

European Commission Green Paper – Future of the Common European Asylum System

Cyber Crime – Racist and Xenophobic Acts Committed Through Computer Systems

UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity – An Introduction

The European Index: Using European Standards to Benchmark Integration Policies

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spectrum



NCCRI



TOWARDS EU
YEAR OF
INTERCULTURAL
DIALOGUE 2008

What is 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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EDITORIAL

As we approach European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, it is appropriate that this issue of *Spectrum* focuses on a range of EU policy issues.

Policy to combat racism and to promote a more inclusive and intercultural society in Ireland are increasingly influenced by policy at an EU level, including policy related to integration, inward migration, and mobility within the EU.

These are sensitive issues and the debate in each EU country is informed (and often skewed) by historical legacies and contemporary political, social and economic debates. This issue of *Spectrum* looks at a broad range of positive actions that are taking place across the EU, including initiatives the NCCRI is directly involved in.

INTEGRATION

The recent controversy over Garda policy on the wearing of the Turban by members of the Sikh community has stimulated an interesting and timely debate in Ireland about the role of state bodies in accommodating diversity.

The NCCRI has recently written to the Garda Commissioner, Noel Conroy, to ask for a review of the recent decision that prevents the wearing of the Turban and to suggest some ideas that might contribute to a compromise on this issue. It has been our experience that such issues are often best resolved with some negotiation and a little bit of give and take from each of the main stakeholders.

The NCCRI welcomes the appointment of a new Minister of State for Integration, Mr. Conor Lenihan TD, and his proposal to establish a Government Task Force on Integration. Mr. Lenihan is Minister of State across three Government Departments, the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (where his main office is based); Education and Science and Justice Equality and Law Reform. We wish the new Minister well in his new and challenging role.

The NCCRI wishes to acknowledge and thank the former Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Michael McDowell for his support for the work of the NCCRI over a number of years and we look forward to working closely with his successor, Minister Brian Lenihan, TD.

Philip Watt, Director, NCCRI

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TOWARDS EU YEAR OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

Philip Watt, Director, NCCRI

In the context of the significant inward migration into Ireland in recent years and the consequent growing diversity that is a feature of our society, the European Year presents a unique opportunity to promote dialogue and understanding about the challenges and opportunities arising from this diversity.

Following a decision of the European Parliament and Council, 2008 has been designated European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The general objectives of the year are to promote dialogue as a process in which all those living in the EU and member states can improve their ability to live together in a way that acknowledges and celebrates, diversity but which also promotes common values.

In the context of the significant inward migration into Ireland in recent years and the consequent growing diversity that is a feature of our society, the European Year presents a unique opportunity to promote dialogue and understanding about the challenges and opportunities arising from this diversity.

In Ireland a steering group has been established to help coordinate the Year which is comprised of Government Departments and key stakeholders from civil society including NGO's working with minority ethnic groups, Congress and IBEC and bodies such as the Arts Council and Culture Ireland. The National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) has been designated national coordinating body for the Year in Ireland.

An outline strategy for the EU Year in Ireland has been drawn up and a final strategy will be completed in November 2007, following further meetings with key stakeholders. The Year will seek to be consistent with and bring added value to existing Government policy in this area.

Based on the priorities set out at EU level, the following programmes and priorities are proposed for Ireland:



PROGRAMMES

Programme 1	Education & Young People	Focus on schools, colleges, youth organisations and the inclusion of minority ethnic groups
Programme 2	Arts	Focus on interaction and participation in the arts in Ireland as a tool to help stimulate interaction and dialogue including music, theatre, poetry and participation of arts institutions
Programme 3	Service Providers	Focus on local authorities and government agencies on linking more effectively with new and existing minority communities in Ireland through more effective communication
Programme 4	Business Sector	Focus on chambers of commerce, employer bodies, trade unions and government bodies participation in promoting greater understanding of the business case for diversity
Programme 5	Communication & Media	Focus on support and participation of the media and on issues such as translation and interpretation
Programme 6	Community Participation & Sports	Focus on involvement of sports, community and voluntary bodies in the Year, including provision of funding

Over the next few weeks a range of roundtables will be organised that will focus on each of these priorities.

Funding for the Year is currently being sought from the Government and the EU. The NCCRI will shortly appoint a staff person to help coordinate the Year.

The principles underpinning the Year will be as follows:

- **Strategic** initiatives that are consistent with reinforcing the Government's National Action Plan against Racism and the commitments in the current social partnership agreement 'Towards 2016'. There will also be a strong North South and EU dimension to the year
- **Sustainable** initiatives that have the potential to have a long lasting impact and which create synergies and added value beyond what was first expected
- **Collaborative** initiatives that are essentially about interaction between majority and minority communities to foster understanding, equality and respect.

UP TO STANDARD:

USING EUROPEAN STANDARDS TO BENCHMARK INTEGRATION POLICIES IN THE MIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY INDEX

Thomas Huddleston, Policy Analyst & Zoe Catsaras, Project Coordinator, Migration Policy Group, Brussels

Across Europe, as in Ireland, governments are re-imagining integration and citizenship, as policymakers ask how laws and policies can best manage the increasing diversity of our societies.

New countries of immigration, from Ireland to Italy, are starting from scratch to draw up strategies and structures of governance. Even in longstanding countries of immigration, like France and the Netherlands, debates have forced ministries traditionally responsible for integration to think afresh, while ministries, like Health and Education, have started to take up their responsibility in the integration process. At this juncture, policymakers and practitioners must consider how our countries can set new standards and cement coherent goals on integration in law and policy.

Coming from Brussels, it may sound clichéd to declare that Europe has all the answers. Yet we know that good practices on integration policies exist, somewhere, across Europe. European cooperation has produced high standards in the mass of EC Directives and Council of Europe conventions. For those policymakers and stakeholders who want to take up high standards and best practices, the challenge lies in locating them.

The British Council and Migration Policy Group's Migrant Integration Policy Index, now in its second edition, represents one tool for policymakers to compare their policies to the best practices of their European peers and to the highest European standards. The Index puts into action one of Europe's 'common basic principles on integration' through the development of policy indicators and benchmarking. Because these tools facilitate the exchange of information and evaluate whether our goals and standards are being effectively translated into policies, the benchmarking of policies is attracting growing interest among policymakers

across Europe and in Brussels. Indeed, the project is co-financed by the European Community under the INTI Programme - Preparatory Actions for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals.

The Index benchmarks the policies of 28 countries (25 EU Member States as well as Canada, Norway and Switzerland) in six policy areas critical to a legally-resident third-country national's opportunities to integrate. These include labour market access, family reunion, long-term residence, political participation of foreigners, access to nationality and anti-discrimination.

European cooperation has produced high standards in the mass of EC Directives and Council of Europe conventions. For those policymakers and stakeholders who want to take up high standards and best practices, the challenge lies in locating them.

In each of these areas, countries can take advantage of high European standards:

- Upon arrival, inclusion in the labour market often represents an essential first step for the integration of third-country nationals. Taking heed of the Lisbon Agenda, our countries can invest in migrant workers and benefit from their full set of skills and talents by opening opportunities for training and employment in all sectors;
- The social and cultural stability of migrants, their families and, by extension, our communities is greatly shaped by policies on family reunion, informed by the minimum standards of the 2003 EC Directive⁽¹⁾ or the more ambitious standards of the 2000 ILPA/MPG "Amsterdam proposals"⁽²⁾;

- Other such common standards⁽³⁾ also secure long-term residence that promote integration, by guaranteeing migrants the security and equal opportunities to invest more profoundly in their countries of settlement;
- The Council of Europe⁽⁴⁾ has aimed to ensure that the political opportunities opened to migrants match Europe's highest democratic principles: equal voting rights, independent and robust consultative bodies, an open civil society and representative migrant associations;
- European standards also encourage states to conceive of migrants as 'citizens-to-be' and thus facilitate their naturalisation as an indispensable means to integration⁽⁵⁾;
- Finally, Europe's high-reaching standards on anti-discrimination law help guarantee a migrant and his/her descendents equal opportunities in economic, social and public life⁽⁶⁾.

Each policy area is broken down into multiple indicators, for which a country receives one of three possible scores: a score of 3, when real policies meet the highest European standards, a score of 2, when they fall and a score of 1 when they lie furthest from best practice. The indicators are compiled into a single questionnaire, which is completed in each country by a scholar or practitioner of migration law and peer reviewed by a second independent expert.

The indicators generate scores and rankings based on how close or far a policy is from achieving the highest European standards. Clear, concise and comparable information opens a number of avenues for policymakers and stakeholders to consider how governments can do their best to create opportunities for integration.

They also invite other comparisons that facilitate policy improvement; do each of our policies coherently meet our integration goals? Have they improved or worsened over time? Where can we look for better practices in our specific areas of weakness? And where can our areas of strength help other European partners lagging behind? Are our policies similar across the Union or are we miles apart?

The first edition of the Index in 2004 found that Ireland, like many of its European partners, lacked policy coherence among its integration policies. Ireland came closest to high European standards

on anti-discrimination, where low-scoring countries like Greece and Denmark could profit from Ireland's legal framework. In contrast, Ireland fell dead last on long-term residence policies, where few migrants can access the status due to unfavourable provisions on eligibility. Policy improvements in Ireland could find inspiration not only from the high European standards, but also from countries that have put them into practice. Countries that lead across the board included Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden as well as new countries of immigration like Portugal and Spain. The first edition observed that access to nationality was the greatest area of weakness across the EU-15 and that high scores could be found in both new and old countries of immigration.

