

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

## Consultation Response

### Draft Framework for Race Relations for Northern Ireland

Submitted to: The Executive Office, Northern Ireland Executive, 3 June 2026

#### Executive Summary

Amnesty International UK believes the draft Framework for Race Relations is not fit for purpose. It fails to learn from the well-documented shortcomings of the preceding Racial Equality Strategy (2015–2025) and, rather than constituting progress, represents a further dilution of Northern Ireland’s already insufficient approach to racial equality. The Framework lacks the legal grounding, definitional clarity, measurable targets, ring-fenced resources, and accountability mechanisms necessary to deliver meaningful change for minoritised communities.

Racist incidents in Northern Ireland reached their highest level on record in 2025/26, with 2,367 incidents and 1,507 hate crimes recorded by police. The summer of 2025 saw the worst racist disorder in Northern Ireland’s recent history, with social media platforms playing a documented role in inciting, coordinating and amplifying violence that displaced entire communities. The Independent Reporting Commission’s Eighth Report (December 2025) has confirmed the link between paramilitarism and racist violence, describing it as “a particularly serious manifestation” of continuing paramilitary harm. None of this context or sense of urgency is adequately reflected in the draft Framework.

Amnesty International UK calls on the Executive Office to substantially redraft the Framework to embed human rights principles, robust delivery mechanisms, and genuine accountability - or risk consigning another generation of minoritised people and communities to unaddressed discrimination and violence.

## 1. Introduction: who we are and why we are responding

Amnesty International UK (AIUK) is a national section of a global movement of over ten million people who campaign for every person to enjoy all rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. We represent more than 670,000 supporters in the United Kingdom. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest, or religion.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the Executive Office’s consultation on the draft Framework for Race Relations. We do so in a spirit of constructive engagement, but with serious concern. The Framework as drafted falls substantially short of what is required to

fulfil Northern Ireland’s international human rights obligations and to deliver demonstrable improvements in the lives of people from minoritised community backgrounds.

Our submission draws particularly on Amnesty International’s human rights analysis, the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) issued in September 2024 following its review of the United Kingdom, and the body of evidence that has accumulated during the lifetime of the preceding Racial Equality Strategy (2015–2025). We also draw on the findings of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland (2022), the Independent Reporting Commission’s Eighth Report (December 2025), and Amnesty International’s own research into the role of social media platforms in amplifying racist violence.

## **2. Context: the failure of the previous Racial Equality Strategy**

Any meaningful evaluation of the draft Framework must begin with an honest account of what went before. The Racial Equality Strategy 2015–2025 set out admirable goals: equal access to public services, effective protection against racism and hate crime, and fuller participation for minoritised communities in civic and public life. On each of these aims, delivery fell far short of intent.

The independent review of the Strategy’s implementation identified a pattern that will be familiar to civil society organisations working in this space; high-level commitments unsupported by dedicated delivery mechanisms, budgets that were never ring-fenced, accountability structures that existed on paper rather than in practice, and monitoring frameworks that tracked activity rather than outcomes.

This assessment was mirrored by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, which in 2022 found that the absence of representation of minoritised people in political and public life “has likely contributed to the lack of focus given to, and progress made on, racial equality in Northern Ireland”.<sup>1</sup> The Committee heard from witnesses that politics was too often done “to” rather than “with” minoritised communities,<sup>2</sup> while a number of contributors expressed frustration at what they believed to be “little tangible progress” on the implementation of the aims and actions of successive racial equality strategies.

Police figures for 2025/26 (to March 31 2026) recorded 2,367 racist incidents and 1,507 race hate crimes in Northern Ireland – the highest levels since records began in 2004. This followed significant race-related disorder in Ballymena in June 2025, described by the chairman of the Police Federation as events in which the PSNI “prevented a pogrom with consequences too painful to contemplate”. These are not statistics in isolation; they represent real harm inflicted on real people: families intimidated from their homes, children targeted in schools, communities living under the shadow of organised far-right and paramilitary-linked violence. Against this backdrop, the Executive Office has brought forward

---

<sup>1</sup>Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, The experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern (HC 159, Second Report of Session 2021-22, published March 2022), para. 8. Available at: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmniaf/159/report.html>

<sup>2</sup>NI Affairs Committee, The experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in NI (HC 159, March 2022), para. 3.

a Framework that, in Amnesty International UK’s assessment, is weaker, not stronger, than what it replaces.

