

# Racism hurts



## What is the Independent Reporting Scheme for Racist Incidents and Racial Discrimination?

The scheme is an independent and confidential mechanism to encourage the local community to report any racist incident within the Council area.

It is supported by the European Union's PEACE III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body and delivered by the PEACE III Southern Partnership's Challenge of Change priority.

The scheme and associated materials are based on the model developed by Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council.

## What is a Racist Incident?

A racist incident is 'any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'.

A racist incident can take many forms, including: intimidation and damage to your house or to your property; physical injury; verbal abuse or name-calling on the street, at work, at school or in a social environment.

## What is Racial Discrimination?

Discrimination is not simply unfairness. To be discriminated against means to be treated less favourably than others. Racial discrimination is less favourable treatment on the grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, or on the grounds of belonging to the Irish Traveller community.

The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (as amended 2003) makes it unlawful to discriminate in the fields of employment, education, the disposal and management of premises, and the provision of goods, facilities and services. Segregation on racial grounds also constitutes discrimination.

## How to report?

Whether as a victim or as a witness, you can report any racist incident or instance of discrimination by completing a Racist Incident Reporting Form.

You can pick up a Reporting Form at any of the Independent Reporting Centres:

- Ethnic Minority Support Centre (Newry Town Hall)
- Citizens Advice Bureau (Ballybot House)
- Newry Leisure Centre
- Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- Women and Family Health Initiative – South Armagh
- Your local library

A Reporting Form can also be downloaded from the PEACE III Southern Partnership website: [www.southernpartnership.com](http://www.southernpartnership.com) or Newry and Mourne District Council website: [www.newryandmourne.gov.uk](http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk)



The forms are available in English, Polish, Lithuanian, Slovak and Russian and in other languages on request.

You can complete the form in your own language. It is important that you fill in as much of the form as possible so that the complaint can be followed up.

Once completed, use the pre-paid envelope available at the local Independent Reporting Centres and post the form to the Challenge of Change Co-ordinator (address below).

Your report will be translated and appropriate action will be taken. The report will be forwarded to the relevant authorities if full details are provided.

The information provided will be treated as strictly confidential.

For more information please contact:

### Challenge of Change Co-ordinator

9 Monaghan Court  
Monaghan Street  
Newry BT35 6BH

Tel: 028 3031 3189

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