Will these conclusions hold true over time and across this edition's full 28 countries? Since the first edition, Ireland for instance has witnessed the development of a new Immigration Bill, policy shifts on access to employment and nationality for foreign spouses, and key court decisions on the right to residence of foreign parents and on the role of the Equality Authority in discrimination cases. Where now will Ireland fall in the current edition?

The launch of the publication and website (www.integrationindex.eu) on 15 October 2007 will kick off a series of 26 events in 21 countries, organised by the Index's network of 21 national partners, in cooperation with British Council local offices. The NCCRI and the British Council Ireland will open the Irish debate on the Index's results with events in Dublin and Cork this autumn.



Strategic thinking
on equality and mobility



FOOTNOTES

1 Directive on the Right to Family Reunification, 2003/86 of 22 Sept 2003 2 ILPA/MPG proposed directive on family reunion, 2000 3 Directive concerning the Status of Third-Country Nationals who are Long-Term Residents, 2003/109 of 25 Nov 2003, ILPA/MPG proposed directive on long term residents, 2000 4 Council of Europe convention on the participation of foreigners in public life at local level, 5 Feb 1992 5 Council of Europe Convention on Nationality, 6 Sept 1997 Bauböck, Ersbøll, Groenendijk & Waldrauch, *Acquisition and Loss of Nationality: Policies and Trends in 15 European States: Summary and Recommendations*, Institute for European Integration Research, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Jan 2006 6 Bell, Chopin & Palmer *Developing Anti-Discrimination Law in Europe: the 25 EU Member States Compared*, European Commission, Nov 2006 Directive establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, 2000/78 of 27 Nov 2000. Directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of Racial or Ethnic origin, 2000/43 of 29 June 2000.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GREEN PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM

Robin Hanan, CEO, Irish Refugee Council

"Europe needs a sensible discussion on how to live up to our international duties, to share responsibility for refugee protection fairly between member states, as well as with the rest of the world, and to set common standards consistent with fundamental rights for an asylum system that we can be proud of."

ECRE's EU Representative Richard Williams

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles, of which the Irish Refugee Council is a member, has welcomed the recent publication of the Commission's Green Paper on Asylum.

"It is good to see refugee protection and human rights back on the EU agenda, which for too long has been dominated by the fight against irregular migration. Recent tragedies in the Mediterranean have exposed the lethal consequences of an approach geared to deterrence and responsibility-shifting." ECRE's EU Representative Richard Williams.

ECRE has been concerned for some time with the wide divergence in the quality of protection available in the EU which, combined with the "Dublin 2 Regulation/System" which allocates responsibility for an asylum claim without regard to those disparities in protection, currently amounts to a dangerous lottery.

The goal of the second stage of the creation of a Common European Asylum System, as formulated by the Commission, is *"to achieve both a higher common standard of protection and greater equality in protection across the EU and to ensure a higher degree of solidarity between EU Member States."* The EU needs to go much further than the incremental improvement suggested. The primary objective must be to ensure that no person who would be recognised as in need of protection in one part of the Union would face a risk of refoulement (being sent to an area where they are in danger) in another. Europe needs to recognise that the system fails when a person is wrongly sent to a place where they face persecution, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The target of achieving a common asylum system by 2010 is ambitious, but the EU's commitment to creating an area of free movement necessitates common rules on asylum. The flaws in the current system are so serious that it is necessary to push on with the process.

Some of the language used in the Green Paper appears to go beyond the current base for legislation in this area. While the Tampere conclusions and The Hague Programme speak of a common asylum procedure and a uniform status for those who are granted asylum valid throughout the EU, the legal base is still Article 63 of the Amsterdam Treaty, refers to minimum standards.

Many Member States have been slow to transpose even the minimum standards already agreed into national law. The Commission, in return, has been slow to hold member states to account.

Some of the other areas of concern for ECRE members include the lack of proposals to strengthen the Reception Directive and other policies on reception of asylum seekers. The EU could play a role in ensuring the right to work for asylum seekers after six months waiting for a final determination and in ensuring adequate living conditions. In addition, the over-use of detention by member states is a concern which needs to be addressed in the debate around this Paper.

The Green Paper provides an opportunity to raise many issues which are not thoroughly discussed in it. These include the need to strengthen the existing protections for separated children, survivors of torture and other particularly

"The aim of a common asylum system must be to create a level playing field, where any person seeking protection will be treated in the same way, according to the same high standards, wherever they apply for asylum in the EU."

ECRE's EU Representative Richard Williams

vulnerable groups. Further, in spite of the legal requirement in the Directive, many Member States are far from able to provide the necessary specialised services.

With respect to asylum procedures, it is well known to clinicians that a person who has been traumatised is often unable to give a full and consistent account of their experiences. Yet, under the Procedures Directive, an asylum seeker can be channelled into accelerated procedures, with restricted procedural safeguards, if they have been deemed to have given insufficient or contradictory information about their claim

The asylum system must be re-examined through the prism of the need to create a positive integration experience for future citizens, to foster a sense of belonging and loyalty to the State in immigrant communities. This must start from the principle that asylum seekers and refugees must have a central role in developing

and implementing policies which affect their lives. Without this, there is a danger that asylum seekers and refugees will be seen as a problem to be solved rather than as individuals with rights and a contribution to make to European Development.

www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie



NOTES:

More information on the European Green Paper, and how to respond to it, is on the Commission website at <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/07/229>

ECRE's response is at www.ecre.org

The NCCRI, in conjunction with UNHCR recently launched an updated edition of the publication *'Challenging Myths and Misinformation on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland'*. This is now available on our website at www.nccri.ie

COUNCIL OF EUROPE ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

TO THE CONVENTION ON CYBER CRIME CONCERNING THE CRIMINALISATION OF ACTS OF A RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC NATURE COMMITTED THROUGH COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Karla Charles, Policy & Research Officer, NCCRI

The possibilities to use this medium for unlawful activity or spreading hatred are currently limitless. As a result we are witnessing a growing disturbing trend to use the Internet to intimidate and harass individuals on the basis of their race, religion, sexual orientation or national origin.

The Internet is probably the greatest forum for the exchange of ideas that the world has ever seen. It operates across national borders, and efforts by the international community or any one government to regulate speech on the Internet would be virtually impossible, both technologically and legally. The Internet allows cheap, virtually untraceable, instantaneous, uncensored worldwide distribution of information. The possibilities to use this medium for unlawful activity or spreading hatred are currently limitless and as a result we are witnessing a growing disturbing trend to use the Internet to intimidate and harass individuals on the basis of their race, religion, sexual orientation or national origin. Because of jurisdictional dilemmas, the anonymity of the Internet coupled with the complexity of gathering and preserving electronic evidence, these crimes present difficult challenges for law enforcement. Racism and hate crime has been a pressing social problem long before the emergence of the digital however the advancement of the Internet has added a difficult dimension. Individuals are easily and anonymously able to disseminate hate crime. This type of abuse, amongst others, is defined broadly as cybercrime.⁽¹⁾

HATE SPEECH

Hate speech is an American expression that has gained international use. It describes a problematic

type of speech and related issues, such as freedom of association and assembly, and involves the advocacy of hatred and discrimination against particular groups in society based on race, colour, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, religion, etc.⁽²⁾ Freedom of expression and its parameters is extremely controversial. Hate speech in particular is one area that raises compelling arguments for restricting freedom of expression. The United States has tended to present an absolutist style protection of free speech under the First Amendment, whereas the divergent European approach is to limit free speech while still promoting freedom of expression as an essential part of a democracy.

Rather than risk infringement on speech that addresses issues of public interest, the First Amendment dictates that society endure speech that incites hatred in an attempt to aid the formation of natural barriers on what is and what is not acceptable. Many societies believe that hate speech laws act as an indispensable symbolic tool, and promote racial harmony.⁽³⁾ Furthermore, the pro regulation supporters believe that racism unchecked gets worse.⁽⁴⁾

Hate speech excludes and vilifies its targets, creates hostility and resentment. More drastically, it has been pointed out that hate speech over time may create enduring castes that will prove extremely resistant to change.⁽⁵⁾ From this, Stefanic and Delgado hypothesise that nations which value harmony, and fear an upsurge in racism, will act instinctively to curb hate speech. Such communities tend to have a historical respect for legality and will therefore turn to such legal solutions to ward off threats.⁽⁶⁾ The balance

¹ Akdeniz Yaman; *Stocktaking on efforts to combat racism on the Internet*; High Level Seminar, Commission on Human Rights 62nd Session, Geneva, Jan 2006. ² Kevin Boyle; *Hate Speech - The United States Versus the Rest of the World?*; 53 *Maine Law Review* 488, 2001. ³ *Ibid* at 746. ⁴ *Ibid* at 747. ⁵ Mari Matsuda; *Public Response to Racist Speech: Considering the Victim's Story*; 87 *Michigan Law Review*; 1989; Charles Lawrence; *If He Hollers Let Him Go: Regulating Racist Speech on Campus*; *Duke Law Journal* 431, 1990. ⁶ Coliver; *Striking a Balance: Hate Speech, Freedom of Expression and Non-Discrimination*; at 748.



between freedom from discrimination and freedom of expression may be complex and continuously shifting, but it should include many different forces; only one of which is legal regulation. The difficulty is that balancing these issues is even more problematic when considering the lack of boundaries and borders on the Internet. The different approaches of the U.S. versus Europe have been exploited by those wishing to spread hate crime on the Internet.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (7) is the cornerstone of the fight against racism at a global level and is expressly devoted to protection against racial discrimination.(8) Since ICERD came into force, the World Wide Web has taken off. Cybercrime is a dangerous reality which represents a real threat to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and indeed security. Due to the borderless nature of the web it requires international co-operation.