**Recommendation:** The Framework must begin with a candid acknowledgement of the failures of the 2015–2025 Strategy and a clear commitment that the mistakes of that period will not be repeated. Without this reckoning, the new Framework risks being regarded – correctly – as an exercise in institutional self-exculpation rather than a genuine plan for change

### 3. Framing and definitions: getting the language right

#### 3.1 ‘Race relations’ is the wrong frame

Amnesty International UK is concerned by the decision to frame this document as a ‘Framework for Race Relations’ rather than a Racial Equality Strategy or, preferably, a Racial Justice or Anti-Racism Strategy. This is not a matter of linguistic preference. The choice of framing carries profound implications for how the problem is understood, who is held responsible, and what solutions follow.

The language of ‘race relations’ implies that the challenge is primarily one of managing tensions between different groups. It positions racism as an interpersonal or inter-community phenomenon rather than what it actually is: a structural inequality embedded in institutions, systems and the distribution of power and resources. By contrast, ‘racial equality’, ‘racial justice’ and ‘anti-racism’ as frames explicitly locate the problem in structural conditions and place obligations on the state and public bodies to take proactive action.

This matters because it shapes policy responses. Frameworks built on ‘good relations’ logic tend to produce awareness campaigns, cross-community dialogue initiatives, and cohesion programmes. These have their place, but the evidence of the past decade demonstrates that they do not, on their own, reduce racism, tackle structural inequalities in employment and services, or protect people from hate crime and violence. Northern Ireland does not need more of the same.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should be retitled and reoriented around racial equality, racial justice and anti-racism, reflecting the obligations of a state actor under domestic equality duties and international human rights law.

#### 3.2 The absence of definitions

The Framework contains no definitions of key terms including, most fundamentally, ‘racial discrimination’, ‘racism’, or ‘racial equality’. This is a significant omission, and one that CERD has specifically addressed.

In its September 2024 Concluding Observations on the United Kingdom, CERD recommended that comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation be enacted across UK jurisdictions, including in Northern Ireland, containing

*a clear definition of racial discrimination, which includes direct, indirect, structural, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, covering all fields of law in the public and private domains and all prohibited grounds of discrimination.*

The draft Framework adopts none of this definitional clarity.<sup>3</sup> Without it, the Framework cannot adequately identify the range of harms it is meant to address and cannot provide the legal grounding for enforcement.

### 3.3 The failure of intersectionality

The Framework does not engage meaningfully with how racism intersects with other characteristics to produce compounded harm. Anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, anti-Traveller and anti-Roma discrimination, and the particular threats and vulnerabilities faced by minoritised women, children, and disabled people are distinct phenomena with distinct histories, drivers and manifestations. They require distinct responses.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry specifically highlighted the “stark inequalities” faced by Irish Traveller communities, describing educational outcomes as “deplorable”, and noting concerns that things had “not only not improved in many respects but have actually worsened”. The inquiry found that Traveller issues were “not a priority” for government, a situation that remains substantially unchanged.

CERD has consistently called on states to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in both their legislative frameworks and their policy responses. The draft Framework does neither.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should include clear definitions of racial discrimination that encompass its structural, intersecting and multiple forms. It should contain specific provisions addressing Islamophobia, anti-Blackness, and anti-Traveller and anti-Roma discrimination, and the particular experiences of minoritised women, children, and disabled people.

## 4. International human rights obligations

### 4.1 CERD recommendations: unmet and unacknowledged

Northern Ireland exists within the United Kingdom’s obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), to which the UK is a state party. In September 2024, CERD published its Concluding Observations following its review of the UK’s compliance. These observations are directly relevant to the Framework under consultation and are, in Amnesty International UK’s view, inadequately reflected in the draft.

