

# INTERCULTURAL NEWS

Briefing Bulletin of Donegal Intercultural Platform

Spring 2018



Working for Interculturalism, Equality & Human Rights

## Report a Racist incident - New reporting centre for Donegal to open in March

The Donegal Intercultural Platform along with its partner organisation - **Donegal Travellers Project** are establishing a reporting centre and support service in Letterkenny to help people report incidents of a racist nature. We are offering a computer-based reporting system along with ENAR Ireland (European Network Against Racism - Ireland) who have developed the iReporting system along with Dr. Lucy Michael at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. ([go to www.ireport.ie](http://www.ireport.ie) to see the website)



### Why report racism?

People in Ireland experience or bear witness to incidences of racism every day, however for a variety of reasons the vast majority of racist incidents go unreported. We encourage reporting of ALL racist incidents, regardless of their perceived seriousness, to iReport.ie and relevant bodies. Never ignore racism – report it!

### iReport.ie Racist Incident Reporting System:

- Enables people who experience or witness racism and/or those supporting them to do something about it and break the silence.
- National, confidential and user-friendly way to report racism from any online device.
- Used for monitoring racism in Ireland.
- Provides evidence and data on racism in Ireland.
- Counters an increase in racism and a hardening of racist attitudes.
- Responds to the need to focus the discussion on finding solutions to racism.

### How will it work... You can report incidents 'on-line' or call to the reporting centre for assistance.

**Making a report.** You can make a report if you experienced, witnessed or heard of a racist incident. You can also do so on behalf of someone else (i.e. a service user or a friend). All racist incidents, including racist crime, discrimination or racist hate speech online etc., can be reported in confidence to [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie). This online based system allows its users to upload photos, screen grabs, videos, PDFs, audios and other files supporting their report. The reporting centre can help you with this.

**Confidentiality.** The information you provide is fully confidential and anonymous. With your permission, we may contact you for further details about your report to help us further understand the nature and context of the racist incident. We will never hand over information unless compelled to do so by the law.

**Data collection.** iReport.ie questions are designed to capture a large amount of detail about racist incidents, including information about where, when and how the incident occurred and details about the victim(s) and perpetrator(s). The system also captures information about why the incident has been perceived as racist, its impact on the victim and/or witnesses, and the interplay with age, gender, sexuality and disability. It also captures information about state agencies responses to people reporting racism to them. (continued on page 2.)

### Russian Community In Letterkenny invite you to their celebration

The Russian cultural group Matreshki are holding a celebration at Errigal College on Sunday 25th February from 12 noon. They hope guests will come and sample pancakes and enjoy traditional Russian dance and costumes. Everyone is most welcome and pancakes are on sale as a fundraiser for the group.



### International Mother Language Day Event at Letterkenny Community Centre, 25th February 11am to 3pm

The United Nations' (UN) International Mother Language Day (IMLD) annually celebrates language diversity and variety worldwide on February 21. It also remembers events such as the killing of four students on February 21, 1952, because they campaigned to officially use their mother language, Bengali, in Bangladesh. The fight for language diversity has a history, especially in countries such as Bangladesh.

### What Do People Do?

On IMLD the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UN agencies participate in events that promote linguistic and cultural diversity. They also encourage people to maintain their knowledge of their mother language while learning and using more than one language. Governments and non-governmental organizations may use the day to announce policies to encourage language learning and support. In Bangladesh, February 21<sup>st</sup> is the anniversary of a pivotal day in the country's history. People lay flowers at a *Shaheed Minar* (martyr's monument). They also: purchase glass bangles for themselves or female relatives; eat a festive meal and organise parties; and award prizes or host literary competitions. It is a time to celebrate Bangladesh's culture and the Bengali language.

The Linguapax Institute, in Barcelona, Spain, aims to preserve and promote linguistic diversity globally. The institute presents the Linguapax Prize on International Mother Language Day each year. The prize is for those who have made outstanding work in linguistic diversity or multilingual education.

**The newly formed Bangladeshi Association in Donegal would like to invite people living in the county, from all communities, to come and celebrate International Mother Language Day, and if people would like to read a story, sing a song or recite a poem – to do so in their own Mother Language! The event takes place at Letterkenny Community Centre, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February between 11am and 3pm.**

(abridged – full article will be available on the new Platform Website that will be launched in March 2018 as part of the Intercultural Community Engagement (ICE) Project for Health and Wellbeing, running from January to end of March as part of Healthy Ireland)



## Get involved in the Intercultural Platform!

The Donegal Intercultural Platform is a voluntary organisation made up of individual members and affiliated organisations who are interested in building inclusion and equality in Donegal and in promoting Human Rights and opposing discrimination and racism. We are a non-party political non-governmental organisation. We welcome all individuals and organisations as affiliates who support our aims and objectives. We are an active member of the Public Participation Network & its Social Inclusion Linkage Group. We hold monthly members meetings, debates and discussions and generally promote inclusion, equity and rights.

