Tender Document

Research on the Causes of Recent Racist Violence
in Northern Ireland

Closing date: 20th August 2025

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Title: Research on the Causes of Recent Racist Violence in Northern Ireland

Issued by: Community Foundation for N Ireland

Issue Date: 1st August 2025
Closing Date for Submissions: 20th August 2025

1. Background

Recent months have seen a disturbing rise in racist violence across Northern Ireland, including targeted attacks, community unrest, online incitement, and increased reporting of hate crimes. These events have caused fear and disruption within affected communities and raised significant concern within CFNI and the organisations and partners that it works with.

Understanding the root causes and drivers behind these incidents is essential to inform how we can fund preventative strategies, contribute towards policy development, and support community-based interventions. This research tender seeks to commission an evidence-based study to analyse and understand the underlying causes and triggers of racist violence in Northern Ireland.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are:

- To summarise the long-term causes and then identify and analyse the short-term root causes and contributing factors to the recent rise in racist violence and its outcomes.
- To explore the role of social, economic, political, and cultural dynamics.
- To assess the influence of organised groups (e.g., paramilitary, extremist, or nationalist elements).
- To investigate the impact of local online misinformation and hate speech.
- To map affected communities and geographical hotspots, as well as assets, positive community infrastructures and organisations.
- To make recommendations that will inform ours and other funding objectives, policy-makers, statutory bodies, and civil society actors.

3. Scope of Work

The appointed researcher(s) will be expected to:

- Conduct a literature review on racism and hate crime in NI and comparative contexts.
- Carry out qualitative research through interviews and focus groups with:
  - Victims and targeted communities

- o   Community leaders and advocacy groups in some of the impacted areas.
- o   PSNI and local government representatives
- o   Experts in extremism and digital influence
- Analyse police and statutory data on hate crimes from 2020 to 2025.
- Deliver interim and final reports, including case studies and actionable recommendations.

4. Methodology

A mixed-methods approach is encouraged, including:

- Desk-based review
- Semi-structured interviews
- Community-based focus groups
- Data analysis (quantitative crime trends and qualitative case narratives)

Researchers should apply ethical standards, including trauma-informed interviewing and safeguarding measures for vulnerable participants.

5. Deliverables

- Inception Report (within 1 month of project start)
- Final Research Report (including executive summary and policy recommendations)
- List of contacts of people /organisations (Consent and GDPR allowing) who could be involved in taking recommendations forward.
- Presentation to CFNI SMT

6. Timeline

Estimated project duration: Two months from the award of the contract.
Detailed timeline and milestones to be proposed by the applicant.

7. Budget

Maximum available funding £10,000 (inclusive of VAT and all expenses). Applicants should provide a detailed budget breakdown.

8. Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Relevant experience and expertise (30%)
- Methodological strength and appropriateness (30%)
- Understanding of the context and objectives (20%)
- Value for money (10%)
- Ethical and participatory approach (10%)

9. Submission Requirements

Interested applicants should submit:

- A proposal (max 10 pages) outlining methodology, team, and timeline
- Budget breakdown
- CVs of key personnel
- Examples of relevant previous work
- Two references

All submissions should be sent by email to Roisin Wood by 20th August 2025.

10. Contact Information

For queries or clarification, please contact:
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