

Northern Ireland Good Relations Indicators: Annual Update

September 2016



2014/2015 – At a Glance

	Adults	Young People		Adults	Young People		Adults	Young People
1.1a - % of people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago.	~	~	1.1a - % of people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years than they are now.	~	x	1.1b - % of people who are favourable towards;	✓	~
						• Catholics • Protestants • Minority Ethnic Groups.	✓	~
1.2a - % of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.		~	1.2b - % of young people who have;		✓	2.1a - % of people who think that Protestants and Catholics tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area.	~	
			• shared sports facilities or equipment • shared classes • done projects with other schools.		✓			
2.1b - % who think that;			2.1c - % of those who have children at school who think that their child's school is a shared space.	~		2.1d - % of schools that have done projects or shared education with other schools. (School Omnibus Survey)	x	
• leisure centres • parks • libraries • and shopping centres	~							
in their area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics.	✓							
2.1e - % of people who see the area they live in as;			2.2a - % of people who would define their;	~		2.2b - % of people who would like mixed religion;	~	
• Protestant • Catholic • or mixed.	~	~	• neighbourhood • workplace	~		• neighbourhoods • workplaces • schools.	✓	~
	~	✓	as a shared space.				~	

Key:
 ✓ Positive change
 ~ No significant change
 x Negative change

	Adults	Young People		Adults	Young People		Adults	Young People
2.2c - % of first preference applications and % attending integrated schools.	x	~	3.1a – Number of hate crimes.	✓		3.1b – Number presenting as homeless due to intimidation.	✓	
3.1c – % of people who felt intimidated by; • Republican • Loyalist murals.	~ ~		3.1c – % of people who felt annoyed by; • Republican • Loyalist murals.	✓ ✓		3.2a - % of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming for all walks of life.	~	
3.2b - % of people who feel safe going to events in a; • Protestant secondary school • Catholic secondary school • Orange Hall • GAA Hall.	✓ ✓ ✓ ~		3.2c - % of people who would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future.	n/a		4.1a - % of people who feel a sense of belonging to; • their neighbourhood • Northern Ireland.	~ ✓	~ ✓
4.1b - % of people who feel they have an influence in; • their neighbourhood • Northern Ireland.	~ x	x ~	4.2a - % of people who think that the culture and traditions of; • Catholic • Protestant • Minority Ethnic communities adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.	✓ ✓ ~		4.2b - % of people who believe their own cultural identity is respected by society.	~	

Key:

- ✓ Positive change
- ~ No significant change
- x Negative change

Key Findings

Our Children and Young People

- **47% of young people** and **52% of adults** think that relationships between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago. Figures for the previous year were 52% and 50% respectively.
- **66% of young people** report regularly socialising or playing sport with people from a different community background. This is up by 3 percentage points.

Our Shared Community

- **59% of schools** were involved in shared education with another school in the previous year. This is down from 76%.
- **87% of people** say that they can be open about their cultural identity in their neighbourhood, and **83%** say the same about their workplace.

