

Statement on Reports of Racist Bullying in Limerick Shops

Thursday 13th November 2014

Doras Luimní met with shop owners affected by recent racist incidents in Limerick city centre to discuss and develop a proactive plan on what can be done to prevent further attacks. Meetings with Limerick Gardaí Ethnic Liaison Officers will also be scheduled in the coming days.

Doras Luimní is deeply concerned to hear reports of racism in Limerick shops, as reported this week, and would encourage anyone who has experienced racism and discrimination to report it to An Garda Síochána and/or Doras Luimní by calling 061 310318, emailing reportracism@dorasluimni.org or online at www.iReport.ie.

Racism is unacceptable and must be dealt with through a combination of action, awareness and education. Integration cannot happen where racism exists, and while there have been a number of positive moves towards Integration at a local level, such as Limerick's upcoming designation by the Council of Europe as an Intercultural city, there is still a lot of work to do on the ground in regard to acknowledging and responding to racism and discrimination.

Reports of incidents of racism are not new and previous work of Doras Luimní has highlighted the existence of racism and discrimination. According to a report published by Doras Luimní in 2013 titled 'Treated Differently' 60% of the respondents stated that they had experienced one or more incidents of racism, and as many as 80% of those who experienced racism in Limerick did not report it.

Integration Policy Officer Dr. Matt Cannon states: "Racism and discrimination are happening in Limerick but victims and witnesses are reluctant to turn to the authorities for assistance. Doras Luimní gets regular reports of racism however we feel that this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to incidents that are happening, and that many incidents of racism and discrimination go unreported. The reluctance to report racism and discrimination is associated with a number of factors such as fear of authority, lack of awareness around who to report to, and a sense of disillusionment about what can be done in regard to racist incidents. We would encourage anyone who has experienced, witnessed, heard about or was supporting someone who had been subjected to any form of racism to report it. By identifying the types of racism experienced it is hoped that we can find a way to prevent further incidents and continue to move towards an intercultural Limerick where racist incidents are simply not acceptable."

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.



Contact Information:

Matt Cannon, Integration Policy Officer, Doras Luimní, Central Buildings, 51a O'Connell Street, Limerick. **Telephone:** 061 310 328 **Email:** m.cannon@dorasluimni.org

Karen McHugh, CEO, Doras Luimní, Central Buildings, 51a O'Connell Street, Limerick. **Telephone:** 061 310 328 **Email:** k.mchugh@dorasluimni.org