday the 11th
Tuesday the 17th and Wednesday the 18th

For further information please contact:
Kensika Monshengwo, Training & Resource Unit, NCCRI
Tel. 087 997 3023 Email. kensika@nccri.ie



Equality Authority New Guidelines on equality legislation.

The Equal Status Act 2000 and the Employment Equality Act 1998 have been amended by the new Equality Act 2004. These Acts prohibit discrimination in employment and in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and educational establishments across the grounds of gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion and membership of the Traveller community.

The Equality Authority has published two free booklets as guides to the new legislation which are available from www.equality.ie or Lo Call 1890 245 545.

Schools Against Racism Poetry Competition

To mark International Day Against Racism March 21 2005 the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) in association with Poetry Ireland will hold a schools poetry competition on the theme of anti-racism and/or interculturalism. The competition is open to the pupils of all secondary schools and three winners will be selected by well-established poets in Ireland and the UK. Deadline for receipt of entries is Monday 14th of March 2005 and the award ceremony will take place towards the end of April.

For further information contact;
Jacqueline Healy, NCCRI jacqueline@nccri.ie
or
Jim Glackin, ECNI on jglackin@equalityni.org
or Anna Boner, Poetry Ireland at
Tel. 01-4758601. www.poetryireland.ie

Staff Update

Joe Lenaghan

Joe Lenaghan joined the staff team in December 2004 and is responsible for the implementation of the NCCRI's new North South Intercultural Initiative for the border counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. He is currently on secondment from the Equality Commission for NI where he was responsible for information, research, the grants programme in the Race Development Unit as well as providing ongoing support to black and minority ethnic and Traveller support groups in the north. In this role Joe also worked closely with NCCRI promoting the national programme around EU Week Against Racism and a number of joint north south Roundtables around common issues such as migrant labour. Joe also directed the Equality Commission's Public Sector Statutory Duty Team in the implementation of Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and in the development and approval of public authorities first Equality Schemes under the Act.

Hazel Murphy

Hazel Murphy joined the NCCRI in October 2004 as an Administrative Assistant for the North South Intercultural Initiative. She also works part-time for Pavee Point. She previously worked for the Irish Human Rights Commission. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology and Spanish from UCD and a Masters in International Relations from Dublin City University.

Recent Publications

Diversity at Work Network (DAWN):
Managing Diversity in the Workplace: Focusing on the Employment of Migrant Workers (2005).
Available from the NCCRI or www.nccri.ie

Diversity At Work Network:
Labour Force Survey 2004.
Available from the NCCRI or www.nccri.ie

Irish Government:
Planning for Diversity: The National Action Plan Against Racism 2005-2008.
Available from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform or online at www.justice.ie

Irish Prison Service:
Annual Report 2004 Human Rights Issues for Prisoners.
Available from the Irish Prison Service
Tel. 01-461 6000. www.irishprisons.ie

Maguire, M:
Differently Irish: A Cultural History exploring 25 years of Vietnamese-Irish Identity.
See www.woodfield-press.com

Institute of Public Administration:
Primary Voices: Equality, Diversity and Childhood in Irish Primary Schools.
Available for purchase from the IPA
Tel. 01-240 3600. www.ipa.ie

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland:
Private Spaces: A Public Concern – The Experiences of Migrant Woman Employed in the Private Home.
Available from MCRI at Tel. 01-8881355.

Treoir:
Legal Information for Unmarried Migrant Parents in Ireland.
Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Romanian and Russian. For further information Tel. 01-6700120,
e-mail: <mailto:info@treoir.ie>

Integrate Ireland Language and Training:
Feach: Looking at Language and Training.
Available from IILT at Tel. 01-667 7232.
www.iilt.ie

European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia:
Annual Report 2003/2004 Part 2: Racism and Xenophobia in the EU Member States: Trends, Developments and Good Practice.
Available on www.eumc.eu.int

International Organisation for Migration:
Glossary on Migration.
Available from IOM at publications@iom.int

An Garda Síochána:
Garda Policing Plan 2005.
www.garda.ie

National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC):
Review of the Operation of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998.
Available from Department of the Environment www.environ.ie and Local Government.

NGO Alliance:
Report to the Committee on All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
Available from NGO Alliance, c/o Dominican Justice Office. Tel. 01-857 4654

Pavee Point Travellers Centre
Shadow Report to the Committee on All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD).
Available from Pavee Point
Tel. 01-8780255 or www.paveepoint.ie

Department of Social and Family Affairs:
National Action Plan Against Poverty and Social Exclusion First Annual Report.
Available from Office for Social Inclusion www.socialinclusion.ie

Equality Research Series:
Diversity at School.
Edited by Anne Lodge and Kathleen Lynch.
Available from the Equality Authority.

Equality Authority & INTO:
The Inclusive School: Proceedings of the Joint Conference of the Irish National Teachers Organisation and the Equality Authority 27 March 2004.
Available from Equality Authority www.equality.ie or INTO www.into.ie

Westmeath EQUAL/Westmeath Employment Pact:
Building and Inclusive and Diverse Westmeath: A Report on the Needs of Migrant Workers and their Families in Co. Westmeath.
Available from Westmeath Equal Tel. 044-33666

Edgar, Doherty & Meert:
Immigration and Homelessness in Europe.
November 2004. Publisher: The Policy Press www.policypress.org.uk

Irish Vocational Education Association:
Pilot Framework for Educational Provision for Bilingual Learners Including Asylum Seekers and Refugees: An IVEA Working Group Report 2004 on Primary, Second and Further Education.
Available from IVEA on Tel. 01-496 6033 or info@ivea.ie. Website: www.ivea.ie

Neil Chakrabarti (ed.):
Rural Racism.
Available to purchase from Willan Publishing www.willanpublishing.co.uk

Professor Robert Holton:
Nationalism and Multiculturalism - Irish Identity, Citizenship and the Peace Process.
Further information from the Dept of Sociology, TCD, Tel. 01 6082701



What is Racism?

Racism is a specific form of discrimination and exclusion faced by minority ethnic groups in Ireland. It is based on the false belief that some 'races' are inherently superior to others because of different skin colour, nationality, ethnic or cultural background. Racism deprives people of their basic human rights, dignity and respect.

Racial discrimination is defined in Article One of the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1969) as:

“Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

What is Interculturalism?

An intercultural approach is the development of strategy, policy and practice that promotes interaction, understanding, respect and integration between different cultures and ethnic groups on the basis that cultural diversity is a strength that can enrich society, without glossing over issues such as racism. Interculturalism is now replacing earlier approaches such as assimilation and multiculturalism.



NCCRI

The National Consultative
Committee on Racism and
Interculturalism (NCCRI)

Web: www.nccri.ie