



Submission to the Committee of Justice

On “Committee Inquiry into the

Criminal Justice Services

Available to Victims and

Witnesses of Crime in

Northern Ireland

November 2011

SUMMARY

1. Hate crime have been drawn much attention in our society over the last decade. Academic, statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations and media are keen to look at the causes and impacts of hate crime. But most of them are failure to look at the experiences of victims of hate crime, in particular specialised advocacy and support services to the needs of victims of hate crime.
2. Hate crime is often a process rather than an event, and it can escalate in frequency and seriousness. It can have devastating effects on the quality of life of its victims. There can be the added trauma of knowing that the perpetrator's motivation is an impersonal group hatred, relating to some feature that the victim shares with others. This factor is greatest where the hatred is directed against a visible feature such as skin colour, physical disability or relating to core personal values such as religion or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. A crime that might normally have a minor impact becomes, with the hate element, an intimate and hurtful attack that can undermine the victim's quality of life and self esteem.
3. By its nature, hate crime is committed not merely against the immediate victim or their property but against the entire community or group he or she belongs to and eventually raises the feeling of insecurity against the other community or group. As a consequence, hate crimes revive old, or serve to create a new bias, prejudice and negative stereotyping of others. It also creates cycles of mistrust and tension within society.
4. There appears to be general agreement that hate crime in Northern Ireland is on the increase, and is subject to significant under-reporting. Statistics over recent years have shown a significant increase in the number of hate incidents being reported to the police. There is, however, anecdotal evidence to indicate that despite efforts to encourage reporting, there is still a significant level of under-reporting of these types of crimes due to the victims's unwillingness to come forward. Both the PSNI and community groups agreed that the current statistics of race hate incidents and race hate crime is only the tip of the iceberg.

5. There are a variety of reasons why BME people do not go to the police in these circumstances. These include no confidence with police officers,¹ poor experiences in the past with the police on reporting racial incidents and crimes and the perception that the police could not help or that the matters would not be treated seriously; also, fear of revenge and alienation from community groupings due to negative perceptions of the police by BME communities, in particular Irish Travellers.
6. The most striking thing about all of this primary data is the shocking incidence of racist violence across Northern Ireland. The data confirms that many minority ethnic people have experienced profound and repeated racist violence. While the statistics and media reporting have indicated that racist violence is 'growing', the NICEM statements make this visceral – it involves people being terrorised, people being spat on, people being burnt out of their homes and people being assaulted. The ongoing racist violence towards and harassment of minority ethnic children is particularly horrifying. In consequence many minority ethnic people are living in fear and some people are in fear of their lives. Many are being forced out of particular communities and some are being forced out of Northern Ireland completely.
7. We are also concerned at a synergy that appears to exist in Northern Ireland between Loyalism and racism. The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) acknowledged in numerous reports² that the UDA And UVF were 'targeting ethnic minorities'.³ The PSNI and the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee have also acknowledged significant Loyalist paramilitary involvement in racist violence. Such links need to be tackled much more proactively by all agencies concerned.
8. Despite NICEM intensive support and advocacy work, including preparation of a statement before going to police interview and

¹ Recommendation 9 of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, *ibid.* p.52

² tenth report (March 2006), Thirteen Report (January 2007), Fifteen Report (April 2007), Seventeen Report (November 2007), Twenty-Second Report (November 2009), Twenty-Third Report (May 2010), Twenty-Fifth Report (November 2010)

³ The IMC Report which monitors threat assessment and normalisation, as well as on paramilitary activities analysis, can be downloaded in the following link: <http://www.independentmonitoringcommission.org/index.cfm>

accompany with the victim during the police interview, just less than half (49%) would not report her or his case to PSNI (August 2002 to March 2006). In our latest monitoring statistics (from April 2006 to August 2011) we have supported 366 victims, 191 victims would like to report her or his case to PSNI and 195 victims would not report her or his case to PSNI. Five years on there is still little change in terms of attitudes to report racial hate crime to PSNI despite a lot of efforts have been done at both institutional and community level.⁴ Therefore the confidence building and the barriers to reporting should be part of the specialised services to address the needs of the victims of racial hate crime.

