

## Racism and Discrimination

“Racism is any theory which involves the claim that racial or ethnic groups are inherently superior or inferior or which bases value judgements on racial differentiation, has no scientific foundation and is contrary to the moral and ethical principles of humanity” **UNESCO 1978**



### DIRECT AND INDIRECT

People can experience direct discrimination and indirect discrimination. Direct discrimination consists of verbal abuse and refusals of service, for example.

Indirect discrimination consists of a policy, practice or rule that results in poorer outcomes for a minority group.

Indirect discrimination was highlighted in a report by the ESRI entitled 'A Social Portrait of Travellers in Ireland', 2017 which shows that over the last 40 years the gap in education between Travellers and non-Travellers has actually increased and not decreased.

### STATISTICS

"Who experiences discrimination in Ireland? Evidence from the QNHS Equality Modules" was published jointly by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission and the Economic and Social Research Institute in 2017.

According to this report Irish Travellers report:

- very high rates of discrimination in seeking work, where they are 10 times more likely than White Irish to experience discrimination
- extremely high rates of discrimination in private services, where they were over 22 times more likely to report discrimination, particularly in shops, pubs and restaurants

'Our Geels' The All Ireland Traveller Health Study, 2010 reported:

- 53% of Travellers "worried about experiencing unfair treatment"
- Over 50% of Travellers experienced discrimination in their daily lives
- 40% of Travellers experienced discrimination in accessing health services, compared to 17% of Black Americans and 14% of Latino Americans (Krieger et. al. 2005)

### THE IMPACT OF RACISM

Racism and discrimination results in marginalisation and exclusion of minority ethnic groups including Irish Travellers.

Lack of opportunity and individual incidents of direct discrimination can result in feelings of low self-worth. Many Travellers find themselves in an identity crisis where they are forced to hide their identity to be able to participate in society.

Exclusion and marginalisation also contributes to poor health and poor mental health.