



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

National Action Plan Against Racism

Launch of the Integration Monitor 2022

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International Protection Accommodation Policy & Anti-Racism Policy

Background



- Last dedicated action plan was Planning for Diversity: 2005-2008. Since then, certain anti-racism actions built into wider integration strategies, e.g. 2017 Migrant Integration Strategy.
- EU Anti-racism Action Plan (2020-2025) published by the European Commission in September 2020.
- All EU member states asked to develop and adopt national action plans against racism by end of 2022.
- Member States encouraged to adopt NAPARs tailored to their specific political, cultural, historical, and legal circumstances.

Setting up the Committee



- Independent Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) established by Charles Flanagan, then Minister for Justice and Equality, and Minister of State David Stanton. Professor Caroline Fennell (UCC) appointed as Chair.
- Members came from a variety of sectors, including academia, business and advocacy. Members also included those with lived experience of racism.
- Remit to review current evidence and practice and make recommendations to Government on how best to strengthen its approach to tackling racism, including drawing up a new National Action Plan Against Racism for Ireland.
- First (video) meeting of the ARC took place on 18 June 2020.

Public consultation process



- The Committee consulted widely with stakeholder organisations and members of the public, from 21 April 2021 to 14 July 2021 (followed pre-consultation process).
- A total of 14 consultation sessions took place, attended by approximately 250 people.
- Consultation sessions were thematic, with themes including justice, media, employment, inclusion and intersectionality.
- In addition to the public consultations, over 100 written submissions were received, and an online survey was completed by over 150 respondents.

Departmental process



- The Committee held a series of bilateral and multilateral engagements with stakeholders, including Government departments.
- Government departments and agencies would have primary responsibility for implementing proposed actions, so ongoing engagement was necessary.
- Departments presented at plenary meetings on ongoing work as needed.
- International input was also sought from government departments in other countries, as well as the European Commission.

Developing the plan



- Briefings and presentations were given by experts including the Economic and Social Research Institute, the European Network Against Racism, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).
- The Committee reviewed the reports from the extensive public consultation process, and set up a series of thematic subgroups.
- Committee agreed a vision, a set of objectives, proposed priority actions and recommendations, and arrangements for monitoring and review.
- Committee presented its National Action Plan Against Racism to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in June 2022.

Implementation plan



- Throughout this process, consultation continued with key authorities to help build support for a whole-of-Government approach to implementing the plan.
- After the Committee's National Action Plan Against Racism was submitted to the Minister, Govt. departments worked to agree a year-one implementation plan.
- First implementation plan lays the groundwork for future years; annual implementation plans requested by Government.
- Establish monitoring and oversight framework for NAPAR by Q3 2023.

Key objectives of the plan



- Being safe and being heard – supporting people who experience racism and protecting people from racist incidents and crimes
- Being equal – addressing ethnic inequalities
- Being seen and taking part – enabling minority participation
- Being counted – measuring the impacts of racism
- Being together – a shared journey to racial equality

Next steps



- The National Action Plan Against Racism was published on 21 March 2023.
- Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism to be appointed Q3.
- Interdepartmental co-ordination committee and an independent advisory committee.
- The Ireland Against Racism Fund will provide funding at local and national levels for anti-racism initiatives (to launch week of 3 April).
- Ongoing efforts will be required across all sectors, with the aim of eliminating racism and creating a more equitable society for all.



Any questions?

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NAPAR link: www.gov.ie/anti-racism



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Thank you