9. Due to the nature and experiences of victims of racial hate crime we examined the model of Women's Aid to support victims of domestic violence against women. We found that our situation, in terms of vulnerability, is identical as domestic violence which provide a specialised support services to women of domestic violence. Moreover the lack of statutory specialised support services for victims of racial and religious hate crime.
10. For this reason NICEM has played a pioneering role in bringing the victims of hate crime into the criminal justice process, as well as supporting their many and varied needs that arise as a result of the initial attack. Racial Hate Crime Support is an important process to tackle the increasing racial and religious prejudice, particularly when the process includes local community support networks.
11. The current support provides by the Victims Support NI could not deal with immediate risks assessment for the victims; complaints against public authorities, particularly PSNI; housing and accommodation issues which are critical for the victims; applications for criminal justice compensation scheme, preparation for statements with the victims and accompany victims in the police interviews, etc. These are the immediate needs of any victims of hate crime.
12. The Justice Committee should ensure that there are sufficient resources from the Department of Justice to address the needs,

⁴ Para. 4.11 Conclusions, The Next Stephen Lawrence, *ibid*, p.53 and third paragraph, Executive Summary, Hate Crimes in Northern Ireland, *ibid*, p. vii

barriers and confident building of the victims of racial and religious hate crime through specialised advocacy, advice and support services to the victims of hate crime from criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland.

1 Introduction

1.1 NICEM is an independent non-governmental organisation working to promote a society free from all forms of racism and discrimination, where differences are recognised, respected and valued, and where human rights are guaranteed. As an umbrella organisation⁵ we represent the interests of black and minority ethnic⁶ (BME) communities in Northern Ireland.

1.2 We welcome the decision of the Committee for Justice to initiate an inquiry into the criminal justice services available to victims and witnesses of crime in Northern Ireland. In this submission we focus on a specific area of crime, namely the hate crime. Hate crime have been drawn much attention in our society over the last decade. Academic, statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations and media are keen to look at the causes and impacts of hate crime. But most of them are failure to look at the experiences of victims of hate crime, in particular specialised advocacy and support services to the needs of victims of hate crime. Therefore we are in particular welcome the Committee looking at this important aspect through this inquiry.

2. Nature of Hate Crime

2.1 Hate crime always have a broad impact and more devastating effect than other type of crimes. By their nature, it is committed not merely against the immediate victim or their property but against the entire community or group he or she belongs to and eventually raises the feeling of insecurity against the other community or group. As a consequence, hate crimes revive old, or serve to create a new bias, prejudice and negative stereotyping of others. It also creates cycles of mistrust and tension within society.

⁵ Currently we have 28 affiliated BME groups as full members. This composition is representative of the majority of BME communities in Northern Ireland.

⁶ In this document “Black and Minority Ethnic Communities” or “Minority Ethnic Groups” or “Ethnic Minority” has an inclusive meaning to unite all minority communities. It refers to settled ethnic minorities (including Travellers, Roma and Gypsy), settled religious minorities, migrants (EU and non-EU), asylum seekers and refugees and people of other immigration status.

2.2 “Hate crime is often a process rather than an event, and it can escalate in frequency and seriousness. It can have devastating effects on the quality of life of its victims. There can be the added trauma of knowing that the perpetrator’s motivation is an impersonal group hatred, relating to some feature that the victim shares with others. This factor is greatest where the hatred is directed against a visible feature such as skin colour, physical disability or relating to core personal values such as religion or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. A crime that might normally have a minor impact becomes, with the hate element, an intimate and hurtful attack that can undermine the victim’s quality of life and self esteem.”⁷

2.3 Despite all these effects little attention has been paid to the experiences and needs of the victims. It lacks a specialised statutory support service for victims of racial and religious hate crime (such as attacks on a mosque or on someone simply because he or she is a Muslim by faith). Moreover the reported hate incidents and crimes to PSNI are increasing over the last 10 years period⁸. The details of Racial Motivation⁹ of incidents and crimes are as follows:

Total No. of Incidents ¹⁰	Total No. of Crimes ¹¹	Clearance/Detection Rate ¹²
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⁷ para. 2.20, “Hate Crime in Northern Ireland: A thematic inspection of the management of hate crime by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland, Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland”, Jan. 2007.

