

# NORTH EAST

## **RACE EQUALITY FORUM**

# RESEARCH BRIEFING

## No. 13



### ***Developing a national barometer of prejudice and discrimination in Britain***

This report presents evidence from the first national survey since 2006 to measure prejudice and discrimination in Britain using a consistent set of measures across a range of protected characteristics. The study collected data using the random probability NatCen and ScotCen Panels in combination with the non-probability PopulusLive Panel; more than 2,800 individuals were surveyed through the NatCen and ScotCen panels, while the PopulusLive Panel provided a boost sample for particular minority groups.

Key findings include that:

- 42% of people in Britain said they had experienced some form of prejudice in the last 12 months.
- Experience of prejudice was higher than average in minority groups. This included Muslims in terms of religion-based prejudice; people from a black ethnic background in terms of race-based prejudice; people with a mental health condition in terms of impairment-based prejudice; and lesbian, gay or bisexual people in terms of sexual orientation-based prejudice.
- Nearly three-quarters of people in Britain (74%) agreed that there should be equality for all groups in Britain, but one in ten (10%) disagreed.
- More people expressed openly negative feelings towards some protected characteristics (44% towards Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, 22% towards Muslims, and 16% towards transgender people) than towards others (for example, 9% towards gay, lesbian or bisexual people, 4% towards people

aged over 70, and 3% towards disabled people with a physical impairment).

- A quarter expressed discomfort with having a person with a mental health condition as their boss (25%) or as a potential family member (29%). Around one-fifth of respondents said they would feel uncomfortable if either an immigrant or a Muslim person lived next door (19% and 18% respectively), and 14% said they would feel uncomfortable if a transgender person lived next door.
- Around a third of British adults felt that efforts to provide equal opportunities had gone 'too far' in the case of immigrants (37%) and Muslims (33%). In contrast, nearly two-thirds thought that such efforts had 'not gone far enough' for people with a mental health condition (63%) or people with a physical impairment (60%).



The report seeks to develop a national barometer on the form and prevalence of prejudice and discrimination in Britain by identifying a set of measures that can be repeated regularly to create a consistent evidence base. The survey can be adapted and extended to assess specific additional aspects of prejudice and discrimination, as well as affected groups and areas of life not covered in this report. The ongoing development of the survey measures is essential to ensure it remains an accurate, relevant and useful tool for seeking to understand prejudice and discrimination in Britain.

The report was published by the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** and written by **Dominic Abrams**, **Hannah Swift** and **Diane Houston** (University of Kent and Birkbeck, University of London) (Research Report no.119)

<https://eprints.bbk.ac.uk/id/eprint/25546/1/25546.pdf>

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*The North East Race Equality Forum is a Network of around 300 individuals and organisations in the North East Region committed to promoting racial equality in the context of social justice. No one organisation is necessarily committed to every idea published in the name of the Forum. The Forum is supported by the 'Race', Crime and Justice Regional Research Network, which includes researchers from each University in the region.*

