

EXERCISE TWO

Myth Busting Quiz

(Estimated time: one hour)

This exercise allows you to explore some myths about life in Northern Ireland especially involving people from minority ethnic backgrounds and those who have come to Northern Ireland in recent years.

In this section we provide a quiz with 15 questions and answers. We outline some questions you can pose after each question and discussion points that are important in considering good relations issues.

You may manage the quiz whatever way you think appropriate for your volunteers. We suggest:

- 1** Split your group of volunteers into teams of four or so. Try to get reasonable background balance in the teams. Ask them to give their team a name.
- 2** Make sure each team either has a blank sheet of paper so that you can read out the questions and answers in turn, or photocopy and provide each team with the quiz sheet attached.
- 3** There are 15 questions so we suggest giving each team approximately one minute per question to discuss and come up with their agreed answer. There should be no conferring between one team and another, just within the same team.
- 4** Ask the team to swap pages so that they do not mark their own scores.
- 5** After each answer is given ask volunteers why they answered as they did, whether right or wrong, and use the questions supplied to ask them about the issue or discuss it. The answer section also includes some information for discussion around the myths that are busted.
- 6** At the end of the session, you may have some sweets to give to the winning team. If you can, put up our concluding slide or give it as a hand-out as key lesson reminder.

MYTH BUSTING QUIZ

No.	Question	Options	Tick?
1	What percentage of migrant men are employed in the UK and Ireland?	A) 62% B) 73% C) 84% D) 100%	
2	Of those migrants who come to the UK and Ireland and are unemployed, what percentage claim unemployment benefit?	A) 17% B) 24% C) 43% D) 71%	
3	Of all doctors in the UK and Ireland what percentage are foreign nationals, born in neither the UK or Ireland?	A) 10% B) 18% C) 25% D) 32%	
4	What percentage of migrant workers are employed in some form of night shift work?	A) 5% B) 15% C) 17% D) 24%	
5	How long do migrant workers from EEA (European Economic Area) countries have to live in Northern Ireland before being entitled to claim for Jobseekers Allowance or Housing Benefit?	A) As soon as they arrive B) 1 month C) 3 months D) 6 months	
6	In Northern Ireland Non EEA (European Economic Area) migrant workers generally are entitled to...?	A) No benefits at all B) Only Housing Benefit C) All benefits that are available for local people D) All benefits that are available for local people plus extra for family	

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7	How many times more likely are recent migrant workers to be living in private rented accommodation than local people?	A) Less likely in private accommodation because they get priority for social housing from NIHE B) The same likelihood to be in private rented accommodation as local people C) X3 more likely than local people to be in private rented accommodation D) Migrant workers will get houses bought for them	
8	Roughly, what is the religious faith of the 1,600 or so Syrian refugees that have come to Northern Ireland?	A) All Muslim B) Mostly Muslim C) Mostly atheist D) An equal mix of Muslim, Christian and other faiths	
9	What country has taken most Syrian refugees?	A) USA B) Lebanon C) United Kingdom D) Sweden	
10	Of the Syrian refugees coming to the UK what percentage ended up coming to Northern Ireland (NI is just over 3% of the total UK population)?	A) 1% B) 3% C) 5% D) 9%	
11	How often is there a racist incident in Northern Ireland?	A) Once every 9 hours B) Once every day C) Once every two days D) Once every week	
12	How often is there a sectarian incident in Northern Ireland?	A) Once every 10 hours B) Once every day C) Once every two days D) Once every week	

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13	In what year was the Good Friday or Belfast Agreement signed?	A) 1974 B) 1985 C) 1998 D) 2010	
14	Approximately how many interface barriers, or peace walls, are there in Northern Ireland today?	A) 100 B) 60 C) 50 D) 25	
15	When the Good Friday or Belfast Agreement was signed 7% of children went to integrated schools in Northern Ireland. How many children go to integrated schools now?	A) 4% B) 7% C) 10% D) 15%	

ANSWERS - MYTH BUSTING

These are also suggested discussion points that are detailed further.