⁸ The current PSNI hate crime statistics started from 2004-2005. The monitoring statistics between 1998-2002 is in Annex 1.

⁹ **Hate Motivation Definitions: Racist**

“A racist incident is defined as any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person. A racial group can be defined as a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, nationality or ethnic or national origins (this includes UK National origins ie Scottish, English, Welsh and Irish) and references to a person’s racial group refer to any racial group into which he/she falls. Racial group includes the Irish Traveller community.”

¹⁰ **Incidents:** Any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person, as being motivated by prejudice or hate (ACPO Definition). A full definition for each type of hate motivation is included at the end of this bulletin.

¹¹ **Recorded Crimes**

- Recorded crimes (sometimes referred to as notifiable offences) are those which are deemed to be indictable or triable-either-way. A full explanation of how recorded crime figures are produced is provided on the last page of this bulletin.
- In the same way as incidents are identified as having a hate motivation, a crime will be recorded as having the relevant hate motivation where the victim or any other person perceives it as such. Not all incidents will result in the recording of a crime.
- Crimes with hate motivations are classified according to the Home Office Counting Rules and form a subset of the overall recorded crime figures.

¹² Detections (or clearances as they may alternatively be known) are, broadly speaking, those crimes that

2004/05	813	634	15.9%
2005/06	936	746	20.5%
2006/07	1047	861	13.4%
2007/08	976	757	11.4%
2008/09	990	771	12.5%
2009/10	1038	712	16.2%
2010/11	842	531	13.4%

2.4 The former Chief Inspector of the Criminal Justice Inspectorate (CJINI), Mr. Kit Chivers, highlighted that “Statistics over recent years have shown a significant increase in the number of hate incidents being reported to the police. There is, however, anecdotal evidence to indicate that despite efforts to encourage reporting, there is still a significant level of under-reporting of these types of crimes due to the victims’s unwillingness to come forward.”¹³

2.5 The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee in its inquiry concluded: “There appears to be general agreement that hate crime in Northern Ireland is on the increase, and is subject to significant under-reporting.” (para. 22)¹⁴ Both the PSNI and community groups agreed that the current statistics of race hate incidents and race hate crime is only the tip of the iceberg.

have been ‘cleared up’ by the police. Crimes are counted as ‘detected or cleared’ in accordance with strict counting rules issued by the Home Office. They are counted on the basis of crimes rather than offenders. For example, if six offenders are involved in a robbery and are all arrested and charged, then this counts as one detection (i.e. the robbery is deemed to be ‘detected’). Alternatively if only one of the six is identified and charged while the other five remain unidentified and at large, this also means that the robbery can still be deemed as ‘detected’.

The following methods of detection involve a formal sanction:

- Charging or issuing a summons to an offender;
- Issuing a caution to the offender;
- Having the offence accepted for consideration in court;
- The offender is a juvenile who is dealt with by means of an informed warning, restorative caution or prosecutorial diversion.

In addition, for the most serious offence types (‘indictable only’ – see recorded crime paragraph above for explanation) a non sanction detection can be claimed if:

- The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) directs no prosecution; or
- The case cannot proceed because the offender has died.

¹³ Hate Crimes in Northern Ireland: A thematic inspection of the management of hate crime by the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland, January 2007, p. v, Chief Inspector’s Forward.

¹⁴ The Challenge of Diversity: Hate Crime in Northern Ireland, House of Commons, Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, Ninth Report of Session 2004-05, Volume I, HC 548-I

2.6 Without reporting of racial hate crime, the police and other criminal justice agencies can do little or nothing. “Worse still, the impression may persist that there is simply no problem to address, or the problem is a minor one. This plays into the hands of the perpetrators, encourages them in the belief that they can commit these crimes with impunity, and stokes the flames of prejudice and intra-community frustrations.”¹⁵

2.7 There are a lot of unreported incidents and crimes. There are a variety of reasons why BME people do not go to the police in these circumstances. These include no confidence with police officers,¹⁶ poor experiences in the past with the police on reporting racial incidents and crimes and the perception that the police could not help or that the matters would not be treated seriously; also, fear of revenge and alienation from community groupings due to negative perceptions of the police by BME communities, in particular Irish Travellers.¹⁷ We enclosed 3 recent case studies in Annex 2 which assists you to understand this complex issues.¹⁸

2.8 For this reason NICEM has played a pioneering role in bringing the victims of hate crime into the criminal justice process, as well as supporting their many and varied needs that arise as a result of the initial attack. Racial Hate Crime Support is an important process to tackle the increasing racial and religious prejudice, particularly when the process includes local community support networks.

