



Reporting in Ireland

National reporting procedures for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime

The information below is extracted from a mapping study of national reporting mechanisms in the countries involved in the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) of the Council of Europe. It aims to provide:

1. Contact information of national reporting mechanisms for cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime where they exist
2. Information about the legal grounds for acting on cyberbullying, hate speech and hate crime where they exist

The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Council of Europe¹.

1. Reporting Mechanisms

Reporting hate speech, hate crime and cyberbullying

ENAR Ireland (i-report)

People can report racism online and through community based partners, i.e. NGOs who are part of ENAR network

Website: www.ireport.ie/

People can report racism through online and through community based partners

Actions taken after reporting:

None for individuals, quarterly report produced and specialized reports extracted eg. Islamophobia, Afrophobia [another reporting process is the one with Immigrant Council of Ireland which is where individuals report racism individually and ICI will act as advocates on their behalf if they wish – eg housing issues, dealing with statutory services, transport services etc]

People are informed about I-report through community partners. I.e. NGOs who are part of ENAR network, etc.

Immigrant Council of Ireland

Provides support, information and appropriate referrals to people who have experienced or witnessed racist incidents in Ireland via the Racism Hotline

Phone: [\(01\) 645 8058](tel:016458058)

Website: www.immigrantcouncil.ie/

Police:

People can report racist, religious, xenophobic, sectarian and homophobic hostility in person to a police officer. The reports are followed up as any other crime.

Website: www.garda.ie/

Trans hate has been recorded as a one-off project with TENI

Garda (Irish police) PULSE system which records racist, religious, xenophobic, sectarian and homophobic hostility but by police not independently by citizens

¹ The authors of this document aimed to be accurate and complete, if however you find corrections or have additions please contact the European campaign secretariat at youth.nohatespeech@coe.int. Reproduction of material from this publication is authorised for non-commercial education purposes only and on condition that the source is properly quoted.

2. Background information

Hate speech is in legislation in reference to the 1989 Incitement to Hatred Act. However, freedom of expression is always used in civil cases to counteract any accusations of hate speech stating that it undermines civil liberty. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1989/act/19/enacted/en/html>
In the Incitement to Hatred Act refers is made to race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origins, membership of the travelling community or sexual orientation. It does not cover online hate speech.

Ireland's legislation does not address hate crime as it sees it as being covered within legislation on criminal offences. Racism is seen as an aggravated offence that can be taken into account under judicial discretion at sentencing. It does not cover online hate speech.

Cyber-bullying has been defined as:

“an individual or a group wilfully using information and communication involving electronic technologies to facilitate deliberate and repeated harassment or threat to another individual or group by sending or posting cruel text and/or graphics using technological means”.

Ireland does not have any legislation which expressly deals with the issue of cyber-bullying. However Ireland does have legislation which may cover certain aspects of cyber-bullying. Where a victim of cyber-bullying is bullied over their phone it may constitute an offence under the *Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997*. The 1997 Act states a person can be harassed through a telephone or by 'any means' this can be construed to include cyber-bullying. The 1997 Act can also include cyber-bullying where a child is threatened. Similarly the *Communications Regulations (Amendment) Act 2007* may be used in cases of cyber-bullying and in particular bullying by use of telephone.

Under civil law a person may bring a case for assault if the cyber-bullying places the person in reasonable apprehension of immediate violence. It tends to focus on individuals and names groups generically. See also: http://nabc.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/help/PDFs/School_Bullying_Legal_Situation.pdf
For additional information also consult the [Country Monitory reports](#) of the European Committee against Racism and Intolerance or reports of relevant national authorities and civil society organisations.