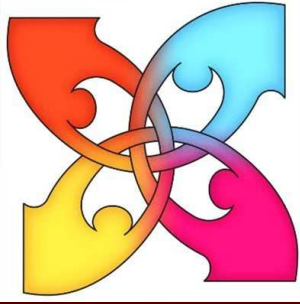


Early Spring 2024
donegalip@gmail.com
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donegal intercultural platform clg

Intercultural Donegal

CARA-Donegal project Community Anti Racism Actions



The Intercultural Platform, as part of its actions under the Black and Minority Ethnic Inclusion Strategy 2021 - 2026 and with the assistance of the EU Belong Project (part of the Assembly of European Regions), will be launching and delivering its CARA Donegal project across the county.

The project **Community Anti Racism Actions - Donegal**, will run at least until July 2024 and will involve four components that will be delivered in at least 10 communities across the county:

1. Understanding and Responding to Racism workshops with community organisation staff teams, volunteers and board members, developing understanding and policies / guides for action.
2. Building and Supporting Community Solidarity Networks (in areas outside Letterkenny) - This work is already underway in three districts... more to follow
3. Hosting Conversations For Change - informal

دعم طالبي اللجوء

تدير منظماتنا مشروعا خاصا يسمى "المسارات" الذي يدعم الناس في نظام اللجوء في دونجال. يمكننا المساعدة في الحصول على تصاريح عمل وبطاقات طبية والمساعدة في العثور على عمل والمساعدة في مهارات المحادثة باللغة الإنجليزية. ورقم هاتفه هو "Balume Dube" عامل الدعم هو 0833998265 وعنوان البريد الإلكتروني هو Donegalip@gmail.com. مكتبتنا مفتوح كل يوم إثنين إلى الجمعة من الساعة 9:00 إلى 17:00.

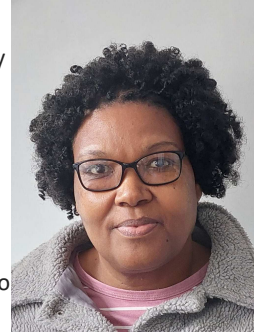
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discussion workshops with community groups like Men's Sheds, Active Age groups Youth clubs etc... with members of Black and Minority Ethnic & majority communities

4. A mid-point conference and Knowledge exchange with the participation of representatives of 10 EU regions who are part of EU Belong during Anti-Racism Week.

The project will be launched in late January 2024 and Nolunga Shologu is the Project Lead.



CARA Donegal project lead Nolunga Shologu

This is only a brief outline and we will be calling on community organisations to apply to host the programme in their areas. The delivery team will include a range of speakers and facilitators from Black and Minority Ethnic communities as well as visual materials, exhibitions and short film and video components.

If you would like to hear more about **CARA - Donegal** please email us at donegalip@gmail.com If you would like to maybe take part in some of the events - also drop us an email. If you are part of a local community organisation please bring this initiative to the attention of your board/ committee/steering group.

There will be a special seminar in Letterkenny during Social Inclusion Week (17-24 March 2024) called a 'Knowledge Exchange' where the CARA project will present its work during the first quarter of 2024 to representatives in Intercultural initiatives from 11 regions covering 8 EU member states. Ireland is represented by Donegal County Council and the Intercultural Platform. Contact us for more details about this exciting intercultural event.



Donegal Intercultural Platform (DIP) and Donegal Travellers Project (DTP) Unite to launch the Donegal Movement Against Racism.

DIP and DTP are thrilled to announce a formal partnership aimed at fostering unity, understanding, and actively combating racism in Donegal. This collaborative effort culminates in the establishment of the 'Donegal Movement Against Racism', a bold initiative committed to promoting inclusivity, celebrating diversity and eradicating discrimination and racism within Donegal.

