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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Equality Commission Condemns Attacks on Romanian Families**

“The attacks over the past few days which have forced a number of Romanian families to leave their homes in South Belfast are a grim reflection of the persistence of racial prejudice within our society.” Evelyn Collins, the Chief Executive of the Equality Commission said today. “This terrible situation must be met with a clear and positive response from police, public authorities and local communities, and the Commission will continue to work with all of these bodies to combat racial discrimination and challenge prejudice within Northern Ireland.

“We have to assure members of minority ethnic communities here that the great majority of people in Northern Ireland are shocked by these racist attacks and that they have our support,” Ms. Collins said. “Attacks which are aggravated by hostility on grounds of race carry an increased penalty and it is important that those who are responsible for such attacks be made answerable to the law.”