

**TEACHER'S NOTES****RACISM****NEWSSTAND****ETHNIC MINORITIES****INTRODUCTION:**

The idea of race is an attempt to categorise humans according to physical characteristics such as skin colour. There is a wide range of ethnic groups who have immigrated to Northern Ireland many of whom live happily alongside the other traditions. However, some ethnic groups face a series of disadvantages expressed in the form of racism, either in attitudes or behaviour. The primary objectives are to define racism and racist, to examine the main expressions of racism and to develop an understanding of the extent of cultural diversity in Ireland and the consequences for the population of Ireland, both north and south.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

- What is racism?
- What does it mean to be racist?
- What are the main expressions of racism?

**TIME:** 2 hours (2 double periods)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

This lesson will offer students opportunities to explore:

- What it means to live in a multi-cultural society
- The extent of racist attitudes, feelings and behaviours
- The challenges of ethnic diversity for Ireland, both north and south

Throughout the lesson students have opportunities to:

- Understand the nature of racism in Ireland
- Think about what it means to be an ethnic minority group
- Learn to respect differences around them
- Develop thinking skills and the ability to manage information and be creative

**RESOURCES:****Newspaper Articles**

Article A: "The real foreigners are the racists peddling their hypocritical views" Newsletter 13/04/04

Alex Kane criticises those who distributed racist leaflets in Donegall Pass, Belfast and questions what their motives might have been. He also calls on NI politicians to deal with the immigration issue and tackle racism in Northern Ireland.

Article B: "What are Muslim pupils like?" Irish Times 14/05/04

A look at a Muslim primary school in Dublin and the growth of the Muslim community in Ireland, including the difficulties of integrating Muslim values into modern Ireland.

Article C: "Success? It's a piece of cake for Jamel Arif." Irish Times 14/05/04

The story of a hard-working Algerian Muslim who, with the help of his Irish wife, now owns several businesses. He talks about what his experience of living in Ireland has been.

Article D "Race hate does not discriminate in the North" Sunday Tribune 02/05/04

Tragic story of Indian man who lived and worked in a Belfast interface area and died after a racist assault.

### **PREPARATION FOR SERIES OF 3 LESSONS:**

- Carry out some group/team building exercises to create an environment that will allow students to feel safe discussing ethnic diversity. Allow time for discussion and feedback from students to acknowledge experiences, opinions, attitudes and insight into differences and similarities between groups.
- Brainstorm what students believe racism is, with examples. Record findings for further development.
- Brainstorm the words prejudice and discrimination on the whiteboard. Students can then consult the site's Glossary for definitions.

### **LESSON PROGRESSION:**

Evidence suggests that people in Northern Ireland are twice as likely to exhibit racial prejudice as sectarian bias. (Belfast Telegraph 2000)

1. Using each of the 4 newspaper articles describe the different ways that racism has been expressed. Provide examples to support.  
Complete the table below. (This can be printed off and handed out – see Appendix 1)

| Expressions of Racism | Article A | Article B | Article C | Article D |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Language              |           |           |           |           |
| Behaviour             |           |           |           |           |
| Attitudes             |           |           |           |           |

2. Using these 4 articles, and the 'Who Lives Here?' section of this website, list the ethnic groups living in Northern Ireland.
3. Using each of the articles identify and explain the major difficulties that ethnic groups face in Ireland.

4. From the evidence provided, is Northern Ireland segregated on the basis of race?  
Provide reasons for your answer.

**CONCLUSION:**

Students should refer to their original definition of racism. If necessary they should develop it to include racial prejudice and racial discrimination.

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:**

In pairs, role-play an interview with a 16 year old from an ethnic minority group who has settled in Northern Ireland. In your role-play you should consider the positive and negative aspects of being a minority group in a particular society.

**APPENDIX 1**

| Expressions of Racism | Article A | Article B | Article C | Article D |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Language              |           |           |           |           |
| Behaviour             |           |           |           |           |
| Attitudes             |           |           |           |           |