

Wednesday 27 January 2021
3.30-4.45pm



Black Lives Matter? Attitudes to minorities and migrants in Northern Ireland

Dr Lucy Michael, followed by a panel discussion with Raquel McKee of ACSONI and Lilian Seenoi-Barr of North West Migrants Forum

Research Update – focus and data

Data

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

- 1,203 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years or over

Young Life and Times Survey

- 1,131 postal/online survey with 16 year olds

Focus

- Social attitudes towards Black, minority ethnic and indigenous people
- Attitudes to immigration and refugees

Who we are today

Least ethnically diverse region in UK

- 1.8% belong to minority ethnic groups in 2011
- Compare to A8 nationals – 2.2% (39,000)

Ethnic minority groups

- Largest group Asian (c. 19,000)
 - South Asian c. 8,000
 - Chinese c. 6,000
- Black c. 3,600
- Mixed c. 6,000
- Traveller c.1,300
- Other c. 2,300

Benefits of Diversity

Do the culture and traditions of different minority ethnic groups **add to the richness and diversity** of Northern Ireland society?

61% of adults

52% 16 year olds

Friends of other ethnicities

(Adult groups)

Black friends: 14%

- Lower than any time in previous decade
- But always less than 19%

Polish friends: 28%

- Fallen from 37% in 2019

Lowest amongst oldest age group

16 year old experiences

- 45% **witnessed** racist bullying or harassment
- 34% **rarely or never** socialised or played sport with people from a different ethnic background
- 33% **sometimes**
- 29% **very often**