European authorities, national governments, as well as NGOs fighting racism and discrimination are all deeply concerned about the dramatic growth of hate crime online, and the free access to websites and newsgroups that are illegal in most European countries. Many of the problematic websites are hosted in the U.S. where they are legally protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution.

The Council of Europe began drafting the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS 185) in a hostile environment engulfed with confrontation between human rights activists, law enforcers and corporate industry representatives.(9) The treaty is intended to create a common cross border policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international co-operation.(10) The Convention, which entered into force in July 2004, is the only

WHAT CAN YOU DO

If you are online and come across a racist website or racist abuse it is important to report it. Children and young people should also be encouraged to report any racist abuse that they come across on the web.

- See Top Tips at www.iab.ie
– the Internet Advisory Board
- Report racist websites or abuse to the Internet Public Hotline at
– www.hotline.ie
– report@hotline.ie
– or by telephone on 1890610710

FURTHER INFORMATION

- International Network of Anti-Cyber Hate www.inach.net
- Stop the Hate www.stopthehate.org
- See www.inhope.org
- See National Action Plan Against Racism <http://www.diversityireland.ie/>



binding international treaty in this area. To date, 21 countries have ratified it and 22 have signed but not yet ratified it.(11) Ireland signed the Convention on Cybercrime in February 2002, but has not yet ratified it. Nor has Ireland signed or ratified the Additional Protocol to the Convention, which concerns the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems. This Additional Protocol (CETS 189) entails an extension of the Convention's scope, including its substantive, procedural and international co-operation provisions. It entered into force in March 2006 and aims to harmonise the substantive law elements of such behaviour,

77 March 1966 8 Article 4 (a) of this Convention states that States Parties “shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as actions of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof”. Paragraph (b) of the same article states that States Parties “shall declare illegal and prohibit organisations, and also organised and all other propaganda activities, which promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognise participation in such organisations or activities as an offence punishable by law”. 9 O’Herlihy, *The Cybercrime Convention: A pioneering Text of International Legal Scope?*; 2003; *Hibernian Law Journal*. 10 Keyser; *The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime*; 12 Florida State University Journal of Transnational Law and Policy; at 287; 2003. 11 See the Council of Europe Website for more information at: <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc07/EDOC11325.htm>

as well as improve the ability of Parties to make use of the international co-operation set out in the Convention. It has currently been signed by 30 and ratified by 11 Member States of the Council of Europe.⁽¹²⁾

In Ireland the Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989, created the offence of publishing or distributing material, broadcasting visual images or sounds or using words that are abusive or threatening and are likely or intended to stir up hatred. The Government has been promising to review this legislation since 2001, and it has long been suggested that the Internet be considered within the terms of the revised legislation.⁽¹³⁾ Currently Ireland monitors the Internet via a system of self regulation through the Internet Advisory Board, Internet Public Hotline and the Internet Service Providers Association of Ireland (ISPAI)⁽¹⁴⁾, with support from the EU Safer Internet Action Plan⁽¹⁵⁾.

COMBATING HATE SPEECH

The central difficulty of dealing with hate speech has not been its excoriation, but rather the means by which this is best achieved. Anti-Semites, racists, Islamaphobes, Holocaust deniers etc have not disappeared. Fascist and far-right politics are once again hitting the headlines and gaining electoral ground. Some would therefore say that the success of the incitement and dignity based legislation promoted across much of the world, and the near absolutist approach in the United States, has been marginal. The internet is further assisting the promulgation of hate crime.

Practically and legally, combating online extremism is enormously difficult. The First Amendment's protection of free speech shields most extremist propaganda, and Internet Service Providers (the private companies that host most extremist sites) may freely choose whether to house these sites or not. When providers choose not to host hateful sites, these sites migrate easily to the computers of services without such restrictions. Furthermore, the size of the Web, which contains hundreds of millions of distinct pages, complicates efforts to identify extremist material.⁽¹⁶⁾ The Simon Wisenthal Center identified about 70 websites disseminating racist

content in 1996. By 2006 this figures was at more than 5,000.⁽¹⁷⁾

In a number of recent decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed that the U.S. Government may not regulate the content of Internet speech to an extent greater than it may regulate speech in more traditional areas of expression such as the print media, the broadcast media, or the public square. While courts may take into account the Internet's vast reach and accessibility, they must still approach attempts to censor or regulate speech online from a traditional constitutional framework.⁽¹⁸⁾ This provides vast freedom for those all over the world who want to disseminate hate speech on the Internet.

CONCLUSION

Disagreement is healthy and needs protection, but it also requires limitations. The American approach has traditionally been too liberal. Free expression may operate in a way that undermines respect for people and damages society as a whole. It can harm people's dignity and self-respect and it threatens other freedoms, including the freedom to participate in civil society on an equal footing. It is clear that legislation on its own is inadequate. Simply restricting hate speech will not create the desired results. Education, integration, and understanding must be promoted alongside basic legislation to create communities which accept differences as positive and enriching. As part of the National Action Plan Against Racism, the Centre for Criminal Research in the University of Limerick is undertaking research on the effectiveness of Ireland's criminal legislation to combat racism. Part of this research will focus on the internet and other forms of 'cybercrime'. However it is also important to note that flanking strategies such as the role of internet hotlines; 'naming and shaming' through the media and measures that can be taken by Internet Service Providers against websites that flaunt ISP rules are also important mechanisms of dealing with this form of racism. Further information can be found in chapter three of the NCCRI publication 'Seeking Advice and Redress Against Racism in Ireland' www.nccri.ie The Research under the National Action Plan Against Racism will be published in November 2007.

¹² <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Reports/Html/t189.htm> ¹³ See NCCRI newsletter, Aug 2001 - *Racism on the Internet*. ¹⁴ Established in 1998 by the Irish Internet Service Providers. ¹⁵ <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/iap/> ¹⁶ http://www.adl.org/issue_combating_hate/tofaq_extremist_online.asp ¹⁷ *The fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow up of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action*. Note by the Secretary-General. A/59/329. 7 Sept 2004, para.29. ¹⁸ http://www.adl.org/issue_combating_hate/tofaq_extremist_online.asp

THE UNESCO CONVENTION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY – AN INTRODUCTION

Majella Ní Chríocháin, University College Galway

The UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), which entered into force on 18 March 2007, has been described as the Magna Carta of international cultural policy.

(1) The Convention recognises that cultural diversity forms a common heritage of humanity, is indispensable for peace and security, is a strategic element in development and that cultural activities, goods and services have both an economic and a cultural value and therefore must not be treated as mere commodities. (2) Ireland has ratified the Convention, as has the EU, and competency for implementing its provision will therefore be shared between the two. The following is a brief examination of the main provisions of the Convention.

The Convention has its genesis in concerns that the growing globalisation of culture, allied to the growing trend towards the liberalisation of trade in goods and services in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), is endangering the richness of the diversity of cultures worldwide and leading to monoculturalism. The overall trend in the WTO, which governs trade in goods, services and in intellectual property, is towards progressive liberalisation, an end to trade barriers and to the subsidisation of domestic products and industries, including cultural goods and services – this is the

The Convention has its genesis in concerns that the growing globalisation of culture, allied to the growing trend towards the liberalisation of trade in goods and services in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), is endangering the richness of the diversity of cultures worldwide and leading to monoculturalism.

fundamental principle to which WTO Members commit. The Convention is essentially a response to this trend and a reaffirmation of States' rights to implement policies to protect cultural diversity.

There are three major pillars to the Convention. The first relates to the right of State Parties to formulate and implement cultural policies and to adopt measures to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions, defined as those that 'result from the creativity of individuals, groups and societies, and that have cultural content.' (3) The measures which a State Party may take include regulatory and fiscal measures in support of cultural activities, cultural actors, the cultural industries and institutions, the media and the languages used for cultural activities, goods and services. (4) These measures could prove to be in violation of the 'National Treatment' principle, a fundamental principle



agreements, guaranteeing that imported goods and services are treated the same as domestic ones. Article 6 then must be viewed in conjunction with Articles 20 and 21, which outline the relationship of the Convention to other treaties.

Article 20 states that without subordinating the Convention to any other treaty, Parties shall foster mutual supportiveness between the Convention and the other treaties to which they are parties⁽⁵⁾ and shall take into account the provisions of the Convention when interpreting and applying other treaties to which they are parties, or when entering into other international obligations.⁽⁶⁾ It also states however that nothing in the Convention shall be interpreted as modifying rights and obligations of the Parties under any other treaties to which they are parties.⁽⁷⁾ A common sense approach and one supported by the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT)⁽⁸⁾ would be to suggest that where conflicts arise,

The weakness in this provision is that it is for the State Party to determine that such a special situation exists, which means that only cultural expressions which the State recognises, which it recognises as being valuable and therefore warranting protection and which it recognises as being under serious threat will be afforded protection.

as between the provisions of the Convention and other existing treaties to which a State is party, the provisions of the existing treaty shall take precedence, but that when entering into new treaties, States undertake to ensure that their provisions are consistent with the Convention.

Article 21 states that Parties under-take to promote the objectives and principles of the Convention in other international fora and State Parties should therefore when involved, for example, in trade negotiations at the WTO, argue for cultural goods and services to be treated differently. How successful they might be will depend ultimately on whether or not the Convention is universally or almost universally ratified. The WTO Appellate Body has shown itself willing to take into account treaties which had not been ratified by all of the disputing parties, referring for example to provisions in environmental treaties which expressed the 'contemporary concerns of the community of nations.'⁽⁹⁾ An international Convention such as this, if ratified by an overwhelming majority of States, most of whom would

also be WTO members, could also potentially be viewed as expressing the contemporary concerns of the community of nations and so could conceivably be taken into account in WTO dispute settlements, even if one or more of the parties, like the US, is not a party to the Convention. At the time of writing, the Convention has been ratified by 63 states.