'Now more than ever we must confront the rising tide of disinformation, scapegoating and hate within our communities and it's time for us to collectively support communities and civil society to stay resilient particularly in the face of the far right hate that is infiltrating our Irish Society' says Ann Friel, Assistant Project Manager of DTP

'I welcome this partnership between Donegal Intercultural Platform and Donegal Travellers Project, both organisations have been working actively to build critical understanding of what's going on in our society but now we feel its timely to formally come together to work to advance equality, human rights and social justice' says Balume Dube, Pathways Project Worker with DIP.

The official launch of the Donegal Movement Against Racism took place this week and featured the formal partnership of both organisations coming together in solidarity and making a commitment to build a more inclusive society.

Donegal Movement Against Racism will offer Interculturalism, Anti-Racism Diversity training which will create positive change in our communities and stand united against racism in Donegal.

If you would like more information on training or workshops, or would like to get involved, please get in contact with us on travcomdtp@gmail.com or donegalip@gmail.com.



Some of the team at the launch of the Donegal Movement Against Racism

Promoting Equality and Human Rights in Donegal

Embark on a journey towards a more inclusive and equitable society with Think Equality Donegal! We specialize in delivering comprehensive training on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Our Services:

Expert guidance on integrating equality and human rights considerations into decision-making processes, policies, and practices.

Commitment to eliminating discrimination and advancing equal opportunities.

Collaboration with diverse groups to foster positive relations.

Protection against discrimination based on age, disability, gender, religion, and sexual orientation.

Evaluating training and assessing implementation of Public Sector Duty.

Partnering for Impact:

Think Equality Donegal collaborates with Donegal Intercultural Platform, Donegal Local Development Company, and Donegal Traveller's Project to deliver impactful projects.

Explore Our Offerings:

Training sessions for public sector organisations.

Assistance in implementing and evaluating transformation within your organisation.

Connect with Us:

For training and inquiries, reach out to Balume Armstrong Dube (Think Equality Development Trainer - 086 128 7704) and Roisin O'Neill (Community Links Officer - 086 103 5743).



What is the Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty?

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty ('the Duty') is a statutory obligation for public bodies under Section 42 of the *Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014*. Section 42(1) requires public bodies, in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect human rights of staff and people availing of their services. Section 42(2) requires public bodies to assess, address & report progress in relation to equality and human rights in their strategic plan and annual reports in a manner that is accessible to the public.

Who does the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty apply to?

Public bodies in Ireland are required to comply with the Public Sector Human Rights and Equality Duty ('the Duty'). The definition of a public body for the purposes of the Duty includes:

- a Department of State
- a local authority
- the Health Service Executive
- a university or institute of technology
- an education and training board
- any other person, body or organisation established under statute, or under any scheme administered by a Government Minister, excluding the Defence Forces
- a company wholly or partly financed by or on behalf of a Government Minister, in pursuance of powers conferred by or under another enactment
- a company where the majority of shares are held by or on behalf of a Government Minister.

The Think Equality Donegal project is funded by Rethink Ireland and managed by the Intercultural Platform, Donegal Travellers Project & Donegal Local Development to deliver free Public Sector duty training across the county 2021-2024.

Ви з України і мешкаєте в Донеґалі?

У вас є запитання без відповідей? Вам потрібно покращити свою англійську? Ви шукаєте роботу? Ви активні та хочете приєднатися до нашої команди як представник своєї локації?

Група підтримки української громади допоможе вам з цим! Зателефонуйте нам: +353874749409

WhatsApp: +353874749409

Напишіть нам на адресу:

donegalucask@gmail.com

Приєднуйтеся до нас у телеграм-каналі:

https://t.me/ucs_ie

Слідкуйте за нами у Facebook (Ukrainian Community Support):

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093545560287>

UCS зареєстровано в Раді округу Донеґал під номером PPN - 00744.



Debunking Misconceptions About Refugee Men in Ireland: A Research-Based Approach by John Balfe

The influx of refugee men into small communities has been a topic of heated debate in Ireland, with some far-right groups asserting that these men pose a threat to local women and children. This article aims to challenge these claims with a research-based approach, drawing on studies from Ireland, the UK, and other Western European countries.