Our Safe Community

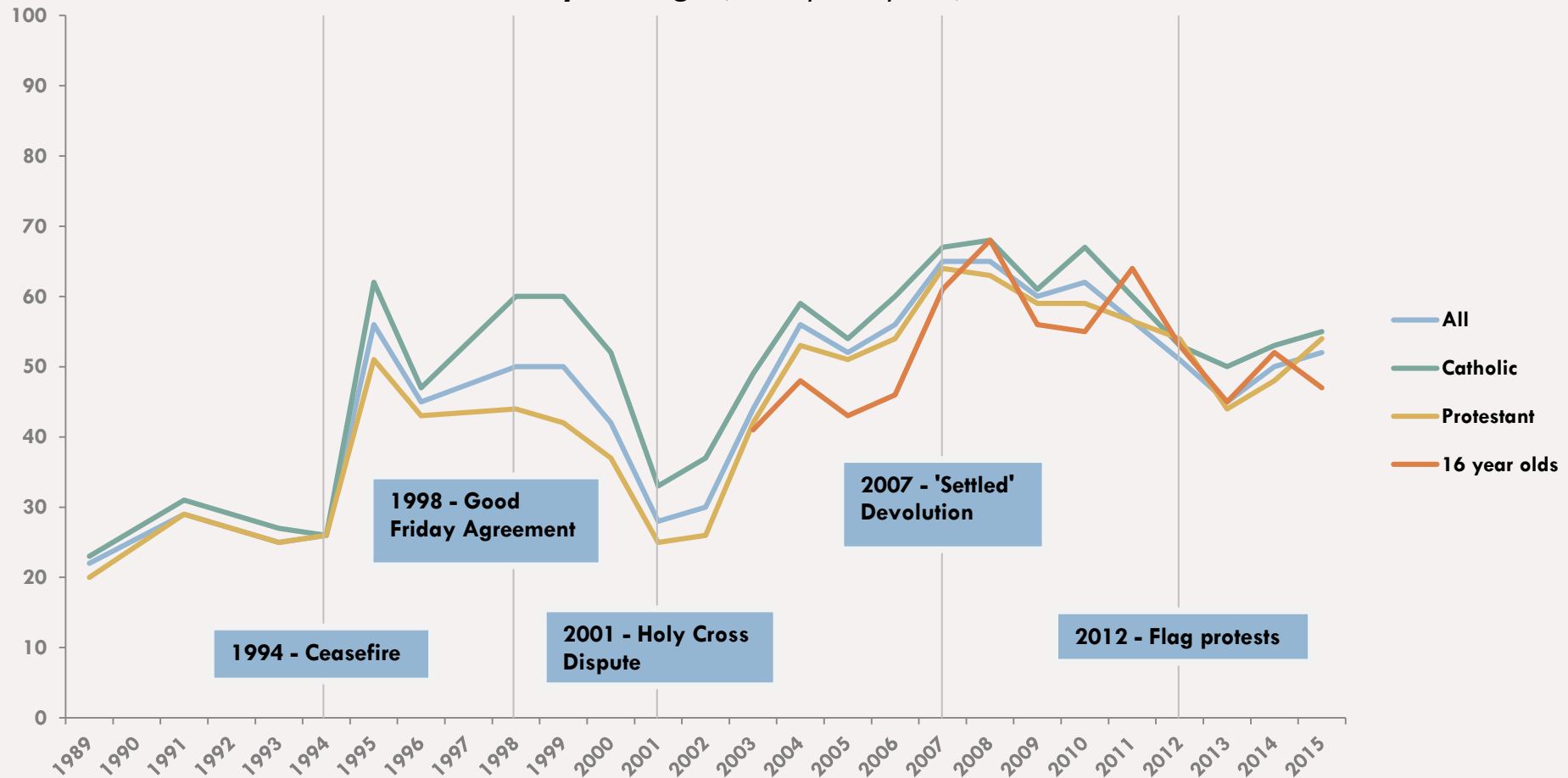
- In 2015/16, **1,001 hate crimes** were **sectarian** in motive, and **853 were racially motivated**. Corresponding figures for the previous year were 1043 and 921 respectively.
- **18% of people** said they had been annoyed by **republican** murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year. **23%** of people said they had been annoyed by **loyalist** murals, kerb paintings or flags in the last year. The previous year this was 27% and 32% respectively.

Our Cultural Expression

- **80% of people** believe that the culture and traditions of the **Catholic community** adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. **A similar proportion (82%)** believe this about **Protestant** culture and traditions, whilst **a smaller proportion (61%)** believe this about the culture and traditions of people from different **Minority Ethnic groups**.
- **Less than a third of adults** felt like they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood, and less than a quarter to the decisions made in Northern Ireland. **For young people**, these proportions were **much lower**.

Key Findings

% who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were 5 years ago (NISA/NILT/YLT)



N.B. Data points and event lines are shown at mid-year points, rather than exact dates when data collection and/or events happened.

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Background

TOGETHER: BUILDING A UNITED COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The good relations strategy '*Together: Building a United Community*' was published by the Northern Ireland Executive in May 2013. The Strategy sets out a range of actions and commitments for government departments, communities and individuals who will work together to build a united community and achieve change against four key strategic priorities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Children and Young People • Our Shared Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Safe Community • Our Cultural Expression |
|---|---|

These Good Relations Indicators were developed to monitor progress against these key strategic priorities. For each key strategic priority, there are two outcomes that would be expected if the strategy is successful. More information on how the outcomes and indicators were chosen can be found in the [technical notes](#) at the back of this document.