CERD explicitly called on the UK to expedite the adoption of a new racial equality strategy for Northern Ireland. It recommended that any such strategy contain specific, time-bound

---

<sup>3</sup>UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding Observations on the combined 24th to 26th periodic reports of the United Kingdom (CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26), 24 September 2024, para. 14. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations>

and measurable goals, and that it be developed with meaningful consultation and engagement with civil society organisations at all stages, including development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The draft Framework, with its absence of measurable targets, costed actions, and genuine co-design mechanisms, does not meet this standard.

CERD also issued a stark recommendation on paramilitary and far-right racist violence in Northern Ireland, calling on Stormont to adopt robust measures to prevent and combat paramilitary racist violence and intimidation against minoritised and migrant communities , to systematically collect information on such acts, and to ensure that cases of intimidation are promptly and effectively investigated, prosecuted and punished.<sup>4</sup> The draft Framework is unacceptably silent on paramilitary-linked racist violence and the role of organised far-right networks.

**Recommendation:** The Framework must explicitly reference and align with CERD's 2024 Concluding Observations. It should include specific commitments to address paramilitary and far-right racist violence and intimidation, and should provide the time-bound, measurable goals that CERD has required. The Executive Office should establish a mechanism for reporting progress against CERD recommendations as part of the Framework's accountability structure.

## 5. Delivery mechanisms: the absence of accountability

### 5.1 No action plan, no funding, no accountability

Perhaps the most serious failing of the draft Framework is the absence of any funded, costed implementation plan. The document sets out a vision and identifies thematic areas for action, but does not specify what actions will be taken, by which bodies, to what timeline, or with what resources. This is precisely the structural weakness that rendered the Racial Equality Strategy 2015–2025 ineffective. Repeating it would be inexcusable.

Amnesty International UK is clear that aspiration without accountability is not a strategy; it is an abdication of responsibility. Minoritised communities in Northern Ireland have endured a decade of high-level commitments that were never operationalised, monitored or resourced. They cannot be asked to accept another round of the same.

There is no ring-fenced funding committed to the Framework's delivery. There is no requirement for annual progress reporting to the Assembly. There is no named body with primary accountability for implementation. There are no measurable outcomes against which the Framework can be evaluated.

---

<sup>4</sup>UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26), 24 September 2024, para. 25.

**Recommendation:** The Executive Office should publish, alongside the final Framework, a fully costed implementation plan setting out specific actions, responsible bodies, delivery timelines and measurable targets. Annual progress reports should be laid before the Assembly.

## 5.2 Ethnic equality monitoring

An effective framework requires data. The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee concluded in 2022 that the absence of ethnic monitoring and data collection meant that “all policy development to this date has been flawed, in that it has not been built on robust data”.<sup>5</sup> The Committee urged the Executive Office to “implement wider monitoring as a matter of priority”.<sup>6</sup> That recommendation has still not been fully implemented.

CERD has reinforced this requirement in unambiguous terms. In its 2024 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed concern about “the completeness, quality, consistency and comparability of the data collected across the State party’s jurisdictions” and reiterated its recommendation that

*the devolved governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the overseas territories and the Crown dependencies systematically collect and publish comparable statistics on the enjoyment of rights by members of ethnic minorities in all fields of life, in order to identify ethnic disparities, inform policy decisions to eliminate racial discrimination.*

This is not a new recommendation.<sup>7</sup> Its continued non-implementation is a mark of institutional failure. The draft Framework must address this directly and provide a concrete timetable for the introduction of mandatory ethnic equality monitoring across public services.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should commit to the introduction of comprehensive, mandatory ethnic equality monitoring across all public services as a matter of priority, with a timetable for implementation and a requirement to publish disaggregated data annually.

## 6. Addressing the real drivers of racism in Northern Ireland

### 6.1 Far-right mobilisation and paramilitary-linked violence

The Framework’s approach to hate crime and racist violence is inadequate. The events of summer 2024 and 2025 demonstrated the capacity of organised far-right networks and

---

<sup>5</sup>Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, The experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland (HC 159, 2022), para. 10, quoting the then Chief Commissioner of the Equality Commission for NI.