Join or affiliate now! Text 0860841433; Find us on Facebook



This bulletin is produced by Donegal Intercultural Platform

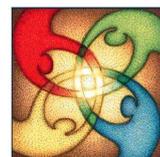
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People in Donegal working towards Interculturalism, Equality and Human Rights





## Reporting racist incidents (from page 1.)

**Reports of Racism in Ireland publication.** Information provided through the iReport.ie online reporting system is anonymised and used to produce bi-annual Reports of Racism in Ireland & help lobby for better protection against racism on the local, national and international level.

**Understanding of racism and its patterns.** The recording system has been designed to allow comparison with international patterns and to facilitate understandings of racism which are particular to the Irish context. Analysis of the data has been carried out by Dr. Lucy Michael in consultation with Shane O'Curry, Director of ENAR Ireland.

**Using iReport.ie does not replace reporting to authorities.** iReport.ie is a racism monitoring system for Ireland. Whether you have experienced racism, witnessed it happening to someone else or come across it online, it is important to take action and report it, even when legal action is not an option. However, if you believe the content or behaviour you are reporting is prohibited in Ireland, or you wish to take action against those responsible, please contact relevant local authorities, so they can accurately assess the content or behaviour for possible violations of law. If you encounter an incident which constitutes a serious crime, or if you believe there is a serious and immediate threat to someone's life or well-being, we encourage you strongly to report these immediately to An Garda Síochána.

## Intercultural News round-up 10th of March - LIVING IN DONEGAL Open Mic event in Letterkenny!

The Intercultural Platform, as part of its work under the Healthy Ireland Initiative with the County Council, will be holding a major community engagement event at the Regional Cultural Centre on 10th of March. The event aims to explore the realities of living in Donegal for people from a Black or Minority Ethnic community background. We will explore issues relating to Health & Well-being and also discuss how arts & culture is experienced by members of minority communities. There will be music and fun, refreshments and a healthy ethnic buffet lunch. We are hoping for many voices and views in the room. The event will run from 11am to 2.30pm on Saturday 10th March.

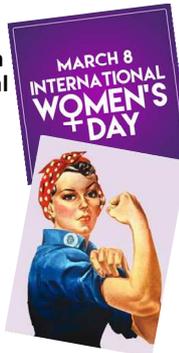


For info: Call/text 0860841433 or email us on [donegalip@gmail.com](mailto:donegalip@gmail.com)

## Intercultural International Women's Day - Join the preparations

The Women's Working Group of the Platform is preparing in collaboration with the Donegal Womens Centre and Donegal Women's Network to organise events to mark International Women's Day around March 8th. There will be a special stall and contribution at the 'LIVING IN DONEGAL' event mentioned above. Following recent events like World Arabic Language Day on 18th December we hope for a great celebration on 10th March. We are looking for women from Minority Ethnic backgrounds to join with us in planning some inclusive & inspiring events.

Email Nancy & Grace at [donegalip@gmail.com](mailto:donegalip@gmail.com) to find out more.



## Healthy Ireland Initiative

The Platform have joined with Donegal County Council to develop a county-wide engagement project with all the different minority ethnic groups and associations to bring information about the national Healthy Ireland Strategy, local supports and to hear what the Health & Wellbeing issues are for these communities. We will be attending workshops in all 5 Municipal Districts of Donegal as well as holding meetings with Faith Groups, Associations and families over the coming weeks. We will be distributing the 7- language health bulletin and engaging interpreters where necessary to maximise engagement & participation. If you would like to get involved call/text 0860841433 or email us on [donegalip@gmail.com](mailto:donegalip@gmail.com)

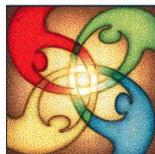


## Join us in the struggle for an Intercultural Ireland

The Intercultural Platform is committed to helping establish a more inclusive, welcoming and anti-racist society. We are a voluntary Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) that welcomes people who are interested in building respect, recognition and equality in Donegal and in promoting Human Rights & opposing discrimination and racism nationally.