3. Experiences of victims of racist attacks

3.1 In 2006 we commissioned Dr. Robbie McVeigh to conduct a research on the experiences of victims of racist hate crime that based on the statements of those victims who seek our support (just over 200 cases from August 2002 to March 2006). The Research Report “The Next Stephen Lawrence?: Racist Violence and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland was published in June 2006. In Chapter 4 of the Report, The Experience of Racist Violence by Minority Ethnic people in Northern Ireland provided an

¹⁵ para. 19, *ibid.*, p. 50

¹⁶ Recommendation 9 of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, *ibid.* p.52

¹⁷ para. 3.9, *ibid.*, p.17

¹⁸ See also para. 4.9 Response of the Criminal Justice System to racist violence in Dr. Robbie McVeigh, *The Next Stephen Lawrence?: Racist Violence and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland*, NICEM, 2006 p.44

analysis on the causes of racist attacks and the response from the criminal justice system.

3.2 “The most striking thing about all of this primary data is the shocking incidence of racist violence across Northern Ireland. The data confirms that many minority ethnic people have experienced profound and repeated racist violence. While the statistics and media reporting have indicated that racist violence is ‘growing’, the NICEM statements make this visceral – it involves people being terrorised, people being spat on, people being burnt out of their homes and people being assaulted. The ongoing racist violence towards and harassment of minority ethnic children is particularly horrifying. In consequence many minority ethnic people are living in fear and some people are in fear of their lives. Many are being forced out of particular communities and some are being forced out of Northern Ireland completely”¹⁹

3.3 We are also concerned at a synergy that appears to exist in Northern Ireland between Loyalism and racism. The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) acknowledged in numerous reports²⁰ that the UDA and UVF were ‘targeting ethnic minorities’.²¹ The PSNI and the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee have also acknowledged significant Loyalist paramilitary involvement in racist violence. Such links need to be tackled much more proactively by all agencies concerned.

3.4 In Appendix 6 of the Next Stephen Lawrence Report it provides details of monitoring data of NICEM’s case work. One of the monitoring data, regarding reported to police, is found alarming. Despite our intensive support and advocacy work, including preparation of a statement before going to police interview and accompany with the victim during the police interview, just less than half (49%) would not report her or his case to PSNI. In our latest monitoring statistics (from April 2006 to August 2011) we have supported 366 victims, 191 victims would like to report her or his

¹⁹ para. 4.11, *ibid.*, p.53.

²⁰ tenth report (March 2006), Thirteen Report (January 2007), Fifteen Report (April 2007), Seventeen Report (November 2007), Twenty-Second Report (November 2009), Twenty-Third Report (May 2010), Twenty-Fifth Report (November 2010)

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case to PSNI and 195 victims would not report her or his case to PSNI. Five years on there is still little change in terms of attitudes to report racial hate crime to PSNI despite a lot of efforts have been done at both institutional and community level.²² Therefore the confidence building and the barriers to reporting should be part of the specialised services to address the needs of the victims of racial hate crime.

4. Advocacy and Support to victims of Racial and Religious Hatred Crime in Northern Ireland

4.1 Due to the nature and experiences of victims of racial hate crime we examined the model of Women's Aid to support victims of domestic violence against women. We found that our situation, in terms of vulnerability, is identical as domestic violence which provide a specialised support services to women of domestic violence.