<sup>6</sup>Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, (HC 159, 2022), para. 11.

<sup>7</sup>CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26, para. 8: ‘the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the devolved governments of Northern Ireland systematically collect and publish comparable statistics on the enjoyment of rights by members of ethnic minorities in all fields of life.’

paramilitary-linked elements to mobilise racist violence and intimidation at scale. These events did not occur in a vacuum; they were the product of organised incitement, political rhetoric that has legitimised hostility towards migrants and minoritised people, and longstanding apparent impunity for paramilitary involvement in racist attacks.

The Independent Reporting Commission, in its Eighth Report published in December 2025, identified the link between paramilitarism and racist violence as

*a particularly serious manifestation of that reality over the last two years ... the link between paramilitarism and racist violence connected to the issue of immigration.*

The IRC noted that paramilitarism “remains a live and serious issue, with paramilitary groups still posing a threat to communities, individuals, and society”, with “intimidation, coercive control, and threats linked to paramilitary groups” persisting across Northern Ireland.<sup>8</sup> Critically, the IRC recommended that any policy framework following the Executive Programme on Paramilitarism and Organised Crime should include<sup>9</sup>

*explicit reference to the role of paramilitaries in [racist unrest in Northern Ireland]... acknowledging that the involvement of paramilitarism is an additional factor in racist unrest.*

Research by CAJ and Rabble Cooperative documented how the disorder in Ballymena in June 2025 was preceded by a well-established pattern of paramilitary-connected racist activity: arson attacks on businesses, violent evictions of migrant families, and the use of paramilitary flags and symbols to deter minoritised people from accessing or accepting housing in areas under their local influence.<sup>10</sup> This is not incidental to the problem the Framework purports to address; it is central to it.

The draft Framework contains no acknowledgement of this reality. A race relations framework for Northern Ireland that fails to name paramilitary-linked racist violence, that does not commit to action against far-right mobilisation, and that does not link to justice system reform and policing strategy, cannot credibly claim to protect minoritised communities.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee found in 2022 that hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland was “probably the worst on the books for the UK at the moment”.<sup>11</sup> It called for expedited reform – a call that has still not been fully answered. The Framework must link explicitly to the ongoing hate crime legislative reform process and to PSNI operational strategy.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should contain explicit commitments to tackle far-right mobilisation and paramilitary-linked racist violence, in line with CERD’s 2024 recommendations and the IRC’s Eighth Report. It should link directly to PSNI operational commitments, hate crime legislation reform, and victim support services. Systematic data collection on paramilitary racist incidents should be introduced.

<sup>8</sup>Independent Reporting Commission, Eighth Report (December 2025), Executive Summary, p.4. Available at: <https://www.ircommission.org/publications/irc-eighth-report>

<sup>9</sup>Independent Reporting Commission, (December 2025), Recommendation 2, p.15.

<sup>10</sup>CAJ / Rabble Cooperative, Inciting a Pogrom? Social media and the racist disorder in Ballymena and beyond during summer 2025 (September 2025), p.3. Available at: <https://caj.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Ballymena-Rabble-Report-.pdf>

<sup>11</sup>Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, The experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in NI (HC 159, 2022), para. 14.

## 6.2 The hostile environment and immigration policy

The UK Government's hostile environment immigration policy has been identified by human rights bodies, legal practitioners, and civil society organisations across Northern Ireland as a significant driver of harm for minoritised and migrant communities. The policy creates conditions of fear, destitution and exclusion that are incompatible with a society committed to racial equality.

Amnesty International UK recognises the constitutional limits on the Northern Ireland Executive's competence in immigration matters. However, the Executive has both the capacity and the responsibility to address the impacts of hostile environment policies within Northern Ireland, to advocate to the Home Office for the protection of people living here, and to ensure that public services do not act as instruments of immigration enforcement against the people they exist to serve. The Framework should reflect this responsibility.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should include a commitment by the Executive Office to challenge the harmful impacts of the Home Office hostile environment policy as they manifest in Northern Ireland, and to ensure that public services do not compound those harms.