### Representing the Priorities for Minorities across Donegal...

We are widely recognised by minority communities and state agencies as the representative forum for intercultural inclusion and we have representatives on the Connecting for Life initiative, The Community Health Network, Donegal Women's Centre, The PEACE IV Partnership, DLDC Working Groups, CYPSC, Social Inclusion Measures Group, Social Inclusion Linkage Group (PPN) etc. Join or affiliate now! Text 0860841433; Find us on Facebook. Organisations can affiliate for small fee.



## Donegal Intercultural Training Initiative (DITI)

Following the Intercultural Training Initiative launch during Social Inclusion week by Cllr. Gerry McMonagle, the team started immediately by delivering a series of training workshops to 60 staff from Donegal Local Development Company (DLDC). The aim was to develop good intercultural practice principles and promote inclusion. These workshops were facilitated with a Syrian focus thanks to DLDC's Fadl Mustapha and Marie Corcoran-Tindill who joined the team to give an in-depth information session on the Refugee Resettlement Programme and Syrian Culture. Other parts of the training included information from community workers Francine Blaché-Breen, Oonagh McArdle & Shane O'Curry from European Network Against Racism (ENAR). Sessions included participative exercises where staff groups designed their own personal posters on what Interculturalism means to them. To make the training more personal and transformative, Hugh Friel & Billy Banda invited the groups to role-play the experience of a refugee when seeking asylum. This exercise opened up conversations about stereotypes and identity which... 'Society and companies could use more of this type of training to make us more inclusive and to raise awareness on the barriers facing ethnic minorities in society today' – (Training Participant.) This year the Intercultural Training Initiative will deliver customised workshops that are interactive and relevant to the particular needs of different public and private service providers and organisations. We aim to build and promote interactions, collaborations and mutual respect among Donegal in an inclusive manner.



**fáilte isteach**  
Welcoming Migrants through Conversational English Classes

## English conversation workshops

The Donegal Intercultural Platform helps organise free English conversation classes every week at Letterkenny library between 10.30am and 12.30. The classes take place in the basement events room and are open to anyone who would like to improve their English - from beginner to advanced level. The classes are in partnership with Fáilte Isteach - the national organisation that coordinates these supports for migrant workers and their families. We are aiming to expand this project and need more helpers. If you would like to volunteer as a tutor call/text 0860841433.

## Major Exhibition on Children and Conflict in Letterkenny

Letterkenny's Regional Cultural Centre is showcasing a challenging and powerful exhibition about war called War Torn Children, and it was launched on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. This 'Conflict Textiles' exhibition of arpilleras (textiles), photographs & posters was commissioned by the Regional Cultural Centre in collaboration with Amnesty International Ireland and Amnesty's Letterkenny group. A spokesperson for the Amnesty Group said: "It highlights the devastating impact of war on children, their families and communities".

The Intercultural Platform was represented at the launch by Billy Banda & Grace Adeogun. Up-coming events include Hands-On workshops running from 15<sup>th</sup> of February to 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. These events will include Billy and Grace from the Intercultural Platform, who will be facilitating a workshop on "women from areas of conflict around the world" on 9<sup>th</sup> of March 12:30pm.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March there will a workshop called 'growing up with war', with an input from Grace Adeogun from the Platform.

**WAR-TORN CHILDREN**  
**8 FEB - 24 MAR / 2018**  
Regional Cultural Centre - Letterkenny  
Exhibition of arpilleras, photographs and posters



## DARE to Lead Change cross border cultural, ethnic understanding & engagement programme

The Intercultural Platform has partnered with the Bryson Intercultural and TIDES Training (both based in Northern Ireland) to participate in a new initiative that will engage with people from a wide range of social, religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds with the aim of building sustainable relationships, respect and understanding. The project called 'DARE to Lead Change' involves the Platform, Bryson Intercultural along with TIDES Training & Consultancy, funded through the PEACE IV Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). The Platform sent a delegation of four people to the project's first Intercommunity Interest Forum (IIF) in Belfast on 7<sup>th</sup> February. There will be a similar event in the northwest in early July and we hope to bring a much bigger delegation to that Forum.

**Coming Soon - New Intercultural Platform Website**  
Watch out for the new Website [www.interculturaldonegal.org](http://www.interculturaldonegal.org) that will go live within the next few weeks. The website will have multi-lingual elements and host links to a range of important sites and documents. Members and affiliates will get a 'Go To' invite as soon as it is completed.