4.2 Moreover the lack of statutory specialised support services for victims of racial and religious hate crime, NICEM got a small grant from Comic Relief to set up a project called "NICEM Racial Harassment and Advocacy" from 2002-2005 that mirrored domestic violence support services. The purpose of the Project was to address racial harassment through the provision of specialised advice, support, and advocacy for victims. We use the casework approach to provide intensive advice, support, remedial action, and referrals to specialist agencies with the following tasks:

1. Provide a safe place to enable victims to share their experiences (listening through support) and encourage them to report the case to the local police station;
2. Risk assessment and explore options in order to respond to the needs of the victims and her/his family;
3. Draw up action plans that are agreed with the victims;
4. Assist victims to prepare police statements and accompany victims to attend police interviews;
5. Liaise with police in providing follow-up support;

²² Para. 4.11 Conclusions, The Next Stephen Lawrence, *ibid*, p.53 and third paragraph, Executive Summary, Hate Crimes in Northern Ireland, *ibid*, p. vii

6. Assist victims to make applications to the NIHE under homelessness legislation or to reassess points under the Common Selection Scheme and also liaise with local Housing Association to identify suitable accommodation arrangements;
7. Make referrals to local and regional organisations if necessary, in particular specialist assistance such as criminal injuries compensation, referral to trauma centre, social workers and special needs for children; and
8. Assist victims to make complaints to the concerned agencies;

4.3 Due to lack of further funding and the upsurge of racist attacks in 2003 that triggered the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry on Hate Crime in Northern Ireland, we approached the Community Safety Unit of the Northern Ireland Office in late 2004 and our work continued for another 18 month period during which an external evaluation was completed in March 2006. Based on the positive recommendations of the external evaluation report we submitted a formal proposal to the Community Safety Unit. Unfortunately the Unit did not have sufficient resources to continue our work. We also made representation to the then Security Minister in 2007 but without success. Instead resources were directed to Victim Support NI to act on racial hate crime by referral from PSNI.

4.4 We have no objection to resources going to Victim Support NI, but we do have concerns as the nature of racial and religious hate crime often deter the victims reporting such crime to (PSNI) as we highlight in paragraph 2.7 above. Moreover Victims Support NI could not deal with immediate risks assessment for the victims; complaints against public authorities, particularly PSNI; housing and accommodation issues which are critical for the victims; applications for criminal justice compensation scheme, preparation for statements with the victims and accompany victims in the police interviews, etc. These are the immediate needs of any victims of hate crime.

4.5 Despite not being funded NICEM has continued to provide an advice and advocacy service to victims of race hate incidents and crime through one post by using our own resources. We do recognise the need for specialised support services for victims of hate crime.

4.6 Since its inception the service has helped over 560 victims through comprehensive advice and advocacy. The range of support deals with verbal abuse to physical attack, however it is limited without proper funding and currently has only one worker to cover all of Northern Ireland and help local groups coordinate support in their areas.

4.7 The case studies included with this submission (Annex 2) are cases from this year alone. When the current case studies are compared to the cases that were presented in our research in 2006 “The Next Stephen Lawrence? Racist Violence and Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland” it is clear that there is still a need for this type of support. They also clearly illustrate the need for continuing work and improvements for access for victims.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Hate crime have been drawn much attention in our society over the last decade. Academic, statutory, voluntary and community sector organisations and media are keen to look at the causes and impacts of hate crime. But most of them are failure to look at the experiences of victims of hate crime, in particular specialised advocacy and support services to the needs of victims of hate crime.

5.2 Hate crime is often a process rather than an event, and it can escalate in frequency and seriousness. It can have devastating effects on the quality of life of its victims. There can be the added trauma of knowing that the perpetrator’s motivation is an impersonal group hatred, relating to some feature that the victim shares with others. This factor is greatest where the hatred is directed against a visible feature such as skin colour, physical disability or relating to core personal values such as religion or being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. A crime that might normally have a minor impact becomes, with the hate element, an intimate and hurtful attack that can undermine the victim’s quality of life and self esteem.

5.3 By its nature, hate crime is committed not merely against the immediate victim or their property but against the entire community or group he or she belongs to and eventually raises the feeling of insecurity against the other community or group. As a consequence, hate crimes revive old, or serve to create a new bias, prejudice and negative stereotyping of others. It also creates cycles of mistrust and tension within society.

5.4 There appears to be general agreement that hate crime in Northern Ireland is on the increase, and is subject to significant under-reporting. Statistics over recent years have shown a significant increase in the number of hate incidents being reported to the police. There is, however, anecdotal evidence to indicate that despite efforts to encourage reporting, there is still a significant level of under-reporting of these types of crimes due to the victims's unwillingness to come forward. Both the PSNI and community groups agreed that the current statistics of race hate incidents and race hate crime is only the tip of the iceberg.

