

Surveys of Attitudes Towards Migrants and Minority-Ethnic People

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;

www.delni.gov.uk/es/attitudes-towards-migrant-workers-report-2010

ARK Survey on the Impact of Immigration

- Only 24% saw immigration as bad overall (32% as bad for the economy and 21% for cultural life.
- 31% saw immigration as neither good nor bad.
- 41% thought that immigration was either 'good' or 'very good'.
- 50% thought that immigration was positive for cultural life.
- 10% thought that immigration to NI should be increased a 'little' or 'a lot', 43% that it should stay the same, but 43% wanted it to reduce 'a little or 'a lot'.
- Only 26% of respondents to the survey 'had a close interaction (such as a lengthy conversation) with those from a minority ethnic community'.
- An increasing number have misgivings about greater closeness. 88% said that they would accept Eastern Europeans as tourist but only 60% would like an Eastern European to marry into their family, a decrease from 76% in 2008.
- 79% felt that there was prejudice against people from minority-ethnic communities and 41% felt that there was more racial prejudice than five years before.

2012 ARK NI Life and Times (NILT) Survey (published 2013) Philip McDermott, ARK Research Update 86 A '*Shared Society?*' *Attitudes on immigration and diversity*, 2013
www.ark.ac.uk/publications/updates/update86.pdf

Survey on Prejudice and Tolerance

In 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.

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

Equality Commission NI

Equality Awareness Survey 2011

- One in three respondents, 33%, said they had been subject to some form of harassment or treated unfairly because they belong to a particular group, an increase of 16%.
- When asked if they would mind having people from certain groups as a work colleague, neighbour or married to a close relative there was a small increase in negative attitudes towards Eastern European migrant workers (26%, 28% and 36% would mind a little or a lot) and continuing negative attitudes towards Travellers (35%, 54% and 55% would mind a little or a lot).
- Those from a black or minority-ethnic (BME) group were more likely to report unfair treatment regarding educational opportunities (17%), when trying to buy/rent a house, business premises or land (35%), or being harassed because of membership of a particular group (35%) or not being able to express their culture (31%) than those who do not belong to a BME group (8%, 9%, 13% and 13%).

www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/DYMMequalityawarenesssurveyreport2012.pdf?ext=.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://trends.gmfus.org/archives/immigration-archive/immigration-2010/>
- Among all the countries surveyed, the UK had the greatest number of respondents (65%) who saw immigration as more of a problem than an opportunity.
Transatlantic Trends: Immigration 2011
http://trends.gmfus.org/files/archived/immigration/doc/TTI2010_English_Key.pdf
- '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>