PROTECTING AND PROMOTING CULTURAL DIVERSITY DOMESTICALLY

The second major pillar of the Convention relates to measures to promote and protect cultural expressions and will be of particular interest to women, members of minorities and to indigenous peoples. Under Article 7.1, State Parties 'shall endeavour to create in their territory an environment which encourages individuals and social groups:

- a) To create, produce, disseminate, distribute and have access to their own cultural expressions, paying due attention to the special circumstances and needs of women as well as various social groups, including persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples;
- b) To have access to diverse cultural expressions from within their territory as well as from other countries of the world.

The requirement that States 'shall endeavour' to create an encouraging environment is a relatively weak obligation and this Article, read in the light of the sample list of measures outlined in Article 6, is probably most useful as a model on which States could base their policies and a political tool which civil society, particularly in developing countries could use to exert pressure on their governments to adopt appropriate cultural policies. Parties will likely be asked in their reports to the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC), (charged with drafting reporting and operating guidelines and with overseeing implementation of the Convention), to outline measures taken, including regulatory and fiscal measures, in support of minority groups' institutions, cultural expressions, cultural operators and media. This could be a useful political tool for groups wishing to push for greater policy commitments in support of the cultural expressions of minorities. The Convention specifically states that Parties shall encourage the participation of civil society in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the Convention⁽¹⁰⁾ and there would be a role here

for organisations like the NCCRI and groups representing minority groups in Ireland.

Article 8 provides that States may determine the existence of special situations 'where cultural expressions on their territories are at risk of extinction, under serious threat, or otherwise in need of urgent safeguarding' and may take all appropriate measures to protect and preserve those cultural expressions, as long as they are consistent with the provisions of the Convention. The weakness in this provision is that it is for the State Party to determine that such a special situation exists, which means that only cultural expressions which the State recognises, as being valuable and therefore warranting protection and which it recognises as being under serious threat will be afforded protection. Article 10, which states that Parties shall promote understanding of the importance of cultural diversity, including through educational and public awareness programmes, will also be of interest to minority groups.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The third pillar of the Convention, relating to international cooperation for development, is contained in Articles 14 to 18. The most important provisions are that Parties shall facilitate preferential treatment for artists, cultural professionals and cultural goods and services from developing countries;⁽¹¹⁾ that they facilitate the mobility of artists from developing countries;⁽¹²⁾ technology transfer and collaboration, particularly in the areas of music and film, between developed and developing countries;⁽¹³⁾ and that they provide financial support through an International Fund for Cultural Diversity.⁽¹⁴⁾

Most of the obligations in these Articles, like others in the Convention are however very weak - Parties 'shall endeavour', 'shall encourage', 'shall facilitate'. To the disappointment of many developing countries, contributions to the International Fund for Cultural Diversity are voluntary. Germany's UNESCO Commission suggested that an amount equivalent to 1% of members' subvention to UNESCO should be donated to the Fund. In Ireland's case, that would be a mere €15,000, although the Department with responsibility for implementing the Convention in Ireland, the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, has indicated that it would likely make a more significant contribution. The EU has announced that it will provide €30m

for an EU-ACP (Asia, Caribbean and Pacific) Cultural Fund (distinct from the Convention's Fund) to support the distribution, and in some cases the production of ACP cultural goods.⁽¹⁵⁾ If this is indicative of the level of funds to be committed by the world's largest trading block then developing countries have reason to be disappointed.

While the Convention is generally weak in terms of its substantive obligations, it does however fill a lacuna in international law in that it is a binding instrument which places concerns about cultural diversity on a par with concerns about biodiversity and the environment. While it does not treat of cultural diversity in its broadest sense, it represents a pragmatic response to the threat of monoculturalism posed by increasing globalisation and the increasing liberalisation of trade. How effective it will prove to be in protecting and promoting diversity in cultural expressions will depend on how many States ratify it and how diligent they are in implementing its provisions. The IGC who will meet for the first time in December 2007 will also have a pivotal role to play - if they take an expansive view of their brief, they will not limit themselves to providing reporting and monitoring guidelines but will also develop legal opinions on how conflicts between the Convention's provisions and that of other treaties, in particular trade agreements and WTO rules, may be resolved.



¹ From the German Commission to UNESCO's website <http://www.unesco.de/60.html?&L=1&L=1> Accessed 6 Aug 2007 ² Preamble to the Convention ³ Convention, Article 4.3 ⁴ Convention, Article 6 ⁵ Article 20.1 (a) ⁶ Article 20.1 (b) ⁷ Article 20.2 ⁸ Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties 1969 Article 26 ⁹ US - Shrimp WTO Appellate Body Report, US-Import Prohibition of Certain Shrimp and Shrimp Products, WT/DS58/AB/R adopted 12 Oct 1998 at para 129 ¹⁰ Article ¹¹ Article 16 ¹² Article 14 (a) (v) ¹³ Article 14 (a) (vi) ¹⁴ Article 18 ¹⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a European agenda for culture in a globalizing world {SEC(2007) 570}/*COM/2007/0242 final*/10 May 2007

3RD ANNUAL SCHOOLS AGAINST RACISM

POETRY COMPETITION

Jennifer Wallace, Community & Development Officer, NCCRI

To mark Intercultural and Anti-Racism Week 2007, the NCCRI and Poetry Ireland in association with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland held the 3rd Annual Schools Against Racism Poetry Competition. The competition was open to all young people attending 2nd level education in Ireland, North and South. This is the third year of the competition, which has 5,000 entries since 2005.

The competition aims to raise awareness among young people for the need to tackle racism in all its manifestations and to promote an intercultural Ireland based on principles of mutual respect and equality. Reflecting on the competition, poet Paula Meehan said, *“The entries reveal a powerful sense of justice and compassion. They also illustrate terrifying instances of bullying and racial abuse. This competition allows important issues come out into open discussion in the classrooms.”*

This year, President Mary McAleese presented the winning poets with their prizes at a special awards ceremony that took place in the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. The President remarked on the quality and talent of the poems and the ability of the young people to capture the nuances of an intercultural Ireland. She commented on the importance of challenging racism, and how the young poets were leaders in promoting a positive and intercultural Ireland.

The organisers of the event would like to especially thank distinguished poets and academic, Paula Meehan, Colette Nic Aodha and Jean Pierre Imbert who judged the competition and undertook the difficult task of selecting the winners.

SENIOR WINNER AND OVERALL WINNER

Maria Coyle

Eureka Secondary School, Kells, Co. Meath

Help!!!

I cry for help “pal_dz_ba!”
 But nobody answers because I am Latvian.
 “Ajutor!” I cry,
 But nobody turns because I am Romanian.
 “NOMO__!” I plead,
 But I am ignored because I am Russian.
 “Appi!” I scream,
 But I am invisible because I am Estonian.
 “Help!” I whisper
 And my country comes running.



Maria Coyle reading her poem

Kerri Ward

Assumption Secondary School, Walkinstown, Dublin 12

Dark Satin

The darkest depths of night hold the white heat of the sun.
Your hand curls round mine.
You know how they talk, tongues hissing,
spitting and railing like rattlesnakes
but no matter. You are my knight and my night.
My balance. A harmony of darkness and light.

Your skin touching my skin, our fingers entwined;
we are alight with passion, but you never burn me;
your palm is cool against the nape of my neck.
You hold me so gently, rock me like a baby,
and together we gaze at the brilliance of the moon,
the complexity of the night sky, freckled with stars.
They stare too, eyes fisted with fury.
Ignorance, pigs! Closed and tight-hearted.
Let's pull the colour from their eyes,
rinse them of yellow sunshine and blue skies.
Let them know true purity, true white;
white mornings and the white nights of insomnia.
What makes a night sky beautiful but
ripples of dark satin, that insatiable depth?
The worm has turned, the snakes are all sleeping.
The stars turn blindly from me, cold as damp stone.
The moon is a shadowed eye, now growing dull.
Each day bleeds to nothing, I flicker fluorescent.
Days, nights are flint-coloured, empty; they've won,
your hand is gone from mine now, I'm all but lost.
The sun rises, sets, a weak change of light.
Endlessly, the sky hangs grey above me.

GUEST LANGUAGE WINNER

Benjamin Burns

Abbey Community College, Boyle

Dans un Rayon de Soleil

Enfants des étoiles, prenez mes mains,
L'avenir s'étend devant nous
comme un tapis, étincillant, multicolore
et la parole est à vous.

Je me réveille dans un rayon de soleil
et permettez-moi de me présenter.
Je suis n'importe qui,
et parce-que je suis un rêveur
je sens que c'est un bon jour.
Je me sens joyeux quand je me réveille,
je suis plein de confiance!
Je suis sûr de moi! Cependant
J'ai tort, c'est-à-dire
quand je sors avec mes amis
je me rends compte de la réalité honteuse
qui saute devant mes yeux à la télé
et dans les journaux, le racisme
et la violence dans les rues,
des luttes tribales, des attaques brutales,
du verre cassé et des familles rompues.
Je vois mes frères et me vois moi-même,
nous sommes tous égaux et en vérité
personne ne prend la responsabilité
mais nous portons tous la culpabilité.