GOOD RELATIONS OUTCOMES

Our Children and Young People

- Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds
- Young people engaged in bringing the community together

Our Shared Community

- Increased use of shared space and services (e.g. leisure centres, shopping centres, education, housing)
- Shared Space is accessible to all

Our Safe Community

- Reduction in the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation
- A community where places and spaces are safe for all

Our Cultural Expression

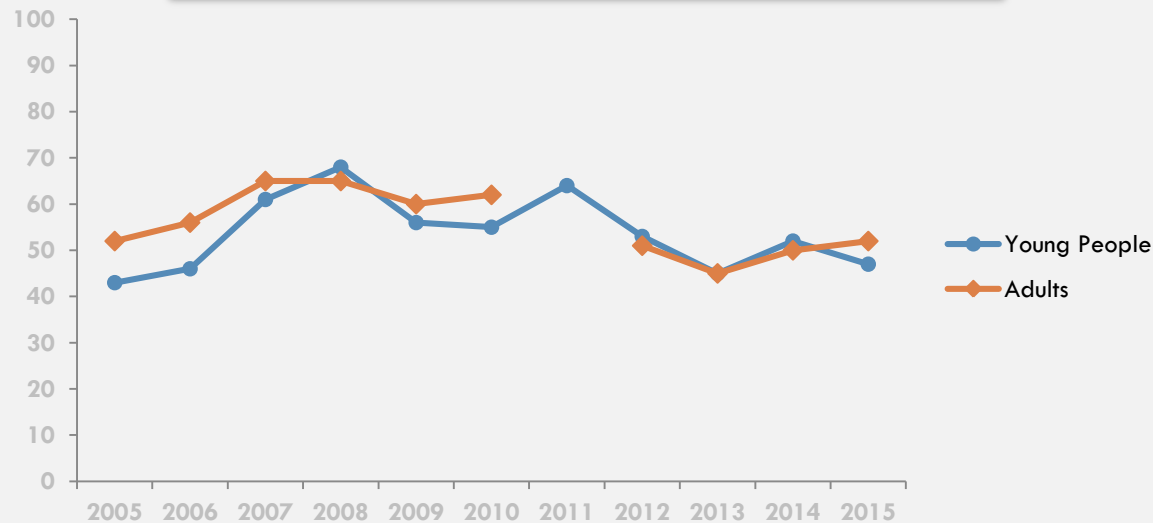
- Increased sense of community belonging
- Cultural diversity is celebrated

This report presents the latest data for the indicator set. There are 22 indicators in total, and each is linked to the relevant outcome and key priority area. Where possible, historic data are presented to show trends over time, and the indicators have been broken down by gender and religion. More detailed data on each indicator can be accessed on the [Executive Office](#) website, or by using the hyperlinks on the bottom right of each page.

Our Children and Young People - Indicator 1.1a

Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations

Indicator 1.1a: % who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago



How we got here

There was a general increase in respondents who think that relationships are better than they were between 1989 and 2007. The last few years, however, have seen a decline. Notwithstanding an increase between 2013 and 2014, what was once two thirds of respondents in 2008 is now only around half. This downturn in attitudes may reflect the same tensions which led to the flag protests of 2012/13.

Outcome: Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.

47% of young people and **52%** of adults think that relationships between Protestants and Catholics are **better now** than they were five years ago.

Why is this indicator important?

Improving attitudes, as perceived by young people using the Young Life and Times survey, is an invaluable measure of attitudinal change. Direct comparisons can be made with adults using the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.

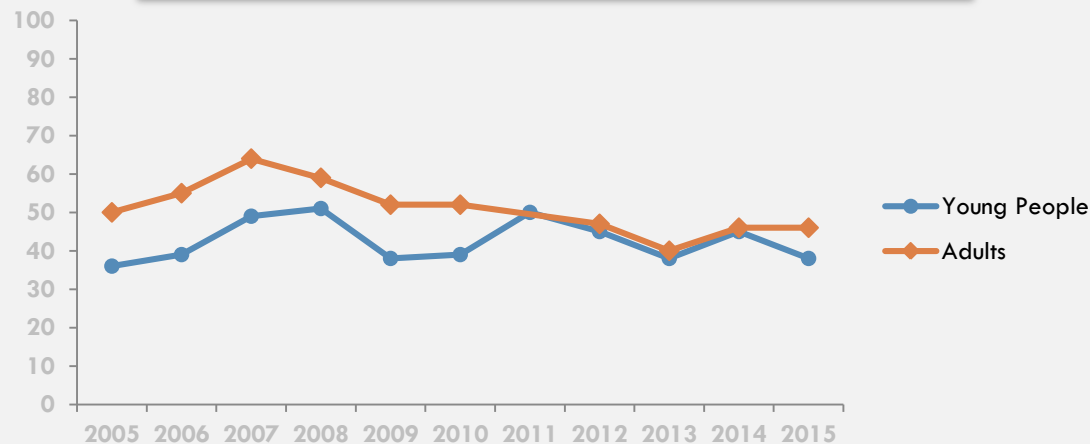
Source: [Young Life and Times/Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 1.1a](#)

