

FACTSHEET 2:

SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS

This factsheet presents the key findings on public attitudes and perceptions in respect of a range of equality-related issues.

Key Findings: Social Attitudes and Perceptions

- Racial discrimination was typically perceived to be more prevalent in 2008 than five years earlier (54%). The dominant perception was that religious discrimination is less prevalent than five years earlier (40%)
- In considering which group was treated most unfairly in Northern Ireland society, ethnic groups (24%), Travellers (16%), older people (15%) and LGB persons (12%) ranked highest. Women (2%) and Men (0.3%) ranked lowest. This was broadly similar to 2005, except for Travellers who were perceived to be treated more unfairly in 2008.
- However, when asked to indicate their general perceptions of particular groups, respondents noted they felt most negative towards Travellers (28%); 21% said they felt negative towards lesbian women or gay men; and 20% said they felt negative towards Eastern European Migrants. Further when asked to about their views in particular circumstances:
 - 51% would mind having a Traveller as a neighbour or as an in-law, and 38% said they would mind having a Traveller as a work colleague.
 - 35% would mind having a close relative in a relationship with a lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) person, and 23% said they would mind having an LGB person as a work colleague or neighbour.
 - 28% 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.
 - Most tolerance was displayed towards those from a different religion - only 8% would mind someone as an in-law, or a neighbour (6%), or a work colleague (5%).
- Respondents felt it was most important to uphold the rights of women (68%), people over 70 (67%) and disabled people (66%). Least support was displayed for upholding the rights of Travellers (41%).
- Around half to two thirds of respondents agreed with the need for more diversity in workplaces, and in the Northern Ireland Assembly.