

# **Workshop Report Summary**

## **Recording and Monitoring Racist Incidents**

### **Setting the Record Straight**

#### **Introduction**

The following is a report of the Consortium organised workshop on Recording and Monitoring Racist Incidents, entitled 'Setting the Record Straight' on the **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011**, held in the Community Relations Council premises in Dungannon. Thirty-one people attended the workshop, with the majority of Partnerships represented.

#### **Presentations**

Two presentations were made, the first by Mr. Jeremy Adams, Head of the Hate Crime Section in the PSNI. As well as defining Hate Crime, he spoke about their Reporting System, the statistics collated and how it affects people. He went on to talk about policy difficulties and the need for Consistency, Effectiveness, Supervision, Satisfaction and Support. In conclusion he explained the reasons for under-reporting and various initiatives in place, including Unite Against Hate.

The second presentation was by Ms. Catherine Lynch, Director of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). She began by introducing the work of ENAR and setting the context for reporting racist incidents. She stressed the need to develop a standard framework for monitoring of racist incidents, to have:

- Comparable and credible information
- Potential for identifying individual and institutional forms of racism
- Utilise existing civil society infrastructure

She spoke of the need to support organisations to record racist incidents, make appropriate referrals and support individuals, ensure a range of methods to report racism, and to have broad stakeholder buy-in. She outlined in detail the system of recording, the various layers, the data collected and who ENAR works with. Her final reflections were on the role of stakeholders, a practitioner's view and priorities for the future. Links to copies of both presentations are on page 3 of this report.

#### **Discussion**

Three groups discussed the following:

1. Benefits/Challenges of recording and monitoring racist incidents. A number of points were made:
  - i. In most areas of Northern Ireland there is no monitoring or reporting outside of the PSNI;
  - ii. Ways to get the information out there so the public are informed of what help is available;
  - iii. Certain mechanisms for reporting and monitoring don't work for everyone and therefore they need to be varied and adapted to suit the needs of people;
  - iv. There exists an attitude of 'what is the point in reporting an incident' what is the outcome, nothing will get done about it and where will the information go?
  - v. The fact that racism is not seen as a crime in the South is a major challenge, why is it not a crime?
  - vi. In some Partnership areas it is always seen as a PSNI or Good Relations issue;
  - vii. There is no collection of data on a regional basis and there exists a gap in terms of ensuring the data is shared across the UK and Europe;

1. Benefits/Challenges of recording and monitoring racist incidents (contd):

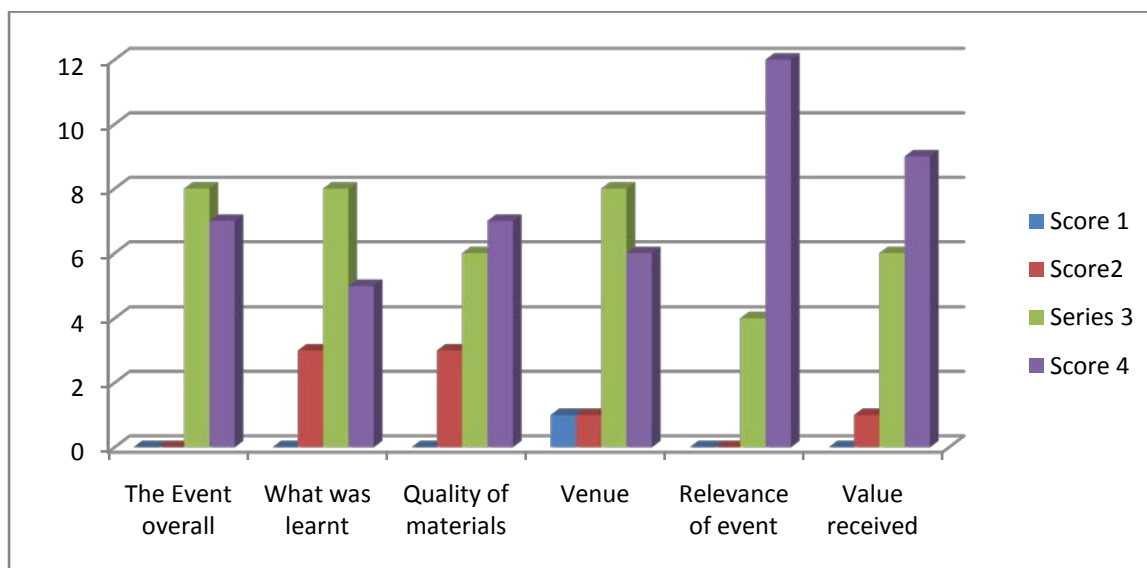
- viii. The role of the Peace Partnership in dealing with issues of racism and sectarianism needs to be more evident;
- ix. Definitions for racism is key to a good reporting system;
- x. Supporting victims – this needs further developed. Some refer to appropriate support agencies, others provide translation and some counselling or mediation;
- xi. It's important to build links with relevant networks as referrals and support to victims;
- xii. Issues around employment discrimination and intimidation are main complaints (Southern) – sign post them to employment authorities. Southern have run Employment Rights Clinics;
- xiii. Bullying at school is the second largest issue – Donegal doing work in schools around racism, including awareness of the reporting scheme;
- xiv. Stop start nature of the funding is problematic – takes time to bed in and get people aware of the scheme;
- xv. Is it worth the effort, time and investment if the numbers are now falling? Why are the numbers dropping?
- xvi. Many migrant workers have returned home due to the recession;
- xvii. Independent Monitoring reporting systems should be standardized and best practice shared; and
- xviii. It was felt that there could be some resistance to publishing up to date figures on racist incidences as it could portray areas in a negative way. Some key influencers may not be keen to encourage the reporting of racist incidences.