In recent days in my own home county we have had protests outside a proposed ciste in Carlow town to house men seeking asylum and refuge in this country. When I asked these protestors what they were saying no to and what their concerns were about the rhetoric I was met with was 'we are protecting our women and children'. What are we protecting them from? As an academic deeply invested in the fields of human rights, equality, and diversity, and as a concerned citizen and father from Carlow, I feel compelled to address the current narrative surrounding refugees and asylum seekers. The arguments presented by some protesters, particularly the notion that refugees, especially men, pose a significant risk to the safety of women and children, are not only unfounded but dangerously misleading.

Firstly, let's look at the facts. In Ireland, like many other countries, the greatest threats to women and children often come from within their own close communities, predominantly from native individuals, not the mythical foreign menace. For instance, more than 38,000 referrals were made to Tusla concerning children's welfare in the first five months of 2023 alone, with the vast majority of these cases involving Irish nationals. This statistic starkly contrasts with the baseless fear-mongering about the 50 or so men who, far from posing a threat, are themselves living in fear due to aggressive protests, racism, and discrimination.

Moreover, the claim that the presence of asylum seekers leads to an increase in crime is unsupported by evidence. In fact, numerous studies and reports by authorities in Ireland have debunked this myth. It is crucial to recognize that the challenges faced by refugees are primarily due to integration difficulties, not because they inherently pose risks to our communities.

As a father of three, my primary concern is not the unfounded fear of traumatized individuals seeking kindness and refuge. Rather, it is the harmful messages of racism and discrimination, masquerading as a

noble effort to protect 'our women and children', that pose a real threat. These narratives not only spread baseless fear but also sow division and hatred in our society, based on no empirical evidence or lived experience.

It is also vital to acknowledge that Ireland, like many countries, benefits from the cultural, social, and economic contributions of people from diverse backgrounds. The rhetoric that refugees, particularly men, pose a significant threat to small communities, is not only unsupported by current research but also neglects the positive impacts of welcoming those in need.

As a Carlow native, and in some attempt to counter these harmful messages, I want to emphatically state that these protests and the messages they spread do not represent who we are as a people. Our focus should be on addressing real threats within our communities and ensuring that refugees are integrated safely and respectfully, for the collective benefit of all. We must call out these unfounded fears for what they truly are: racism, discrimination, fear-mongering, and hatred. It is our duty, both as Irish citizens and as human beings, to stand up against such narratives and foster a society based on facts, empathy, and inclusiveness. Below are some real evidence and research that has been empirically studied to help equip people in countering these harmful, discriminatory and racist attitudes.

Evidence Against the Claim that Refugee Men Increase Risk to Women and Children

*Minimal Impact on Low-Wage Occupations: A study by Andersson, Eriksson, and Scocco (2019) in *Comparative Migration Studies* reveals that refugee migration has a small but positive impact on the growth of low-wage occupations in the UK and Irish economies. This counters the narrative that refugees negatively affect the job market, potentially reducing community tensions [(Andersson, Eriksson, & Scocco, 2019)](https://consensus.app/papers/refugee-immigration-growth-lowwage-work-eu15-andersson/d871098472435dafbceabf89c480793e/?utm_source=chatgpt).

*Refugees' Struggle for Integration: Research by Stewart and Mulvey (2014) in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* highlights the difficulties refugees face in integrating into new societies due to restrictive asylum regimes. This study underscores the challenges rather than the threats posed by refugees [(Stewart & Mulvey, 2014)] (https://consensus.app/papers/seeking-safety-beyond-refuge-impact-immigration-stewart/b0d5b8a0f4395151b41a86cab91c7a6a/?utm_source=chatgpt).

Have you some free time to help people improve their spoken English?

Are you interested in helping one of our county-wide English Conversation Groups?