Je rêve, mes amis, d'un monde
où toute race est égale,
où le ciel nous est ouvert.
La parole est à nous.
J'espère que nous nous réveillerons
dans un rayon de soleil.

In a Sun Beam

Translated by Jean-Philippe Imbert

Children of the star, hold my hands,
the future lies in front of us
as a sparkling, colourful carpet,
and you can talk.

I wake up in a sun beam,
let me introduce myself.
I am anybody,
and because I am a dreamer,
I feel this is a good day.
I feel happy waking up,
I trust the future.
I am full of hope, yet
I am wrong, as
when I go out with friends
I am aware of the shameful reality
which jumps at me, from TV
from newspapers, racism
and street violence,
tribal wars, brutal attacks
broken glass and shattered families.
I can see my friends and myself,
we are all equal to be honest,
no one is responsible
but we are all guilty.

My friends, I dream of a world
where all races would be equal,
where the sky is open to all.
We have the power of speech.
I hope we will wake up
in a sun beam.
Insert emailed photographs



Des Geraughty, Chairperson Poetry Ireland, Benjamin Burns, President Mary McAleese, Kerri Ward, Maria Coyle, Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson NCCRI



President Mary McAleese



Maria Coyle with judges, Colette Nic Aodha, Paula Meehan and Jean-Philippe Imbert

DUTCH SINTI, ROMA AND TRAVELLERS:

PROJECTS, POLICIES AND EUROPEAN INFLUENCES

Peter Jorna, Forum, Utrecht, Specialist on Roma & Sinti Issues



On the International Holocaust Commemoration Day, January 27, Sinti representatives referred to the actual situation of Sinti and Roma in the Netherlands as being 'far from good'. The main problems exist in the following areas:

1. **Housing:** restrictions on life style in mobile homes, shortage in the supply of sites
2. **Education:** disproportional enrolment in special education facilities
3. **Employment:** loss of traditional occupations and dependency on social benefits
4. **Participation:** marginalisation, (self) exclusion and discrimination (although this is hardly documented – see *Monitor Racism and the Extreme Right: Sinti and Roma*⁽¹⁾).

Prospects for more to tackle these problems is offered by the Compensation Fund for Sinti and Roma, created in 2001 by the Dutch government and managed by a new foundation⁽²⁾. Recently, the Foundation published a portfolio (2006–2010), consisting of approximately 50 projects on identified core areas including education, social inclusion, employment, culture and music, documentation and expertise. The latter items will be elaborated into a project which will be covered until 2012. The framework may show symptoms of a 'National Action Plan', but is not embedded in an overall policy. So far, it is a collection of elaborated ideas, pilots and some

of the mentioned projects are already running. What they all have in common is essential government involvement but commitment is still lacking at local and national level.

The working method is indeed promising developing from the bottom up through advisory groups serving as think tanks and composed of specialists on all levels including Sinti and Roma themselves. The big challenge now is to interconnect and coordinate this dazzling patch work of initiatives and transfer them into coherent strategies aiming at sustainable development.

DUTCH POLICY

At a national level there is a policy 'gap' concerning Sinti, Roma and Travellers. In multi-ethnic Dutch society, other issues (such as radicalisation) and larger minority groups (for instance the Turkish, Surinamese and Moroccans, each accounting for more than 300.000 people) are prominent on the political agenda. Roma, Sinti and Travellers were once grouped together and functioned organisationally within the national consultation structure for minorities, but direct representation finally disappeared after the repeal of the Caravan Act (1918–1999)⁽³⁾. Processes of decentralisation and of 'normalisation' were meant to transfer priorities and responsibilities related to the communities from a central State level to a local level (municipalities, housing corporations, schools, etc.)⁽⁴⁾.

¹ <http://www.annefrank.org/upload/downloads/roma%20en%20sinti%20engels.pdf>. ² This Fund is dedicated to the Sinti and Roma rooted in the Netherlands and hit by WWII, partly allocated to individual (descendants of) victims and partly to so called 'collective goals'. Projects should aim at the promotion of Sinti and Roma culture, as well to the social inclusion of Sinti and Roma. The foundation falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport (Unit War Victims and Remembrance of WWII). Report: 'Sporen nalaten', stichting Rechtsherstel Sinti en Roma, Mei 2007. ³ Estimates of this population may vary, but in general accounts for 40.000 persons, of which approximately 25% are Sinti and Roma. Roughly 50% of the Sinti and Roma is living in mobile homes, like the Travellers. ⁴ Compared to the centralization policy in mid 20th century when large 'camps' were created in 50 municipalities, nowadays 80% of all (443) Dutch municipalities contain 1.140 downsized locations ('camps') within their boundaries, counting for 8.089 sites for mobile homes. There still is a shortage of 2.000 sites, officially (Regioplan, August 2006).



Education and Housing are the areas that still show traces of a former centrally steered policy. Parts of the educational disadvantages have successfully been overcome through special projects spread all over the country. At its height, in 1996, a network existed of 36 Councillors coaching pupils at school, and mediating between school and parents on the camps (1985–2007). This good practice is now unfortunately fading away while hopefully some of the successful principles will be covered in the new projects of the Compensation Fund (for example Sinti and Roma class assistants, and women trained as mediators in public health and care issues).

Innovative projects on Housing, however, will not be covered by the Compensation Fund, with the (ambiguous) argument that this policy area interferes with spatial planning and belonging to the responsibility of public authorities. Here, the Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning comes into view. A focus needs to be put on the physical, infrastructural aspects of this lifestyle. Policy is focused on the problem of law enforcement as ‘Camps’ are, in public opinion as well as in terms of policy, considered ‘no go areas’ and recently redefined to as ‘Freeplaces’. The fact that the central and local governments are quite able to interfere in a joint effort is illustrated by raids that took place in 2003 and 2004 on the large Traveller-location called Vinkenslag (at the margins of the city of Maastricht). This

is part of a long lasting sequence of issues in which governments show zero-tolerance which leaves few options open for Sinti, Roma and Travellers who prefer to live in mobile homes. Examples include:

- Nul option: no space for those who wish to live in a mobile home and quickly removing vacant sites and offering other forms of housing
- Decomposition and ongoing demise of locations
- Neutral policy with no specific but situational policy.

EUROPEAN CONTEXT

Added to the perspectives as well as constraints touched on above (see Projects and National policy) the Council of Europe offers some useful, binding and specific instruments. The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which puts heavy weight on education and participation was ratified by the government in 2005. The fact that Sinti and Roma have been excluded from the definition, will probably raise ‘reasons for concern’ in the Council’s monitoring process⁽⁵⁾. The Dutch government also recognised the Romani-language when it was ratified by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in 1996. Recommendations, as formulated in the second country report, asked for a more pro-active and communicative policy of the government concerning Sinti and Roma.

The third country report, which allowed for the first time a considerable amount of NGO (a.o. Sinti and Roma) participation, will be finished next year.

Another body of the CoE; the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), which could be used as an advocacy tool, recently visited the Netherlands for the third time. ECRI started to mention Sinti and Roma (among the 'vulnerable groups') in its second country report (2001), referring to the low participation in primary and secondary education, unemployment and the high level of societal prejudice. Of special concern were the tense relations between Sinti, Roma and Travellers on the one side, and local governments, housing associations and local population on the other. ECRI recommended not only the development of policies at local levels, but a steering role at the central government also⁽⁶⁾.

At EU level the Race-directive (2000) is of importance and will contribute to a better implementation of the existing normative and advisory framework. Nowadays, the NPRD is taking the Roma and Sinti issue seriously, although direct representation within this body of civil organisations remains difficult for several reasons. The Committee of Equal Treatment is regularly dealing with complaints referring to particular residential backgrounds, such as (non) delivery of goods and commodities at campsites and the (non)assurance of mobile homes.

Still rare today are specific (EU/Equal) projects on employment for Roma and Travellers in the Netherlands. One example of good practice is a long term project with intensive coaching of Sinti adolescents (entrepreneurship in music, crafts, or wage labour) but this needs more time than the actual three year period given.

By way of a conclusion, projects are there, but they need to be entangled in governmental commitment and policies in the long run. The European context could work out useful in bringing back and keeping issues on the agenda. A lot of energy remains to be invested, as is illustrated by the report on discrimination in the European Union where being a Roma is a disadvantage in society, according to 82% of Dutch interviewed⁽⁷⁾.

The Sinti, Roma and Traveller population in the Netherlands is very diverse. Usually the following cross cutting classifications are maintained in research and policy:

- **Historical Residence and Immigration**
Main periods of immigration: 15th century (1420), 19th century (1865), 20th century (before and after WWII, among other migrants and refugees).
- **Lifestyle and Housing**
There are two styles of living among the Sinti and Roma in the Netherlands: in mobile homes (but fixed on campsites), and in houses, located in common neighbourhoods in urban areas. The latter are the formerly called 'foreign gypsies' (Roma), which were granted with a General Pardon by the Dutch government in 1977. They underwent an integration process typified as the 'pressure cooker' model, but they are still living on the edge of society⁽⁴⁸⁾.

Peter Jorna, Cultural Anthropology MA FORUM, Program of Social Cohesion Roma and Sinti Issues Member for the Netherlands of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers Issues (Council of Europe)

⁵ Only the Frisians in the Northern province of Friesland fit in the definition, according to the five criteria maintained by the government: Dutch nationality, own identity (i.t.o. language, culture, history), willing to preserve this identity, of old residence on Dutch territory, living within a specific region (Second Chamber of Parliament, 03-04, 26389, nr.9, p. 4-5). ⁶ ECRI, Second report on the Netherlands, CRI (2001) 40, pp. 14-15. ⁷ Special Eurobarometer 263 *Discrimination in the European Union*, 2007, pp.

