

# A Sense Of Belonging

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The Strategy will establish a framework for Government departments and others:

- to tackle racial inequalities and to open up opportunity for all;
- to eradicate racism and hate crime; and
- along with Together: Building a United Community, to promote good race relations and social cohesion.

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A society in which racial equality and diversity is/are supported, understood, valued and respected and where people of minority ethnic backgrounds have a sense of belonging which is acknowledged and valued by people from all backgrounds.

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## SIX SHARED AIMS

### **Elimination of Racial Inequality**

To eliminate racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, political and public life, for people of different ethnic backgrounds .

### **Combating racism and hate crime**

To combat racism, and race hate crime and provide effective protection and redress against all manifestations of racism and racist crime and to promote a victim-centred approach.

### **Equality of Service Provision**

To ensure equality of opportunity for people from a minority ethnic background in accessing and benefiting from all public services and jointly work towards removing barriers that prevent this.

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## SIX SHARED AIMS

### **Participation**

To increase participation, representation and a sense of “belonging” of people from minority ethnic backgrounds in all aspects of public, political, economic, social and cultural life.

### **Social Cohesion**

To strengthen social relations, interactions and ties between different faiths and cultural backgrounds, both long standing within Northern Ireland and recent arrivals to these shores, guided by overarching human rights norms.

### **Capacity Building**

To support and enable minority ethnic communities develop leadership and collective capacity at local and regional level, contributing to fulfilling these shared aims.

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## **A SEVENTH SHARED AIM?**

relating to one's rights to maintain one's cultural identity. Minority ethnic people may wish to retain their culture and traditions and to pass them on to subsequent generations. However, cultural identity expressed in the wrong way can contribute to barriers between groups. And members of smaller cultural groups can feel excluded from society if others obstruct, or are intolerant of, their cultural practices.

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It will also provide a framework for tackling inequalities experienced by followers of minority non-Christian faiths. The definition of 'racial group' has, in any case, been extended by case law to include mono-ethnic religious communities, such as Jews and Sikhs.

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Do you agree that there is a need for a specific  
Refugee Integration Strategy?

Do you agree that there is a need for specific  
programmes of work to address particular  
challenges and vulnerabilities facing particular  
groups?



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Do you think that reform of Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 is a priority?

Are you aware of anyone having suffered from a defect in the legislation?

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## IMMIGRATION

A “regionalisation” of immigration policy?

The consequences (-ve and +ve) of our current  
immigration policy?

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## BARRIERS TO PROGRESS

Assumptions underpinning the main barriers to progress are as follows:

- race equality is a low priority;
- confusion about 'mainstreaming';
  - lack of resources;
- difficulty connecting with black and minority ethnic communities;  
and
  - too many or too few targets.

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## IMPLEMENTATION

How to go about making this more than words on  
paper?

Key elements?

Champions?

Leaders?

Reference group?

Work planning?

Monitoring and reviewing?

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