We provide training & materials. Classes are supported by Fáilte Isteach, the national conversation groups support organisation.

Just email us: donegalip@gmail.com or phone/text 086 084 1433



fáilte isteach
Welcoming Migrants through Conversational English Classes

*Impact of Media Representation: Goodman, Sirriyeh, and McMahon (2017) in the *Journal of Community and Applied Social Psychology* discuss how UK media's evolving categorization of refugees influences public perception, often unfairly portraying them as threats [(Goodman, Sirriyeh, & McMahon, 2017)](https://consensus.app/papers/evolving-recategorisations-refugees-throughout-crisis-goodman/12f0a2987987500289580278b3f91450/?utm_source=chatgpt).

*Gender and Refugee Integration: Cheung and Phillimore's (2016) study in the *Journal of Social Policy* shows significant gender differences in integration outcomes for refugees in the UK, with women often faring worse than men. This suggests that the challenges faced by refugee men are part of a broader issue of integration, rather than them posing a threat [(Cheung & Phillimore, 2016)](https://consensus.app/papers/gender-refugee-integration-quantitative-analysis-cheung/73765bf3010c5610a710f3a35712251c/?utm_source=chatgpt).

... This article is continued on page 4.

Reporting Racist Incidents

The Intercultural Platform can support people to report incidents they have experienced or witnessed to the iReport online system so we can gather data on such occurrences and hopefully influence policy and policing practices accordingly.

Whilst we encourage people to report incidents to the Gardaí, the iReport system enables anti-racism organisations and agencies to show the levels of such events. Drop in or make an appointment, call 086 084 1433

Racism:
see it
send it
end it.

www.iREPORT.ie





DONEGAL INTERCULTURAL PLATFORM clg

donegal intercultural platform clg

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Email: donegalip@gmail.com

For Anti-Racism, Equality and Human Rights

Kaalmada ayaa laga heli karaa halkaan...

Dhamaan dadka Soomaaliyeed ee Donegal dagan waxaa lala socod siinayaa in ay la soo xariiri karaan xarunta Intercultural Platform ee Donegal hadii ay u baahan yihiin in lagaa



caawiyo Dukumintiyada, Luuqada English, iyo dhammaan waxay ay baahan yihiin oo la xariiro magan galyo doonka iyo qaxootiga. Dongel Intercultural Platform waxuu mar walba idin la garab taagan yahay in uu idin ka caawiyo waxyaabaha aan kor ku soo xusay si aad fahmi kartaan oo luuqada Soomaaliga ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay Fadlan la xariir Xarunta oo ku taalo Library-ga agtiisa.

Tacsi - Layla Xussen Cali

Dhammaan bulshada Soomaaliyeed eek u nool gobalka Donegal waxay Tacsi u dirayaan goyskii ay ka geeriyootay Layla Xussen Cali oo shil gaari ugu dhimatay magaalada Letterkenny ee gobalka Donegal Ireland 5tii Janaayo 2024. Waxaan leenahay sabar iyo iimaan Allah ka siiyo familkeeda iyo dhammaan dadkii saaxiibka la ahaa. Amin

English Conversation classes are back county-wide

After a short break for the Christmas and New Year holidays our volunteer teams are back providing English Conversation Workshops in many parts of county Donegal. The sessions are for all levels of English, from absolute beginners to experienced speakers who want to improve. We are also hoping to recruit new volunteers to facilitate the classes and help more people gain in confidence and competence.