## 6.3 The role of hostile political rhetoric

Amnesty International UK is concerned by the extent to which hostile political rhetoric directed at migrants, asylum seekers, and minoritised communities has contributed to a permissive environment for racist violence in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's inquiry found evidence that political attention to issues affecting minoritised communities was systematically squeezed out, with the 'two communities narrative' failing to "truly reflect Northern Irish society".<sup>12</sup>

Politicians at all levels have responsibilities under international human rights standards not to incite racial hatred and to speak out against racist violence. The Framework should address this dimension explicitly and should commit to public leadership by ministers and senior officials in challenging racism wherever and whenever it manifests.

## 6.4 The role of social media in amplifying racist violence

The role of social media platforms in enabling the incitement, organisation and amplification of racist violence is a relatively recent but now well-documented driver of harm that the draft Framework entirely fails to address. Amnesty International's research following the 2024 racist riots demonstrated that Big Tech platforms played an active role in fuelling violence, with social media algorithms actively amplifying and escalating xenophobic discourse in a context already inflamed by political scapegoating of refugees and migrants.<sup>13</sup>

Amnesty International's subsequent technical analysis, published in August 2025, examined how X's recommender system spread false and incendiary content in the immediate

---

<sup>13</sup>Amnesty International, 'UK: Big Tech platforms play an active role in fuelling racist violence' (6 August 2024). Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/08/uk-big-tech-platforms-play-an-active-role-in-fuelling-racist-violence/>

aftermath of the Southport murders. As hateful narratives spread, offline violence erupted across multiple UK towns and cities.<sup>14</sup>

The same dynamics were specifically documented in Northern Ireland. Research published in September 2025 by CAJ, the Rabble Cooperative, Equality Coalition and UNISON analysed 877 posts across X, TikTok and Instagram relating to the Ballymena riots and subsequent disorder. The research found that social media was used not only to spread disinformation and incite hatred, but also to coordinate targeting of homes, with Facebook groups openly encouraging people to identify properties and organise attacks.<sup>15</sup> The report documented how

*online narratives were framed and amplified, both locally and internationally, and how this activity contributed to offline coordination.*

The Rabble / CAJ research identified an emerging trend of “the profitability-model of far-right agitation online and the role of algorithms in promoting and monetising harmful content”,<sup>16</sup> raising profound questions about the complicity of technology companies in racist violence.

A Framework that does not address the role of social media platforms in facilitating racist violence is not fit for the context in which it will operate. The Northern Ireland Executive should press the UK Government to enforce the Online Safety Act robustly with respect to racist content, and should develop its own public communications and media literacy strategy to build community resilience to online disinformation.

**Recommendation:** The Framework should include a dedicated strand of work on social media and online racist incitement. This should encompass advocacy to the UK Government for robust enforcement of the Online Safety Act; engagement with social media platforms on their responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; support for community-based media literacy programmes; and coordination with PSNI on the use of online evidence in hate crime investigations.

## 7. Meaningful engagement with affected communities

CERD’s 2024 Concluding Observations were explicit on the need for genuine, sustained and meaningful engagement with civil society organisations representing affected communities at all stages of policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.<sup>17</sup> This goes beyond one-off consultation exercises. It requires co-design: processes through which affected communities have genuine agency over the policies that shape their lives.

The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee found in 2022 that minoritised and migrant communities in Northern Ireland “often feel overlooked in decision-making and invisible in accountability structures”. It urged organisations and political parties to take active steps to

<sup>14</sup>Amnesty International, UK: Technical explainer on X’s recommender system and the 2024 racist riots (EUR 45/0618/2025, 6 August 2025). Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur45/0618/2025/en/>

<sup>15</sup>CAJ / Rabble Cooperative, *Inciting a Pogrom? (2025), Overview and Methodology*, p.5-6.

<sup>16</sup>CAJ / Rabble Cooperative, *Inciting a Pogrom? (2025), Introduction*, p.4.

<sup>17</sup>CERD/C/GBR/CO/24-26, para. 18.