Our Children and Young People - Indicator 1.1a

Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations

Indicator 1.1a: % who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics will be better in five years time



Outcome: Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.

38% of young people and **46%** of adults think that relationships between Protestants and Catholics are **will be better** in five years time.

How we got here

Young people have consistently shown less optimism than adults over the last decade, with never more than half of 16 year olds saying they think things will be better in five years time. The period until 2007 showed a steady increase in the perception of relations among both young people and adults alike. In 2007, when the latest period of devolved government began, two thirds of adults were optimistic about the future which may reflect their experiences of more difficult times during the conflict. There has been a decrease in optimism since then, which showed signs of improvement between 2013 and 2014, however this has not continued in 2015, especially amongst young people who have shown a decline.

Why is this indicator important?

Improving attitudes, as perceived by young people using the Young Life and Times survey is an invaluable measure of attitudinal change. Direct comparisons can be made with adults using the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey.

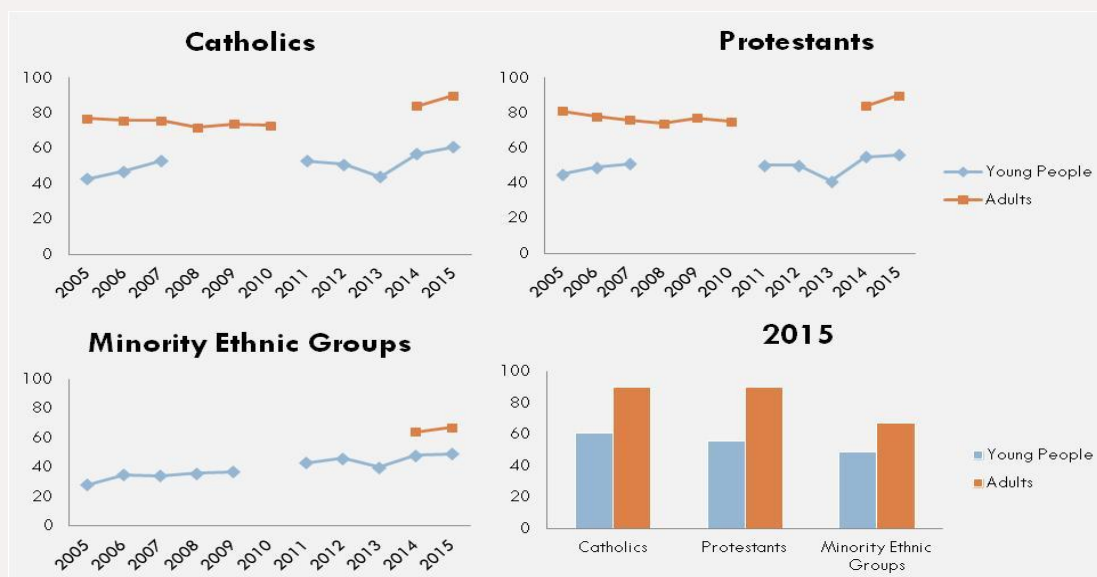
Source: [Young Life and Times/Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 1.1a](#)

Our Children and Young People - Indicator 1.1b

Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations

Indicator 1.1b - % of population who are favourable towards:



Outcome: Improved attitudes between young people from different backgrounds.

The proportion of young people who are favourable towards people from Protestant, and Catholic communities has shown an increase since 2014 – **56%**, and **61%** respectively, while continuing to follow the pattern of being **less positive** than those of adults.

Views towards ethnic minority communities, while remaining low, show continuous improvement (from 28% in 2005 to **49%** in 2015). There is no difference between the views of Catholic and Protestant young people toward ethnic minority communities in 2015.