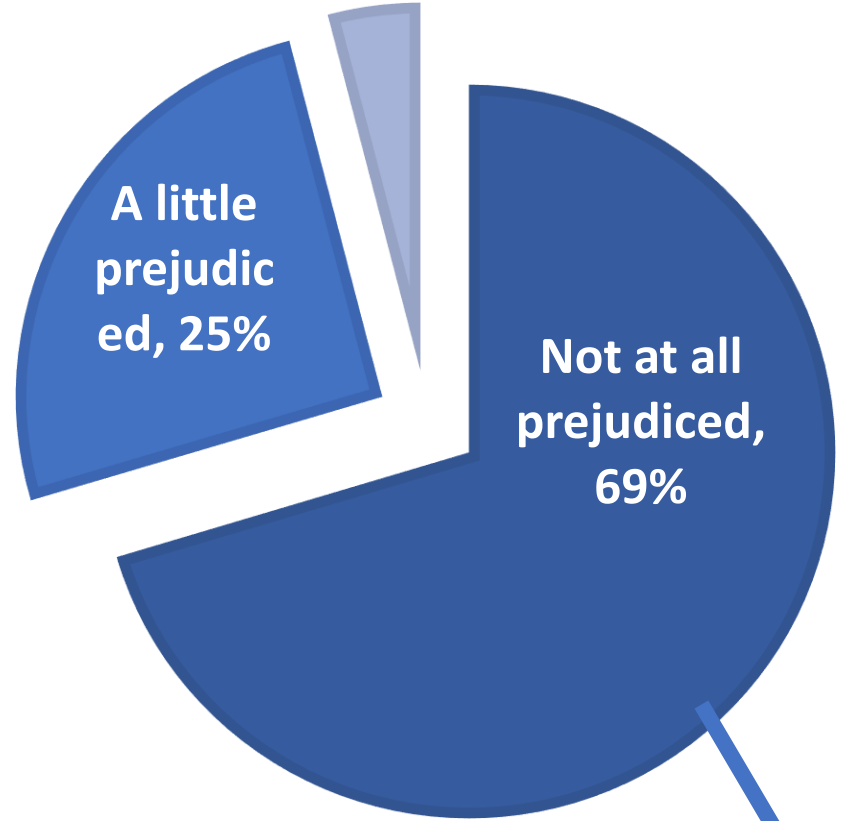
Assessing our own prejudice

Very prejudiced, 4%

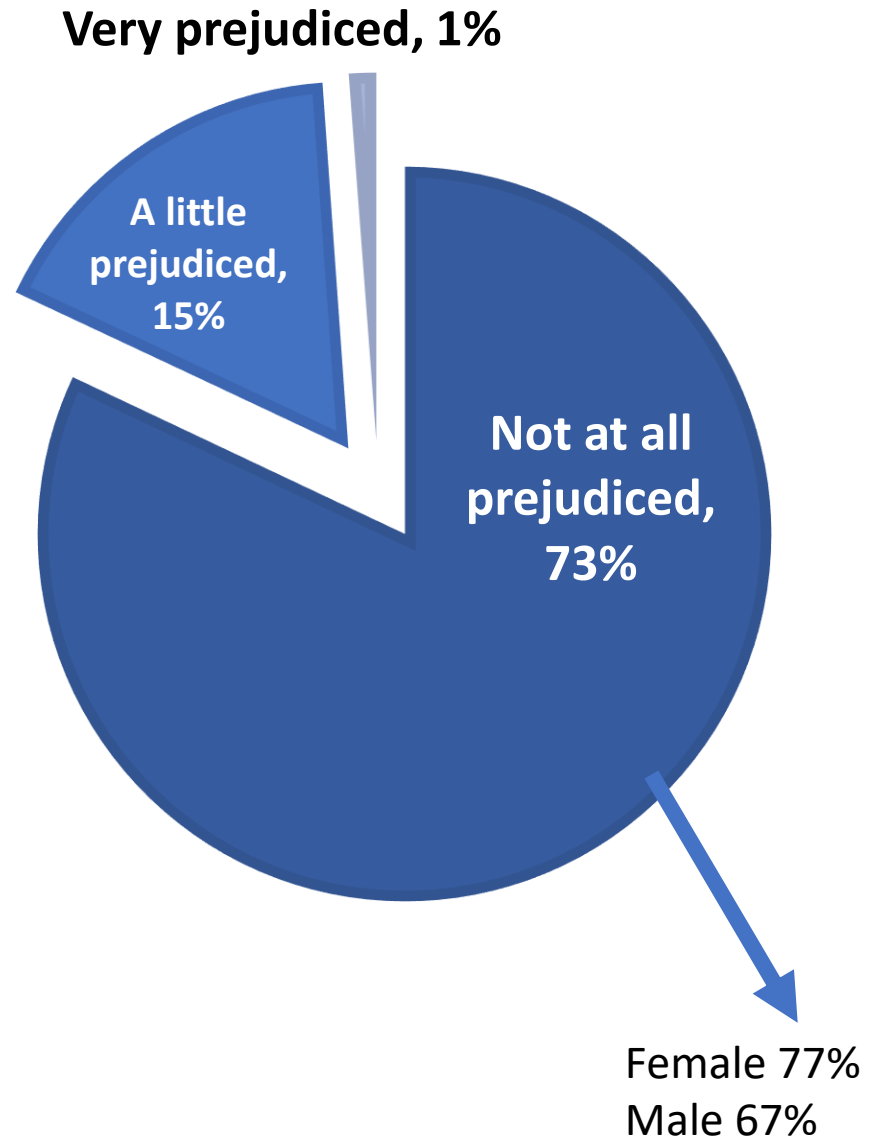
A little prejudiced, 25%

Not at all prejudiced, 69%

Catholic 76%
Protestant 65%
No religion 69%



16 yr olds
assess
their own
prejudice



Attitudes to immigration

Should immigration increase/decrease?

52% remain same

20% supported increase

18% wanted it decreased

At odds with wider UK

44% in UK favoured decreased immigration

Significant Improvement

In 2014, **46%** in NI supported decreased immigration.

Hierarchies of acceptance

Black and indigenous communities globally share common experiences of cultural erasure, criminalisation and exclusion

Racial hierarchies consistent in NILT data

Acceptance of Irish Travellers particularly low.

Attitudes to certain groups can be influenced by lack of familiarity with the group, but also consistently negative media coverage

Hierarchies of acceptance

Accept as colleague at work

- Eastern Europe 90%
- Muslim 80%
- Irish Traveller 70%

Accept as relative through marriage

- Eastern European 80%
- Muslim 64%
- Irish Traveller 58%

Intersecting prejudices

On marrying Irish Travellers,
Catholic 73% - Protestant 45%

A welcoming NI?

Is it our duty to provide protection to refugees who are escaping persecution in their home country?

- 65% of adults
- 58% of 16 year olds

Highest 45-54 year olds (74%)

Lowest 18-24 year olds (55%)

Is Northern Ireland a society that welcomes refugees?

39% of adults

28% of 16 year olds

A changing picture?

Increasing optimism about racial prejudice

- A third believe it's the same as 5 years ago
- Few believe increasing (49>30)
- More believe decreasing (11>24)
- Note majority of respondents White British/Irish

Hate Crimes decreasing broadly since 2014

Attitudes to Black, minority ethnic and indigenous groups have **not improved since 2016.**

We are more optimistic than realistic about change

Next steps

- Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2015 – 2025
- European Commission (2020) EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025
- Refugee Integration Strategy for Northern Ireland
- Changing public attitudes?

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