

Doras Luimní Anti-Racism Statement

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21, 2015

Doras Luimní highlights the need for increased awareness around racism as part of its ongoing efforts to combat racism and respond to the common myths and mis-conceptions around immigration and integration through its Anti-Rumour Campaign.

March 21st marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; a day to raise awareness about the challenges posed by racism in Irish society as well as a chance to acknowledge the positive steps made in combating racial discrimination.

Doras Luimní would like to acknowledge the efforts of those in Limerick City and County who have worked to raise awareness around the issues of racism, prejudice and discrimination. This work has led to some positive steps in Limerick towards combatting racism. The year has seen a number of advances, such as the signing of the Intercultural Cities agreement by Limerick City and County Council, increased awareness around reporting racist incidents to Doras Luimní via the iReport.ie online reporting system, and greater understanding of migrant issues in schools and communities, with particular emphasis on the conditions in Direct Provision as part of the End DP and Anti-Rumours campaigns. Despite the advances there are still some barriers which need to be addressed. The past year has also witnessed online hate speech, and public manifestations of racism in Limerick including an increasing incident of racist posters and racist incidents in local shops. Doras Luimní continues to support ENAR Ireland's initiative to create an effective third-party reporting system for racist incidents in Ireland. The recently published iReport.ie summary of racist incidents from July to December 2014 and highlights the increasing use of social media for racial abuse and intimidation.

According to Doras Luimní Anti-Rumours coordinator, Dr. Matt Cannon, "The day offers and opportunity to raise awareness around the challenges which racial discrimination poses to intercultural integration in Irish society. By understanding how these incidents happen we hope to develop improved responses. We encourage any who has experienced or witnessed racism to please report the incident at www.ireport.ie and/ or contact Doras Luimní for further support in the Limerick region.

ENDS

Editor Notes

Doras Luimní is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation based in Limerick. Our mission is to promote and uphold the human rights and wellbeing of migrants through personal advocacy, integration development and collaborative advocacy campaigns at the local and national level.

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