How we got here

Young people's attitudes towards Protestant and Catholic communities have been improving over the last decade, despite a dip in 2013. Their attitudes towards people from ethnic minority communities are consistently less favourable, however are improving.

Why is this indicator important?

Looking at young people's views towards the different communities in Northern Ireland is an important marker for measuring how attitudes are improving.

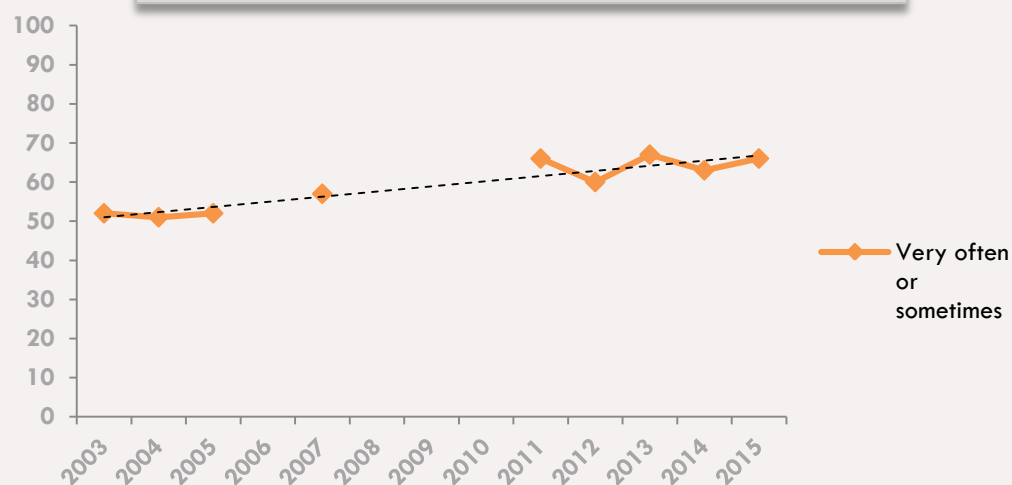
Source: [Young Life and Times/Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

Data for Indicator 1.1b

Our Children and Young People – Indicator 1.2a

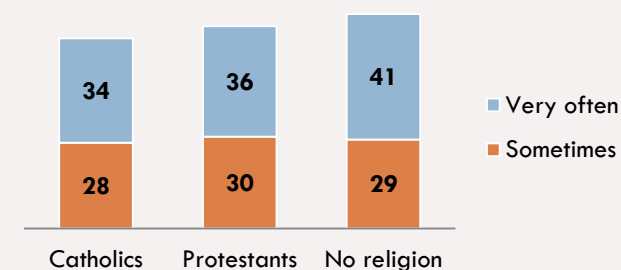
Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.

Indicator 1.2a - % of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.



Outcome: Young people engaging in bringing the community together

66% of young people report regularly socialising or playing sport with people from a different community background. Catholic young people are less likely than Protestants, or those of no religion to report this. However, the gap has narrowed since 2014.



How we got here

The number of young people reporting that they regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different community background has seen a steady increase, from around half in 2003 to two-thirds in 2015.

Source: [Young Life and Times 2015](#)

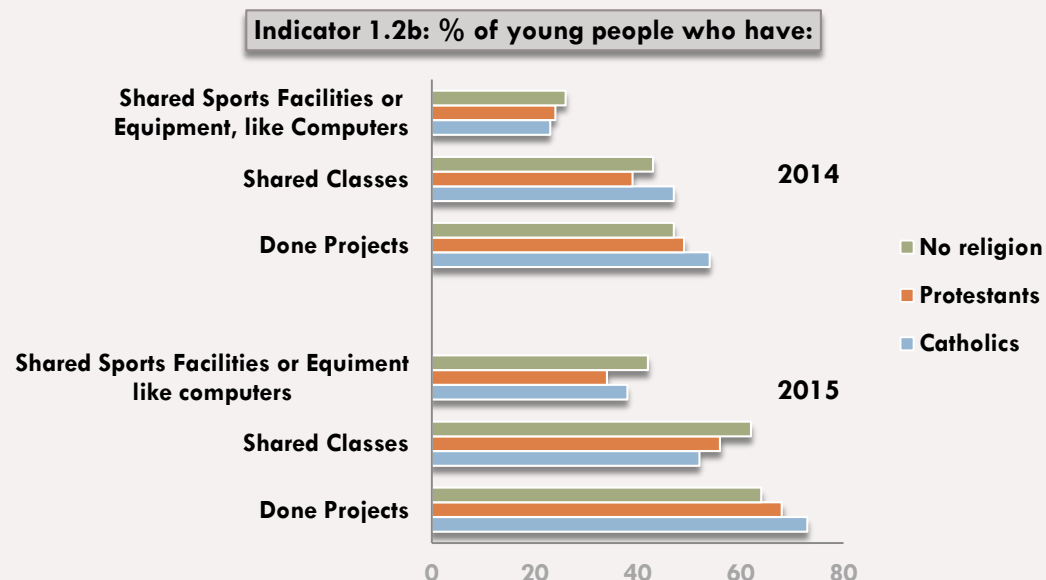
[Data for Indicator 1.2a](#)