5.5 There are a variety of reasons why BME people do not go to the police in these circumstances. These include no confidence with police officers,²³ poor experiences in the past with the police on reporting racial incidents and crimes and the perception that the police could not help or that the matters would not be treated seriously; also, fear of revenge and alienation from community groupings due to negative perceptions of the police by BME communities, in particular Irish Travellers.

5.6 The most striking thing about all of this primary data is the shocking incidence of racist violence across Northern Ireland. The data confirms that many minority ethnic people have experienced profound and repeated racist violence. While the statistics and media reporting have indicated that racist violence is 'growing', the NICEM statements make this visceral – it involves people being terrorised, people being spat on, people being burnt out of their homes and people being assaulted. The ongoing racist violence towards and harassment of minority ethnic children is particularly horrifying. In consequence many minority ethnic people are living in fear

²³ Recommendation 9 of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, *ibid.* p.52

and some people are in fear of their lives. Many are being forced out of particular communities and some are being forced out of Northern Ireland completely.

5.7 We are also concerned at a synergy that appears to exist in Northern Ireland between Loyalism and racism. The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) acknowledged in numerous reports²⁴ that the UDA and UVF were 'targeting ethnic minorities'.²⁵ The PSNI and the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee have also acknowledged significant Loyalist paramilitary involvement in racist violence. Such links need to be tackled much more proactively by all agencies concerned.

5.8 Despite NICEM intensive support and advocacy work, including preparation of a statement before going to police interview and accompany with the victim during the police interview, just less than half (49%) would not report her or his case to PSNI (August 2002 to March 2006). In our latest monitoring statistics (from April 2006 to August 2011) we have supported 366 victims, 191 victims would like to report her or his case to PSNI and 195 victims would not report her or his case to PSNI. Five years on there is still little change in terms of attitudes to report racial hate crime to PSNI despite a lot of efforts have been done at both institutional and community level.²⁶ Therefore the confidence building and the barriers to reporting should be part of the specialised services to address the needs of the victims of racial hate crime.

5.9 Due to the nature and experiences of victims of racial hate crime we examined the model of Women's Aid to support victims of domestic violence against women. We found that our situation, in terms of vulnerability, is identical as domestic violence which provide a specialised

²⁴ tenth report (March 2006), Thirteen Report (January 2007), Fifteen Report (April 2007), Seventeen Report (November 2007), Twenty-Second Report (November 2009), Twenty-Third Report (May 2010), Twenty-Fifth Report (November 2010)

²⁵ The IMC Report which monitors threat assessment and normalisation, as well as on paramilitary activities analysis), can be downloaded in the following link: <http://www.independentmonitoringcommission.org/index.cfm>

²⁶ Para. 4.11 Conclusions, The Next Stephen Lawrence, *ibid*, p.53 and third paragraph, Executive Summary, Hate Crimes in Northern Ireland, *ibid*, p. vii

support services to women of domestic violence. Moreover the lack of statutory specialised support services for victims of racial and religious hate crime.

5.10 For this reason NICEM has played a pioneering role in bringing the victims of hate crime into the criminal justice process, as well as supporting their many and varied needs that arise as a result of the initial attack. Racial Hate Crime Support is an important process to tackle the increasing racial and religious prejudice, particularly when the process includes local community support networks.

5.11 The current support provides by the Victims Support NI could not deal with immediate risks assessment for the victims; complaints against public authorities, particularly PSNI; housing and accommodation issues which are critical for the victims; applications for criminal justice compensation scheme, preparation for statements with the victims and accompany victims in the police interviews, etc. These are the immediate needs of any victims of hate crime.

5.12 The Justice Committee should ensure that there are sufficient resources from the Department of Justice to address the needs, barriers and confident building of the victims of racial and religious hate crime through specialised advocacy, advice and support services to the victims of hate crime from criminal justice agencies in Northern Ireland.

