

## Attitudinal Surveys

### Attitudes Towards Migrant Workers

The Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) publishes regular surveys. Key findings from the 2010 Omnibus Survey included positive reactions towards migrant workers but also some that are more negative.

- 52% of respondents felt that the Government should place more restrictions on migrant workers.
- 28% of respondents thought Northern Ireland people were very prejudiced towards migrant workers;
- only 4% of respondents considered themselves to be very prejudiced, but 29% described themselves as a little prejudiced;
- 48% of respondents felt that migrant workers take jobs away from people who were born in Northern Ireland;
- 30% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that migrant workers come to Northern Ireland just to get social security benefits;
- 70% of respondents felt that the number of migrant workers coming to Northern Ireland puts a strain on services;

*Attitudes to Migrant Workers: Results from the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey, November 2010*

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/es/attitudes-towards-migrant-workers-report-2010>

### Survey on Prejudice and Tolerance

In November 2009 the ARK research survey on prejudice and tolerance in N Ireland revealed disturbing levels of prejudice.

- 93% of respondents in 2008 thought there was a lot or a little prejudice against minority ethnic communities in N Ireland.
- One in ten people described themselves as 'at all prejudiced'.
- Ten years ago it was one in four.
- 32% reported themselves to be 'very' or 'a little' prejudiced against minority-ethnic people.
- Worryingly, while most people say that they would not act on their prejudice, 15% said they would behave in accordance with the prejudice that they feel.

<http://www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update63.pdf>

### Equality Awareness Survey 2008

- 54% thought that discrimination was more common in 2008 than 5 years ago
- 28% of respondents would mind having a migrant worker as an in-law, and 23% and 22% respectively would mind having a migrant worker as a neighbour or a work colleague.
- 20% said that they felt negative towards Eastern European migrants
- 16% said that they felt negative towards people from the Polish community
- 15% said that they felt negative towards people from the Portuguese community
- 12% said that they felt negative towards people from the Indian

- community
- 12% said that they felt negative towards people from the Chinese community

<http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/ECSurvey2008.pdf>

### **International Comparisons**

- 65% of people surveyed in the UK thought that immigration is more of a problem than an opportunity compared to 44% in Germany. The UK had the highest percentage of any of the countries surveyed.

*Transatlantic Trends: Immigration 2010* <http://www.gmfus.org/trends/immigration/2010/>

- ‘The highest proportion of bigoted persons ... was in Northern Ireland and Greece - where, respectively, 44 and 43 percent of respondents did not want persons from at least one of the five groups as their neighbours.’

(These groups included people of another race, immigrants, Muslims, Jews, and homosexuals.) The lowest proportion of bigoted persons surveyed was in Sweden (13 percent).

*Love Thy Neighbour: How Much Bigotry Is There In Western Countries?* Vani K Borooah, University of Ulster John Mangan, University of Queensland January 2007 (Abstract)  
<http://news.ulster.ac.uk/podcasts/Bigotry.pdf>