“encourage the representation of minoritised voices within their own institutions”.<sup>18</sup> These recommendations have not been acted upon with the urgency they deserve.

Amnesty International UK is particularly concerned about the invisibility of children and young people in the Framework. Children from minoritised backgrounds experience racism in distinctive ways – in schools, online and in their communities – and the Framework should contain specific provisions addressing their experiences and ensuring their participation in policy development.

**Recommendation:** The Executive Office should establish a permanent, structured engagement mechanism with minoritised community organisations, to be embedded in the Framework’s governance structure. This should go beyond consultation to genuine co-design and should include specific provision for the engagement of children and young people. Community-led monitoring of implementation should be resourced and supported.

## 8. Summary of priority asks

Amnesty International UK calls on the Executive Office to substantially revise the draft Framework. At minimum, the final Framework must:

- Rename the Framework to reflect a commitment to racial equality and anti-racism, moving beyond the regressive ‘race relations’ framing
- Publish a fully costed implementation plan with clear actions, named responsible bodies, measurable targets and delivery timelines
- Commit ring-fenced funding and require annual progress reporting to the Assembly
- Include comprehensive definitions of racial discrimination encompassing its direct, indirect, structural, multiple and intersecting forms
- Address the real-world drivers of racism explicitly: far-right mobilisation, paramilitary-linked intimidation and violence, hostile political rhetoric, and the impacts of the hostile environment immigration policy
- Include a dedicated strand on social media and online incitement, with advocacy for Online Safety Act enforcement, platform accountability under human rights standards, and community media literacy
- Introduce mandatory ethnic equality monitoring across all public services, with a timetable and annual publication of disaggregated data
- Strengthen action on hate crime through explicit links to legislative reform, PSNI operational strategy and victim support

---

<sup>18</sup>Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, The experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in NI (HC 159, 2022), para. 24.

- Embed meaningful, sustained engagement with affected communities – including children and young people – in the Framework’s governance structure
- Align explicitly with CERD’s 2024 Concluding Observations and the IRC Eighth Report’s recommendations on paramilitarism and racist violence
- Address the specific and distinct forms of racism experienced by different communities, including Islamophobia, anti-Blackness, and anti-Traveller and anti-Roma discrimination
- Include the lived experiences of children and young people as a specific focus of the Framework’s delivery

## 9. Conclusion

Minoritised communities in Northern Ireland are being failed by government. Racist incidents are at their highest level on record. Structural inequalities in employment, services and representation persist. Paramilitary and far-right violence have displaced communities. Social media platforms have enabled the incitement, organisation and amplification of attacks with near-total impunity.

Meanwhile the Executive Office has brought forward a strategic framework that, in critical respects, is less ambitious, less specific and less accountable than what it replaces.

Amnesty International UK does not accept that this is the best Northern Ireland can do. The international human rights standards are clear. CERD has set out, in specific terms, what is required. The IRC has named the paramilitary dimension directly and called for it to be reflected in government strategy. Research by Amnesty International, CAJ and the Rabble Cooperative has documented the role of online platforms in amplifying racist violence. The independent review of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025 identified its failings. The evidence of what works – clear targets, dedicated funding, robust accountability, meaningful community engagement, intersectional analysis, and a serious response to new and old drivers of racism – is not in dispute. What is in dispute is whether the political will exists to implement it.

We urge the Executive Office to use this consultation not as a validation exercise for a document that has already been written, but as a genuine opportunity to produce a Framework worthy of the name: one that reflects the full human rights obligations of the state, respects the evidence of what drives racism in Northern Ireland today, and can be held accountable – by Parliament, by CERD, and by the communities it exists to serve – for the change it promises to deliver.

Without clear delivery mechanisms, adequate resources and genuine political accountability, this Framework will not reduce racism or improve outcomes for minoritised communities in Northern Ireland. The Executive Office has both the obligation and the opportunity to do better. Amnesty International UK calls on it to take both seriously.

**Contact and further information**

For further information on this submission, please contact:

Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International UK / [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:sct@amnesty.org.uk)

Amnesty International UK, 397 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GP  
[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)