Question	Options
1	C – While 84% of migrant men are employed that compares to 79% of men of working age born in the UK. Migrant workers come to the UK and Ireland to work and are statistically more likely to take lower paid jobs.
2	A – If a migrant worker in the UK or Ireland becomes unemployed just 17% then go on to claim unemployment benefits, compared to 29% of local people who become unemployed.
3	C – There are many migrant workers in the NHS and while 25% of doctors are born outside the UK and Ireland, many more nurses are. This percentage has actually declined in recent years partly due to Brexit.
4	D – Many workers in the UK and Ireland who are foreign nationals undertake night-time and shift work – 24%. This compares to 17% of UK born workers who undertake some form of night shift work.
5	C – Migrant workers cannot apply for unemployment benefits for three months, unlike many perceptions. Even then they may not get it. So, for at least the first three months they will need a job or money to buy food, clothes and pay for accommodation.
6	A – Migrant workers from Non-EEA countries (e.g., Africa, Asia, America etc) are not automatically entitled to unemployment benefits at all, though some are. This is different to refugees who come to the country fleeing from persecution elsewhere.
7	C – While many people believe migrant workers come to “take our houses” in fact migrant workers are much more likely to live in private rented accommodation than social housing from the Housing Executive or housing association.
8	D – Not all Arabs are Muslim and not all Muslims are Arab. The refugees escaping Syria in recent years are roughly balanced across many faiths including Christians.
9	B – Neighbouring countries to Syria like Lebanon have taken most Syrian refugees. Lebanon has taken in around 6 million people from Syria (about 22% of the total Lebanese population) compared to approximately 20,000 taken by the UK and Ireland. The UK and Ireland are not in the top 20 countries of those who have taken most refugees from Syria.

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10	D – Northern Ireland has taken nearly 10% of all Syrian refugees coming to the UK, around 1,800, demonstrating the generosity and tolerance of people in Northern Ireland.
11	A – Last year there were 936 racist incidents in Northern Ireland, nearly three a day.
12	A – Last year there were 888 sectarian incidents, fewer than the number of racist incidents. However, you might want to think about how many fewer people from a BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) background live in Northern Ireland compared to local people from either a Protestant or Catholic background.
13	C – 1998, nearly 25 years ago when the political agreement that helped create power sharing political structures was concluded.
14	A – There are around 100 peace barriers in Northern Ireland mainly in Belfast but also in Derry/Londonderry and Portadown. This is nearly as many as in 1998 when the Agreement was concluded. There are other interface areas that do not have walls and fences.
15	B – There are still 7% of children and young people going to integrated schools just as there was in 1998 when the Agreement was concluded.

DISCUSSION WORKSHEET – MYTH BUSTING:

Theme	Lines of Reflection
Respect – for our new communities	Actually, in general migrant workers have jobs, pay taxes and are less likely to claim unemployment benefit or take social housing than people who have lived in Northern Ireland all their lives. Often the jobs they do are either highly skilled and essential e.g. in the health service or lower skilled where local people have little appetite for them The net contribution of migrant workers to the UK and Irish economy is net positive for £billions of additional taxes. Think also of the number of BAME people running successful businesses in Northern Ireland, often for decades.
Accepting Difference - racism	As can be seen from the statistics there is proportionately around the same number of racist incidents than sectarian incidents. The Race Relations Order bans discrimination and segregation on racial grounds. It includes Irish Travellers as a specific racial group. Northern Ireland is a much better place than 30 years ago but maybe it takes a bit of time for people who lived through a civil conflict to understand and embrace difference. However, people from all communities and backgrounds are making major positive contributions to Northern Ireland; and the multi-cultural aspect of what Northern Ireland is now enriches our local culture. It doesn't diminish it.

Accepting
 Difference -
 sectarianism

Sectarianism is recognised as a sub-set of racism. While Northern Ireland has moved on in many ways, there is still a lot of sectarianism with people often living segregated lives.

Few areas have an even balance of people from a Protestant and Catholic community background. Often there is one side of the community more numerous but usually where the other side of the community is still present in significant numbers. However, people from a Protestant and Catholic background from a young age don't spend significant time together making friends; and often play different sports or have different cultural or leisure interests.