



Stitch in Time (CARD 1)

Home Sweet Home

I feel here at home, I like this country's people. It's different the people here and in England, people here are more like Lithuanian people. In England, people are more closed. People and neighbours are very friendly here, people say hello, hello, it's so nice.

‘A large number of individuals interviewed for the study reported very positive experiences of life in Northern Ireland, both in relation to the general quality of life issues, as well as their relationships with the wider community.’

Both quotations are from:

“... Easy Life, Great People, Bad Weather” A Report on the Experiences of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland, by John Bell, Anne Caughey, Ulf Hansson, Agnieszka Martynowicz and Maura Scully



Stitch in Time (CARD 2)

Sticks and Stones

The [racist] taunts began in earnest. ... The person who made up the rhyme 'sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me' didn't know what they were talking about.

17-year old minority-ethnic student in Hazelwood Integrated College in N Belfast in Welcoming Newcomer and Minority Ethnic Pupils in Northern Ireland, 2010

'Swastikas and racist slogans have been smeared on a home in Co. Antrim where a taxi driver and his African wife live. ... Police are treating the incident as a hate crime.'

21 September 2007 www.4ni.co.uk/northern_ireland_news.asp?id=66143

32% reported themselves to be 'very' or 'a little' prejudiced against minority-ethnic people.

2009 ARK survey



Stitch in Time (CARD 3)

Friend or Foe

In the past I've had good neighbours and very bad neighbours. In the first place I lived the neighbours helped me to set everything in the house when I just moved in. I was having a child then, and they used to come and listen to music and help me painting; I spend like 5 or 6 months in that house. But now I don't really talk to anybody ...

...about 5 or 6 years ago, some guys got into my house ... I said 'get out of my house! How did you get in here, you don't have the key to my house, I'll call the police', and they said 'oh, really, do you want to call the police and see what happens?' ... Ann, Liberia

The New Workers: Migration, Labour and Citizenship in Northern Ireland in the 21st Century
edited by B. Garvey, P. Stewart, J. Kulinska, R. Campuzano

'The encounter of minority ethnic and migrant populations with Northern Irish people is that they are friendly, polite and welcoming, but many find a superficiality, evasiveness or suspicion in the local population, which can be traced to behaviours formed during the conflict.'

Research to Identify Additional Difficulties Faced by Minority Ethnic Groups and Migrant Workers because of the Conflict in Northern Ireland (Executive Summary), STEP, 2010

32% reported themselves to be 'very' or 'a little' prejudiced against minority-ethnic people.

2009 ARK survey



Stitch in Time (CARD 4)

The End of the Line

I think I'm going to leave because that's not the place I want to live. ... At the time I decided to come here I was very happy and everything was going nice, but I have two kids as well and they're not happy at all, my wife's not happy – she can't sleep at night – we're all scared now, we can't really live this life anymore.

A Bulgarian man, Michael Sotirov, whose home and business in Co. Antrim had been attacked by arsonists.

... where I used to live something happened a guy attacked my family, we had to move the police had to evacuate my family from the house, and in the whole neighbourhood, nobody saw anything; and they were all standing there watching...

Sherley, Liberia

*The New Workers: Migration, Labour and Citizenship in Northern Ireland in the 21st Century
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'In 2010–11 ... there were ... 102 reported cases of violence with a racist motivation that resulted in injury and 263 cases of criminal damage. [PSNI Statistics] 'Race crime is underreported, the clearance rate is low and there are very few prosecutions using the hate crime legislation.'

Embracing Diversity; Information Update 2012