2. Use of information to monitor racism. A number of points were made:

- i. The information gathered should be disseminated to the policy makers, NGO's, schools, hospitals etc so that it can be incorporated into their policies and be filtered into materials, posters etc;
- ii. There is a need for anti-racism training as there are gaps where training is provided throughout the country. Early diversity training should be provided in rural areas especially schools where in some cases there are children attending from different cultures;
- iii. There is a need for Partnership members to receive anti-racism and anti-sectarianism training so that when decisions are being made regarding the allocation of funding, the Partnership can prioritise the action they need to take and direct resources to the problem;
- iv. The information can be used to ensure that any campaign response is effectively targeted;
- v. The information captured can be used to lobby for change particularly in the South where racism and sectarianism needs to be put on the agenda as racism in particular is not seen as a crime;
- vi. There needs to be an outcome/change as a result of reporting – otherwise people will stop reporting;
- vii. PSNI Community Safety Neighbourhood Officers can give their mobile numbers to people experiencing threats/ ongoing abuse as an emergency contact – Officers can then go directly out to the person;
- viii. NIC ICTU Myth Busting Leaflet – circulate this is a means to challenge inaccurate statements made against non-Irish nationals;
- ix. To ensure a system's Sustainability it needs to ultimately be built into normal policing systems – it can be accessed elsewhere but collation and reporting should be through the police; and
- x. It is clear what to do in cases where the incident is a crime or against .e.g.. employment legislation – refer to relevant agency/authority.

## Feedback/Outcome

A total of 16 evaluation responses were received and collated from an attendance of 31 participants. Rating of the event was high – with the majority of attendees scoring the event at 3 or 4.



A key outcome of the workshop was the desire by Partnerships in the southern border counties to explore further the development of a system throughout the region. The Consortium agreed to assist those Partnerships in this initiative.

## Links to presentation (press ctrl and double click)

[UAH presentation.pptx](#)

[ENAR presentation.pptx](#)

## Useful Websites (press ctrl and double click)

[European Network Against Racism Ireland Reporting](#)

[Donegal Incident Reporting](#)

[Challenge for Change Reporting](#)

[PSNI Report Hate Crime](#)

[Unite Against Hate](#)

[PSNI – Hate crime leaflet – Religious](#)

[PSNI – Hate crime leaflet - Sectarian](#)

[PSNI – Hate crime leaflet - Racist](#)

[Racism is Wrong](#)

**Note:** There are varying types of Recording Systems for Monitoring Racist Incidents in place in the Donegal, Southern, Louth and North East Partnerships. For further information refer to the relevant Partnership website.