IRELAND'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson, NCCRI

The NCCRI welcomes the adoption of the Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Ireland's implementation of the Council's Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities.

The Resolution expressed concern that 'Travellers continue to be exposed to discrimination in different contexts and negative societal attitudes

There is also a need to ensure that any changes to complaints mechanisms – such as the transfer of non-discrimination cases concerning licensed premises from the Equality Tribunal to the District Court – are monitored for accessibility and effectiveness of remedies and adequate resourcing of the structures.

towards them and certain new minority groups persist.' Comments on the need for further action in the areas of Traveller accommodation and education provided a good start for the new government in implementing Traveller accommodation plans and the Report and Recommendations for a Traveller Education Strategy. As the Resolution states, all require participation by Traveller representatives, ensuring effective participation by Traveller representatives in the various bodies dealing with Traveller issues. There is also a need to ensure that any changes to complaints mechanisms – such as the transfer of non-discrimination cases concerning licensed premises from the Equality Tribunal to the District Court – are monitored for accessibility and effectiveness of remedies and adequate resourcing of the structures.

The Resolution notes that Ireland has taken a number of steps to advance implementation of the Convention through the institutional framework of laws to combat discrimination

and through strategies such as the National Action Plan Against Racism. The authorities are also actively seeking solutions to address new challenges resulting from the expanding diversity of the country. The Resolution notes the need for further steps to accommodate the growing diversity of Irish Schools in relation to the increasing demand for nondenominational or multi-denominational schools.

The Framework Convention is the first legally binding multi-lateral instrument devoted to the protection of national minorities. The framework involves setting out objectives which leave States a degree of discretion in their implementation. The Convention adopts a programmatic approach which encourages states to include persons from various groups within the reporting frame on an article by article basis.

Ireland's First Report under the Convention was submitted in November 2001, followed by an Advisory Committee visit, and adoption of the Committee of Minister's Resolution in May 2004. Ireland's 2nd Report was submitted in December 2005 following a process which included a call for submissions and a seminar for interested groups (July 2005). The Second Report visit took place 29–31 May, 2006. The Opinion derived from the visit, report and supporting material was finalised by the Advisory Committee in October 2006. The Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe is based on the Opinion, taking into account responses to it, from the Irish Government through the Dept. of Foreign Affairs Council of Europe Division. The Dept. of Justice, Equality and Law Reform Equality Division has lead responsibility at national level for coordination of responses to matters raised by Convention.

THE SYNERGY INITIATIVE –

PROGRESS, PLANS & ANALYSIS

Joe Lenaghan, Regional Development Officer, Synergy Project

'An overarching issue was the need to develop strategies that highlight issues of concern for minority ethnic groups to policy makers and to enhance the participation of minority ethnic groups in the decision making process.'

INTRODUCTION

It is almost three years since NCCRI secured European Union support under the INTERREG₃ Programme and launched the SYNERGY North South Intercultural Initiative, establishing the NCCRI Regional Office in Dundalk, Co Louth. In this article we consider some of the achievements and recommendations for the future arising from a recent independent evaluation.

From the outset, establishing this initiative was a significant next step in the development of the NCCRI's North South strategy, '*Developing a North South Anti Racism Strategy*', jointly published in 2001 by the NCCRI and Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. SYNERGY is supported by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) through Co-operation Ireland, Area Development Management and the Combat Poverty Agency (the Interreg Community Partnership), and is operated in partnership with around twenty other agencies including voluntary and community groups and trades union organisations north and south. Through this partnership approach it has aimed to *build a community based intercultural service delivery framework* with equality and human rights agencies, NGOs, trades unions, local authorities, Government Departments and EU bodies, focussing on the Border Counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The overall thrust was to develop strategies for the inclusion of minority ethnic groups, with a specific focus on the participation of minority ethnic groups in the planning, implementation and delivery of service provision. The need to enhance North/South strategies was a key outcome of the consultative process leading to the National Action Plan Against Racism (NPAR).





Through our work in recent years in the NCCRI a number of key issues emerged which provided a strong policy focus for the SYNERGY initiative. These included for example; the rights of migrant workers and their families, the need to ensure that all forms of service provision build in an intercultural focus

To go some way in achieving enhanced participation, key objectives were identified for the SYNERGY initiative and include:

- To consult with minority ethnic groups and to identify opportunities for integrated cross border service delivery and policy development 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 services for marginalised and disadvantaged minority 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.

Much of this was to be achieved through the promotion of a partnership model between government and the community sector, on a North-South basis, supporting the implementation of a community development approach in cross-border policy development. These were ambitious goals on a limited budget but the recent evaluation of the SYNERGY initiative

“The North South Intercultural Forum has become an effective vehicle for networking, information sharing and the development of actual project ideas among participants who might otherwise not have the opportunity to discuss their own activities with other key stakeholders.”

has demonstrated that the strategic and sustained approach taken over the past three years has achieved significant outcomes so far and thus has set the scene for the further developments.

SYNERGY'S NORTH SOUTH INTERCULTURAL FORUM

One of the key structures created by the SYNERGY initiative has been the *North South Intercultural Forum* which was complimented by a series of North South Roundtables to give particular focus to key areas such as Traveller and immigration policy for example.

SYNERGY endeavoured to create a structured link between statutory, non-statutory and community-based service providers and to positively influence the strategic development of interculturalism in Ireland as a whole. The North South Intercultural Forum has become an effective vehicle for networking, information sharing and the development of actual project ideas among participants who might otherwise not have the opportunity to discuss their own activities with other key stakeholders.

The Forum involved key stakeholders in the border region meeting quarterly to identify key issues of concern and to develop consensus approaches. For example, the first Forum focused on the challenges for employment policy and employment services emerging as a consequence of inward migration. One of the outcomes of this has been the development of north south cooperation measures between the Department of Employment and Learning (NI) and the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (ROI) around, enforcement of migrants workers rights, information sharing and monitoring employment agencies through the development of a Migrant Workers Strategy in the North. Subsequent Forum meetings have focused on housing and accommodation with a specific focus on Traveller accommodation, the achievement of minority ethnic children in schools, including a focus on Traveller children, and European, national and regional funding policies to support the capacity of minority ethnic groups in Ireland, north and south. Outcomes from these Forums have included a major piece of Government research (with participation from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive) on the possible implications of greater ethnic and cultural diversity for housing, as well as increased cooperation between the Department of Education (NI) and the Department of Education and Science (ROI) around promoting interculturalism in schools and the development of English as an Additional Language policy and practice. Also, earlier this year NCCRI published the research report 'Improving Government Service Delivery

To Minority Ethnic Groups in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland'. Synergy was involved in a number of important dimensions of the research including facilitating the involvement of NGO's in the research, participating in the research advisory group and advising on the research implementation.

'The key service providers involved have been the Local Authority, HSE, FÁS, DSFA, Gardaí, Dept of Justice, Dept CREAGA, Pobal, the two employment partnerships in Dundalk and Drogheda. Examples of how the Local Authority has engaged with Synergy include their pro-active involvement in our development of an Anti-racism Strategy for Louth, both at a working group and steering group level. A huge amount of assistance was given to us by the staff in co-ordinating a successful application for border funding (with Newry and Mourne District Council) for a project focusing on the needs of ethnic minorities in both areas. Synergy's ongoing support in the area of statistics/translation services/information/contacts and advice has helped the social Inclusion unit deliver their work programme more effectively.'

A Local Authority Stakeholder on Cross border work with local authorities cooperating in developing Anti-Racism and Diversity Plans

Further work involves an ongoing action research project in collaboration with the two local employment partnerships in Drogheda and Dundalk funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund. SYNERGY is supporting a pilot programme aimed at helping groups of refugees into long term employment through a supported employment placement programme with local employers. The research will track the experiences of participants and identify barriers facing immigrants in accessing the local labour market. Drawing on best practice nationally and internationally it will also develop a model which could be replicated across the country, north and south.

CAPACITY BUILDING

SYNERGY has initiated a capacity building programme which involves community development agencies working in the border region. As part of its capacity building strategy, the *Racism Knows No Boundaries* anti racism training programme is targeted at voluntary and community organisations north and south. Unique to the programme was the north/south perspectives on racism and the different experiences across the region. As well as exploring prejudice and racism, the events provided an opportunity for a range of community based organisations working in and with Black and minority ethnic and Traveller communities, to demonstrate some of the work they do which helped participants to consider future possibilities for partnerships and strategic community interventions. A roll out of this successful programme is planned for the longer term.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Throughout its three years of operation, the SYNERGY Initiative has endeavoured to adopt a real and tangible partnership and community development approach to its cross-border networking activities by involving those groups who are most effected by the issues of racism. This approach, while perhaps not strictly new in its essence, is most certainly not how development appears to have taken place in the past. SYNERGY staff would contend that the Initiative has broken new ground in relation to the creation of real partnerships as a means to developing community and voluntary networks around the border region. The fore mentioned evaluation concluded that, given the SYNERGY North South Intercultural Initiative contributes overtly to all of the NCCRI's objectives, it is clear that the Programme creates a positive congruence with the NCCRI and will assist with the achievement of organisational aims. It is timely therefore to consider the way forward for this important North South strategic anti racism and intercultural initiative in the context of European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008 and consideration should positively be given to its longer term impact through the European Union's PEACE₃ proposals for 2007-2013.

