



Rural youth, minority groups and social inclusion issues

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**WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?**



I wonder where they are from?

I wonder if they are refugees?

I wonder where they live?

I wonder are they in school here – maybe university somewhere?

I wonder do they have jobs?

I wonder do they experience racism or discrimination here?

I wonder what their needs are?

I wonder do they feel they are integrated here in Ireland – do they have a sense of belonging?

I wonder would they be interested in getting involved in what we have to offer, a project we are planning?

I wonder how they'd feel if I approached them?



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MAKE MINORITY A PRIORITY

INSIGHTS FROM MINORITY ETHNIC
YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING UP IN
IRELAND AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YOUTH WORK SECTOR



SUMMARY REPORT



On identity and belonging:

“You’re scared to show people who you are because you’re afraid that they’re going to judge you from where you came from, and how you act. So you’re just scared of really being yourself.”

“You said this is *their* country, well what makes it their country? It’s as much my country. Excuse me I have a red passport*, why isn’t it my country, I’m Irish? ... My sister was born in this country, why isn’t it her country?”

“When I was younger they used to call me Oreo”



On relationships with parents and their community

“Your parents might be hanging on “but you’re African and this is the way you should be” [but] just because your background is African doesn’t mean that your culture can’t be both African and Irish.”

“You kind of lose your cultural side and you just focus so much on being part of the Irish culture that you throw everything out the window. You even get into disagreements with your parents because your parents still have the cultural background and there’s so many differences in the house and then you’re trying to please your parents so there’s a lot of confusion, you grow up so confused. Parents will say this is your culture, this is how you have to be like and it’s hard. You can ... never please your parents no matter how much you try ...And then you just get older and have to kind of decide for yourself.”



Steps to Integration

What works and why?

What doesn't work and why?



On integration

“Sometimes people are surprised [by cultural practices]... even though you try and explain they don’t understand...We should be taught more about other cultures so that you understand why people act differently. What you might think is weird is completely normal to another person. If you’re not taught that then you don’t really know that.”

“I don’t think schools do it well. In my school there was the cliques of migrants and Irish cliques but there was nothing really to address it – it was a touchy subject to approach. If the teachers don’t approach or address it, the children don’t”

On racism and exclusion

“Just be realistic here, because this actually does happen, I’m seen as a nigger, negro, seen as the woman who can’t do anything because she’s a woman, seen as not Irish, seen as trouble, up to no good, seen as uneducated, seen as the outsider, seen as loud, seen as being alone, seen as a monkey. I don’t even know why you guys are laughing because you know racism is real, you know that we get called these names. That even if it’s not on a daily basis, at least once a week. I’m just saying like this thing actually does go on and you’re not taking it seriously.”

One day I was sitting on a bench with [my friend who is black] and this guy came over and he like called me over and he was like “what are you doing with that guy” and I was like “what do you mean?” And he started just slating [my friend]... and then they literally like threatened to stab him... They were saying like horrible things and they were like whispering in his ear and stuff.

I’ve been pulled over so many bloody times. And they just start searching you. I can’t count the number of times me and [my mate who is black] have been pulled over by the guards for no bloody reason whatsoever.

“Some people might not like you because of your nationality... racism, it’s a hard thing to...get rid of” ...

“many people like they are racist, they just don’t make friends with someone because you’re a different nationality” ...

“If they hear something about a nationality they say in their head then, ‘don’t make friends with them because they’re like that’...”



On leadership

“Young [minority ethnic] people....definitely [need] to stand up more and be leaders and be facilitators because it does help motivate others.”

The fact I became [a youth] leader was, it's kind of a step, it's like okay. My mum is like “okay he's doing something ... he's not just, you know messing around. So from there he'll go to college and stuff.” They become more confident in you and if you could give them that confidence in you, it takes the pressure off a bit.

They are like watching over us and making sure you're on the right path

If they're struggling, like if they've only come here recently or whatever and if they're struggling with adapting to Irish culture, if they disagree with Irish people's ways and stuff like that, you just need to be understanding and listen to them and just find out how they're, like getting on and stuff.

it's ok to have doubts and like it's ok to like question yourself. I think it's kind of more like ushering people through the fear of identifying what they are, rather than actually helping them identify what they are.



People from this group can also relate to one another ... like maybe like if you're fighting with your parents or something like that, you can talk to somebody here. It's just a place where like people can kind of be themselves... [We discuss] how our parents discipline us in different ways. Because parents are kind of, like most of them are kind of strict because they are from different ethnic backgrounds.

There are personal topics that we [migrants] need to talk about. There must be some way of bringing up this dialogue. You need to feel safe and comfortable talking about it, someone who sits down with you so you can say, "I miss my family, I feel disconnected from my culture"

Other [minority ethnic] kids have an idea of what we experience growing up and like what did we like, what we didn't like about it.



I wouldn't feel comfortable to talk and share in a group of Irish people who have no experience.



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Wish list:



Available Spaces

A mobile youth service

A team of Youth workers/Mentors

Funding grants



NYCI co-ordinating/advisory role



Thank You

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