For further assistance to this submission, please contact the following person:

**Patrick Yu
Executive Director
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM)
Ascot House, 3/F
24-31 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DB
UK**

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9023 8645
Fax: +44 (0) 28 9031 9485
Email: patrick@nicem.org.uk

ANNEX 1

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND RACIAL INCIDENT STATISTICS

FINANCIAL YEAR

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
Indian	51	89	81	65
Chinese	22	71	78	33
White	4	13	22	15
Traveller		11	6	12
Black	6	25	40	21
Other	10	28	33	39
Total	93	237	260	185

In 2002-2003 there is 226 racial incidents and in 2003-2004 there is 453 racial incidents²⁷.

²⁷, para. 8 Racial incidents/crimes, The Challenge of Diversity: Hate Crime in NI, ibid, p. 7

	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
Verbal Abuse/Threat	32	67	75	48
Written Material	1	4	1	4
Graffiti	5	7	7	2
Physical Assault	15	54	58	39
Attack On Home	13	53	49	38
Attack On Property	20	37	44	33
Other	7	15	26	21
Total	93	237	260	185

ANNEX 2

CASE STUDIES

Case Study B

B is a EU national who has been living in Northern Ireland since 2004. In 2010 he and his wife were placed in a Housing Executive property in North Belfast.

The ground floor apartment quickly became a target for harassment and intimidation. B's car was damaged and the aerial was broken off. He and his wife were subject to racist verbal abuse when they walked in their neighbourhood, dead pigeons and other rubbish was put through their open windows, and their buzzer was rung at all hours of the day and night. B and his wife were both suffering from anxiety and insomnia. B also had a serious medical condition that was exasperated by the constant harassment.

B called the police every time an incident occurred. The police would show up to the scene and the perpetrators would run away. This cycle continued for 8 months until B called us desperate for help and support. When we got involved we called a meeting with all the relevant statutory and support agencies including the PSNI and the city council support officers. The meeting allowed the agencies to coordinate a response and we supported B through reporting in the meeting how the harassment had affected him and his wife.

After this we helped B compile a comprehensive log of all the incidents that was submitted to the police. This led to B getting the sufficient amount of points that will allow him to move to a different property.

Case Study C

C is a Black EU national who has been living in Northern Ireland since 2010. C had only been living in Northern Ireland for two months when he was attacked.

C was walking home with friends when a group of four men started calling them racist names. C and his friends tried to ignore the men but the men began coming after them. They caught C and began punching and kicking him. C's friends were able to get him free and they ran to a nearby friend's house.

C was traumatized. He had not been in Northern Ireland very long and did not know what to do. C's friends told him not to report the incident to the police, as this would make matters worse. They told C that other people in the community would come after him if they saw him talking to the police. C's cousin returned from holiday a week later and told him he needed to go the police to report the attack.

C was referred to Victim Support and they helped him make an application for compensation. The application was unsuccessful because C delayed in reporting to the police.

C and his cousin came to us after this and asked us to take the case as they felt that because we were a Black and Ethnic minority organisation it

gave us a better insight into why C delayed in reporting to the police and we would be able to articulate this on the compensation appeal.

Case Study E

E is a non-EU refugee. He has been in Northern Ireland since 1998. He was living in the Belfast area and was happy with where he was settled.

After being involved in a minor car collision he began receiving threatening texts, which threatened his life and made derogatory comments about his Muslim faith. E recognised the number as belonging to the person he had been involved in the collision with. As this meant the person had his personal details including his address E was fearful to stay in his home.

E reported the texts to police and his fear that the person who sent them knew who he was and would be able to come to his home. E was given intimidation points by the Housing Executive and moved due to the extreme nature of the texts and the fact that the perpetrator knew where E lived.

E came to us six months after the incident as he still had not heard from the police about the investigation and while he was living in a different area he was still fearful and anxious.

We contacted the police and after several phone calls and emails and contacting other officers we had worked with previously we were able to track down the investigating officer. In response to our enquiries we received a letter from the investigating officer that explained that the police

forwarded the case to the PPS. However, because the perpetrator had been in a different UK region when the texts were sent there had been jurisdiction issues. The letter explained that the file had been passed back and forth until the statute of limitations for the crime had run out. Therefore the case had been closed.

E was extremely frustrated and upset about the way his case had been dealt with, not only had he not been informed that the case was closed he had been kept up to date with the developments in the case. We then helped E take a complaint to the Police Ombudsman.