The SYNERGY Project is supported by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme for Ireland/Northern Ireland



Publications in Detail

Review of the Latest Research on the Traveller Community in Ireland – New Research Shows no Improvement in Traveller's Health and Life Expectancy in 20 Years

'TRAVELLERS' LAST RIGHTS – RESPONDING TO DEATH IN A CULTURAL CONTEXT'

A recent publication *Travellers' Last Rights: Responding to Death in a Cultural Context* – shows that 80% of Travellers studied, died before the age of 65 years. Compiled by Jacinta Brack and Fr. Stephen Monaghan, the book contains new research showing significantly higher death rates and a younger age profile for specific causes of death among deceased Travellers, especially young men, when compared to national population statistics.

The publication presents a Traveller mortality study of all deaths responded to by them during the 10-year period, 1995–2004, in the Dublin area and is the first information of its kind to be published since 1987 when it was established that Traveller life expectancy was equivalent to that of settled people in Ireland in the 1940s. The book has two principle aims; to highlight new research and to examine factors affecting Travellers interactions with and uptake of, specific services at times of death, in order to improve contact between Travellers and for example hospital staff, clergy, Gardaí, prison chaplains and funeral undertakers.

The key research findings of Travellers aged two years and over include:

- 5 out of 10 people were deceased before their 39th birthday;
- 7 out of 10 people died before the age of 59 years;

- Cancer was the most common cause of death for females (25%);
- Road traffic accidents were the most common cause of death among males (22%);
- Men exclusively accounted for all suicide deaths, over three-quarters of whom were aged less than 39 years;
- Coronary illness (16%) and road traffic accidents (16%) were the most common causes of death among males and females combined, aged over two years and over.

Specific to infant death and those aged less than two years, it found:

- 38% of infants died as a result of sudden infant death syndrome;
- One quarter of all infant deaths were caused by a genetic condition.

When comparisons were made with national population statistics it showed a considerable disparity in the age, gender and pattern of Travellers deaths analysed. Specifically it found that 2.6 per cent of all deaths in the total population were for people aged under 25 versus 32 per cent in the Traveller data. Contained within that was a very high infant death rate and a high level in particular, of sudden infant death syndrome. It also found a higher than average death rate among younger Travellers and younger males in particular. Death rates were particularly high for Travellers in the areas of road traffic accidents, suicides and, to a less marked extent, accidental deaths generally. Deaths resulting from cancer and heart disease were significantly lower than the population average, as Travellers were deceased much younger from other causes.



The book is intended to improve contact between Travellers and service providers, for example, hospital staff, clergy, Gardaí, prison chaplains and funeral undertakers and provide information from which service providers can work based on the recommendations made within it.

Practical Use of the Publication

The book is intended to improve contact between Travellers and service providers, for example, hospital staff, clergy, Gardaí, prison chaplains and funeral undertakers and provide information from which service providers can work based on the recommendations made within it.

According to the co-author Jacinta Brack, *"Travellers report an alienation from services for a variety of reasons, sometimes experiencing hostility or a begrudging tolerance which has created challenges to their equality of access and their uptake of services. On the other hand, Travellers have sometimes been criticised for their lack of recognition of the systems, procedures and structures operating in areas of service provision. This book examines those barriers affecting Travellers' engagement with services specific to times of death and explores steps to provide solutions to them. Real improvements to Traveller's contact with services should in theory come about through changes in policy and practice but in reality will come about through real commitment by the individual and collective response and through positively targeting Travellers as a client group"*.





'TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS ON RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA 1997-2005 – COMBATING ETHNIC AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND PROMOTING EQUALITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'

Outlined within *Travellers' Last Rights* are a series of recommendations for hospital services; suicide and mental health services; the church and clergy; funeral undertakers; An Garda Síochána; and the prison service and include:

- Development and adoption of diversity policies by service providers, and positively naming and targeting Travellers to improve their engagement with the uptake of services;
- Appointment of culturally trained staff to liaise with patients and families responding to queries and ensuring clarity in the delivery of patient information;
- Adoption of anti-racism and intercultural training for all service provider personnel;
- Cultural information packs should be provided for all frontline staff, helping to reduce the information deficit and provide for a more positive engagement between Travellers and service providers;
- Active pursuance of a strategy to develop support services specific to Travellers' particular needs should form part of all current mental health programmes and other relevant services;
- Establishment of a national structure responsible for the pastoral care of Travellers;
- Appointment of specific cultural liaison staff within the service provider groups.

For further information please contact
Montague Communications at
www.montaguecomms.ie



This publication summarises and analyses relevant data and information collected by the RAXEN network since 2000. It provides a concise overview of multi-year trends in the fight against racism inside the EU, tracing the development of racism and related discrimination in the period from 1997 to 2005. It takes stock of the progress of EU and Member State initiatives to combat these phenomena. RAXEN is the European Racism and Xenophobia Network, established in the year 2000 by FRA's predecessor, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). It consists of national focal points in all EU Member States. The NCCRI is the National Focal Point for Ireland.

A PDF copy of this report is available from the Fundamental Rights Agency New Website:

<http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

OECD Latest Report on International Migration



'INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK'

International migration of both permanent and temporary immigrants increased once again in 2005. Overall, "permanent-type" legal immigration for both 2004 and 2005, inflows increased by about 11% in 2005 relative to 2004, following an increase of about 16% in 2004.

Ireland has seen large inflows of immigrants in recent years, largely as a result of EU enlargement, and now shows population increase due to migration of over 1% per year, among the highest observed in OECD countries. There are indications that the recent immigrant inflows have been oriented more towards low-skilled occupations than in the past. However, a new Employment Permit Act entered into force in January 2007, with a view to favouring skilled migration from non-EU/EFTA countries, which is still subject to regulation.

The largest increases in legal permanent-type immigration were observed in the United States (+164 000), the United Kingdom (+55 000) and Italy (+31 000). In relative terms, it was in the United Kingdom, Italy, and New Zealand that legal permanent-type immigrants increased the most. There was relative stability, on the other hand, in the magnitude of movements in France, Switzerland, Austria and Norway and a significant decline in Portugal. For countries where national statistics are being used, Ireland and Korea showed large increases in movements, as a result of developments related to EU enlargement in Ireland and of the introduction of a work permit system for less skilled migrants in Korea.

Ireland has seen large inflows of immigrants in recent years, largely as a result of EU enlargement, and now shows population increase due to migration of over 1% per year, among the highest observed in OECD countries.



Family migration continues to dominate among the inflows of permanent-type immigrants in 2005. This consists of family reunification and family formation (marriage) as well as the accompanying family of immigrant workers. Family migration represents as little as one third of all permanent-type migration in Japan and the United Kingdom but as high as 70% in the United States, whose migration regime is heavily family-based. In general, however, it accounts for between 45 and 60% of all permanent-type migration in most countries.

Many European countries, among them Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom, appear as important labour migration countries, with some 30 to 40% of permanent-type immigrants arriving for work-related reasons. This is larger than the percentages of labour migrants from some pro-active migration countries such as Canada and New Zealand. However, half to three quarters of labour migration in many European countries consists of the free movement of citizens of the European Union. Labour immigration from the rest of the world tends to be limited in EU countries except in the countries of southern Europe.

Since labour migrants tend to have better labour market outcomes than family or humanitarian migrants, one would expect the greater prevalence of these in European countries to be reflected in overall outcomes, all other things being equal. However, outcomes for European free movement migrants do not appear to be playing any strong compensating effects. The employment and unemployment rates of immigrants overall relative to those of the native-born do not appear especially favourable in many European countries compared to those of the so-called settlement countries.

Adapted from the International Migration Outlook (OECD 2007) Georges Lemaitre, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Directorate of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Non-member Economies & International Migration Division.



Football Association of Ireland Intercultural Plan



The Football Association of Ireland in conjunction with its key stakeholders has developed the first '*Intercultural Football Plan*'. The purpose of which is to examine how best, in the context of a more diverse Irish society, the Football Association of Ireland can encourage increased participation in football among people from minority ethnic and cultural backgrounds, whilst also challenging and preventing the spread of 'racism' within the game and thereby contribute towards a fully intercultural and integrated society.

Firstly, this plan seeks to understand both the important factors that can contribute to greater participation levels from minority communities, as well as those factors that act as barriers to participation. Secondly this plan sets out specific recommendations, tasks, actions, responsibilities and timeframes, as to how increased participation and a football environment that deals proactively with discrimination can be achieved.

Aims

The aim sums up what this plan is about and underpins the objectives that flow from it.

"To ensure every individual can feel *free* to become involved in football on a basis of *equality*, confident that they will be *welcome* if they do so, and to contribute thereby to an *integrated* society at ease with its growing diversity".

Objectives

Four overarching objectives have been formulated on the basis of extensive consultation and research.

- 1 Combat 'Racism' in football.
- 2 Promote participation among minority ethnic and multicultural communities.
- 3 Develop a culture of football which is dynamic and globally competitive.
- 4 Contribute to the wider process of integration.

Summary of Objective

1 Combat 'Racism' in football
Is treated as encompassing any form of xenophobia, not just directed at visible minorities. It includes attitudes hostile to the Travelling community and sectarian dispositions towards communities in Northern Ireland (and vice versa). This objective has three tasks associated with it, these being FAI to give leadership, clubs to show commitment and engagement with supporters.

2 Promote participation among minority ethnic and multicultural communities
This is about maximising the inclusiveness of football so that it becomes the most natural thing in the world for anyone in Ireland, including anyone from a minority background, to take part in the sport. It is about football sending out positive and welcoming signals. It is about ensuring that, in practical terms, participation is a real possibility. That way interculturalism can become a factor in the development of the game.