Just email donegalip@gmail.com or phone **086 084 1433**

The Donegal Intercultural Platform CDP clg is part-funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development as part of the Community Development Programme and supported by Donegal Local Community Development Committee, CYPSC, HSE, DCEDIY & TUSLA



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Donegal Intercultural Platform is an autonomous non-governmental organisation focusing on human rights & anti-racism. DIP is an active member of Irish Network Against Racism & Community Work Ireland



Pathways to Inclusion Project Update report - Supporting people in the asylum system

We play a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of International Protection Applicants (IPAs). Our responsibility includes developing the English language ability and confidence through various means such as conversation workshops, exploring accreditation paths and fostering an understanding of civil society structures in Ireland. We have collaborate with bodies like Atlantic Technological University, ETB / SOLAS, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Unions, Private and Public Sector employers. The aim is to enhance employability and build employment profiles for participants. Additionally, we organise community events and engagement workshops to foster positive relationships between IPAs and various communities & organisations, addressing issues like discrimination, challenges to inclusion and human rights. Our work significantly contributes to the development and empowerment of International Protection Applicants in the wider Donegal community. Please contact: Balume Dube Pathways to Inclusion Officer 083 399 8265. *The project covers the county and is part-funded by the Department of Integration (DCEDIY).*

Are you a member of a Black or Minority Ethnic Community (BME) living in Donegal?

Would you like training and support to become a representative for the migrant communities across the county? If so - read on and please get in touch. The Donegal Intercultural Platform are launching a new project - the **Migrant Representation Initiative (MRI)** to support members of the BME community to become community representatives in local committees, boards and working groups across the county.

There is a challenge to get migrant voices heard and listened to at all levels of society. We want to help ensure that committees in agencies like the County Council, the Children and Young People's Services Committee and its working groups and structures within the Public Participation Network all have effective and accountable BME representatives presenting the priorities for the Minorities across Donegal and the country. Whilst we assist and encourage BME communities to get organised and active, we recognise there is a need to support voices who can speak for the wider migrant communities, beyond their own ethnic or community group. We also recognise that representatives have to have a mandate from their peers and be accountable to them.

Therefore we are calling for people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities to contact us and put their names forward for this new initiative. We hope you will make the commitment to step forward to help create the conditions for greater inclusion in community and civil decision making structures across Donegal. To register or get more information please email info@interculturaldonegal.org and put MRI in the subject line or text 086 084 1433 & give your name location in the county.



Continued From page 3. Addressing the Real Threats to Women and Children

Research indicates that the real threats to women and children often come from within their own social network. The notion that refugees or outsiders are the primary threat is not supported by evidence. Studies from various European countries, including Ireland, have consistently shown that harm to women and children is more likely to be perpetrated by close partners or relatives, who are natives of the country. As a child protection social worker I have experienced this evidence directly in my professional role and capacity as well as the empirical research evidence.

Importance of Vetting and Integration

While concerns about vetting are valid, it's crucial to understand that seeking refuge and asylum is essential for those fleeing danger. The process of vetting, although complex, is in place and is complemented by existing safeguards such as policing and child safeguarding standards. This ensures that the process is as secure as possible, addressing the public's safety concerns.

Conclusion

The argument that refugee men pose a significant threat to small communities in Ireland is not supported by current research. The challenges faced by refugees are often a result of integration difficulties, not inherent risks they pose. It's essential to focus on real threats within communities and ensure that refugees are integrated safely and respectfully for the benefit of all.

John Balfe is a Lecturer at South Eastern Technical University and a resident of Carlow.

InStep project - exploring the strategies for migrant inclusion for youth and young adults in Donegal

The final report of the action-research initiative called InStep that explored the challenges for migrant youth in accessing youth services, recreational clubs, faith groups etc was presented to the full meeting of members of the Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) at the end of September and then launched in December 2023 in Letterkenny at the Intercultural Hub. The project involved young adults, a research team of 15 to 18 year olds who explored their own lived experiences, the realities for other people from migrant and minority ethnic communities and also considered the processes and findings contained in the Irish Refugee Council's youth report called **Tight Spaces**.

The team will be taking the report into youth organisations, clubs, sports groups etc over the next few months to see how the report findings and recommendations might help local groups become even more aware of the issues facing young migrants and members of minority ethnic communities and how to put strategies in place to boost inclusion and participation. Contact us if you want to meet up!