3 Develop a culture of football which is dynamic and globally competitive

Investment in developing a more globally competitive football culture can bring a steady improvement over the long term. As the world has come to Ireland, in human terms, in recent years, we now have had the opportunity of exposure to more diverse styles of play and perspectives on the game. Competing globally means thinking globally as well.

4 Contribute to the wider process of integration

Football is increasingly recognising its wider social responsibilities. And this extends to the arena of interculturalism, which is a larger challenge than football – or even sport-alone can meet. This also breaks down into two tasks. They are promoting integration in society through football, and contributing to integration more generally, including on the broader European canvas.

For information on specific tasks, actions, outcomes and timeframes got to:

http://www.sourcedesign.ie/13865_FAI_INTERCULTURAL_exec.pdf

European Commission Consults on the Future of Europe's Schools in the 21st Century



This public consultation addresses all those interested in the development of school education in Europe. The Commission's consultation document raises a series of issues that are deemed to be crucial for schools in Europe (such as schools and key competences, schools and social inclusion and the role of teachers, among others) on which contributions are sought.

Member States are responsible for the organisation and content of education and training systems, and the role of the European Union is to support them, for example through the new Lifelong Learning Programme or the 'Education and Training 2010 Work Programme', which facilitates the exchange of information, data and best practice through mutual learning.

Education lies at the centre of efforts to improve the Union's competitiveness and social cohesion. Some of the most important questions and challenges which have the greatest significance for the well-being of individuals and the good of society relate to the quality of initial education and training. It is against this background that the European Commission has decided to launch this public consultation to identify those aspects of school education on which joint action at European Union level could be effective in supporting Member States in the modernisation of their systems.

Eight different fields are particularly identified:

1 The curriculum:

How can schools be organised in such a way as to provide all pupils with the full range of key competences?

2 Lifelong Learning:

How can schools equip young people with the competences and motivation to make learning a lifelong activity?

3 The economy:

How can school systems contribute to supporting long-term sustainable economic growth in Europe?

4 Equity:

How can school systems best respond to the need to promote equity, to respond to cultural diversity and to reduce early school leaving?

5 Inclusion:

If schools are to respond to each pupil's individual learning needs, what can be done as regards curricula, school organisation and the roles of teachers?

6 Citizenship and democracy:

How can school communities help to prepare young people to be responsible citizens, in line with fundamental values such as peace and tolerance of diversity?

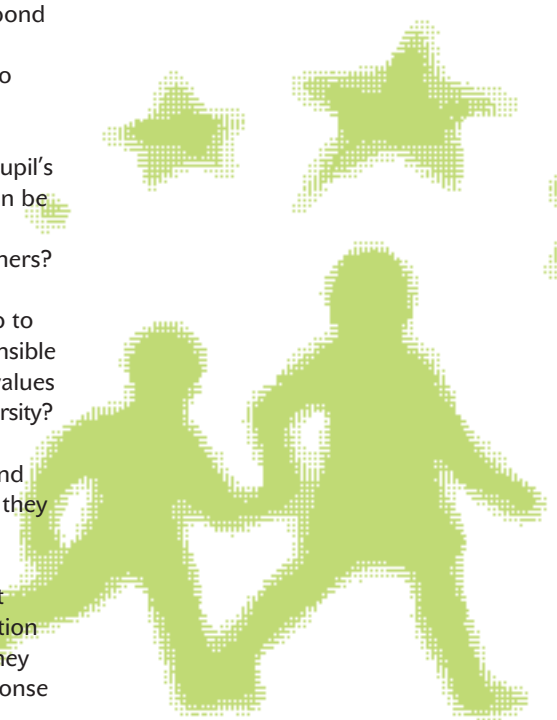
7 Teachers:

How can school staff be trained and supported to meet the challenges they face?

8 Management:

How can school communities best receive the leadership and motivation they need to succeed? How can they be empowered to develop in response to changing needs and demands?

The deadline to answer these questions is the 15 October 2007. For further information and how to contribute go to: http://ec.europa.eu/education/school21/index_en.html





Noticeboard

World Refugee Day Awards 2007

The celebration of the World Refugee Day Awards took place on the 20th of July at the Dublin Civic Offices and was yet again a huge success. The presentation of the Awards was attended by over three hundred participants. The Africa Centre and the organising committee would like to say thank you to everyone involved in this year's event.

Winners of World Refugee Day Awards 2007 include:

Community & Environment Category

Inspector Colm Fox & Reginald Oko-Flex Inya

Arts & Culture Category

Yvonne Murphy, Huda Jafer & Adil Jaber

Education & Youth Category

Yemisi Ojo & Rita Canavan

Health & Welfare Category

Helena Heagney, Brid Nichol & Juliet Amamure

Sports & Leisure Category

Brian Kerr & Fuden Patrice Manchungu

Special Judges Category

Sr. Breege Keenan & Khalid Ibrahim

PICTURE CREDITS

World Refugee Day Awards 2007

- Dublin Civic Offices:

Group, Left to Right, Back Row: Reginald Inya, Emeka Onwubiko, Rita Canavan, Adil Jaber, Mubarak Habib (organiser), Insp Colm Fox, Sister Breege, Malcolm O Eremionkhale, Yvonne Murphy, Fuden Ngu & Brid Nichol. Front Row: Richard Oyewole, Brian Kerr, Huda Jafer, Yemisi Ojo, Juliet Amamure & Helena Heagney.

Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson NCCRI and Inspector Colm Fox

Children's Voices of Ireland Choir



Community Links School Integration Programme

Since the publication of an article on the Community Links Schools Integration Programme by Ruth Diaz-Ufano, the project has received support funding to employ a Project Worker, Caroline Fahey.

Caroline is responsible for school resources and can be contacted at Community Links, School Integration Programme, 13 Gardiner Place, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8148644
Mobile: 086 1741414
Email: caroline.fahey@jrs.net



European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance – Third Report on Ireland

http://www.coe.int/t/E/human_rights/ecri/

Active Citizenship in Ireland; Main Taskforce Recommendations to the Government

www.activecitizen.ie

Irish Parties, Immigration and Integration in 2007

www.ucd.ie/mcri/ For further information please email: bryan.fanning@ucd.ie

ENAR Information Brochure

www.enar-eu.org/en/publication/infoleaflet_EN.pdf

NESF Report – Improving the Delivery of Quality Public Services in Ireland

www.nesf.ie

The Economic Contribution of Immigrants in Ireland

Barrett, Alan & Adele Bergin, (2007). In Bryan Fanning (ed.), *Immigration and Social Change in the Republic of Ireland*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

ENAR Fact Sheets: ENAR Fact Sheet 32

An overview of the key issues and challenges in securing effective political participation of Roma, Sinti and Traveller communities, drawing out broader issues of political participation of ethnic and religious minorities.

Read more: <http://www.enar-eu.org/en/factsheets/index.shtml>

Non-discrimination Mainstreaming – Instruments, Case Studies and Ways Forward'

Email: helpdesk@nondiscrimination-eu.info

UCC Migration Law Clinic: Casebook on Subsidiary Protection

www.ucc.ie/en/ccjhr/migrationlawclinic/

PICUM Guide: Undocumented Migrant Workers Have Rights! An Overview of the International Human Rights Framework

The publication costs €8 plus postage or can be downloaded in PDF format free of charge from their website www.picum.org.

EU Handbook on Integration Second Edition

www.europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO

Migrant Women in the EU EWL

www.womenlobby.org/SiteResources/data/MediaArchive/Publications/1817%20BR%20en%20MP01LR.pdf

OHCHR Annual Report

www.ohchr.org

From the Margin to the Centre – Capturing the Perspectives of Young People from European Minority Groups.

Fridrich Christian (Ed.) The book includes 7 languages and 2 CDs of the youth themselves. Go to: <http://www.ier-publications.fi/>

Recent Publications



EAPN Making our Voices Heard. A Publicity Guide for Activists and Workers in the Community/NGO Sector.

For further information please contact Justin Moran, European Anti Poverty Network Ireland, 5 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1.

T. 01-8745737 or Justin@eapn.ie

The Voice of the Traveller in an Inclusive Society – Conference Report

www.natc.ie

The African Voice Newspaper

For more information and application form email: infoafricanvoice@yahoo.ie

Tel: 087-2618184

Poverty Among Migrants in Europe

www.euro.centre.org/detail.php?xml_id=892

Left Out: Roma and Access to Health Care in Eastern and South Eastern Europe

This is a fact sheet produced by the Open Society Institute's Roma Health Project. For further information go to: <http://www.soros.org>

Recognition of Professional Qualifications in Ireland: An Analysis of the Role of Professional Bodies

www.integratingireland.ie

Irish Citizen Child Family Research

www.integratingireland.ie/cadic

Social Cohesion in Diverse Communities

An exploration of the relationships between new and established communities in ethnically diverse neighbourhoods. By Maria Hudson, Joan Phillips, Kathryn Ray and Helen Barnes. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/details.asp?pubID=887>

All Ireland Traveller Health Study

For Further Information Please Contact www.pavepoint.ie

Websites

REFUGEE UNITE

www.refunite.org has created a unique search engine designed to streamline and simplify the process of locating family members torn apart in their escape.

LEGAL AID BOARD

The Legal Aid Board has launched their revised website www.legalaidboard.ie

IRISH NATURALISATION & IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Go to www.inis.gov.ie. This covers information relating to the following services: visas, immigration, citizenship, asylum, repatriation, policy, statistics and legislation.



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. The National Action Plan Against Racism provides an intercultural framework based on the five themes of Protection, Inclusion, Provision, Recognition and Participation.



NCCRI

NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON RACISM & INTERCULTURALISM (NCCRI)

www.nccri.ie