Why is this indicator important?

The number of young people regularly socialising or playing sport with people from a different community shows the extent of positive cross-community contact.

Our Children and Young People – Indicator 1.2b

Shared Aim: to continue to improve attitudes amongst our young people and to build a community where they can play a full and active role in building good relations.



How we got here

The proportion of young people who have done projects with pupils from other schools has increased nineteen percentage points since 2014. Shared classes, and shared sports facilities or equipment have also increased by twelve and thirteen percentage points, respectively.

Outcome: Young people engaging in bringing the community together

69% of young people have done projects with pupils from other schools, **55%** have shared classes, and **38%** have shared sports facilities or equipment. The proportion who enjoyed doing projects, sharing classes, and sharing sport facilities and equipment was **74%**, **64%**, and **57%**, respectively.

Why is this indicator important?

Finding out the opinions of young people who have done projects, and shared classes or facilities helps to show what works, and where resources are best allocated.

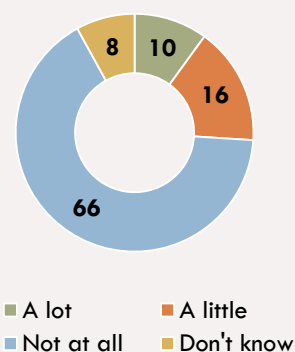
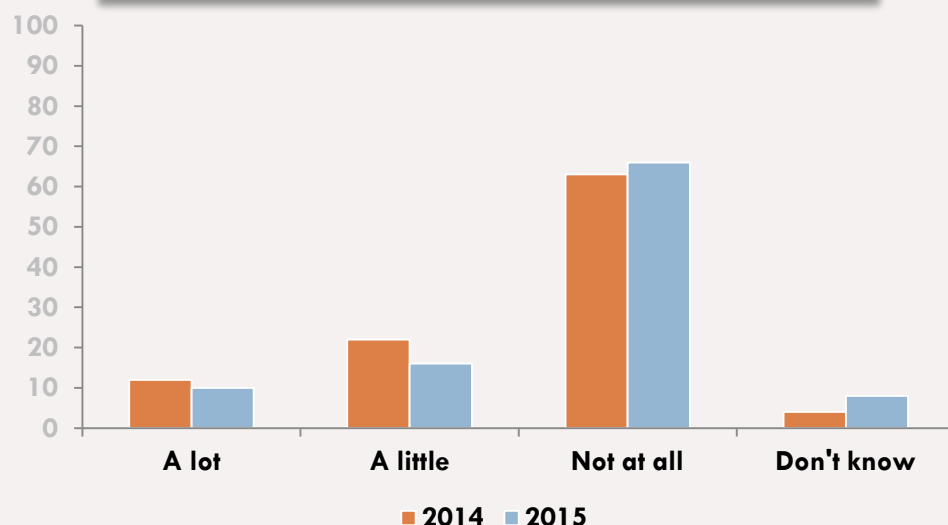
Source: [Young Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 1.2b](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.1a

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.1a - % who think that Protestants and Catholics tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area.



How we got here

This question has been asked since 2012, with responses in each year virtually the same overall. However, in 2015, the amount who reported that they think Protestants and Catholics use the same local shops, GP surgeries and other services in their area has increased slightly.

Outcome: Increased use of shared space and services

Two thirds of people think that Protestants and Catholics do not tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area. This is a slight increase since 2014. Protestants think that it does happen slightly more than Catholics or those with no religion.

Why is this indicator important?

It is important that all public services are seen as accessible to the whole community.

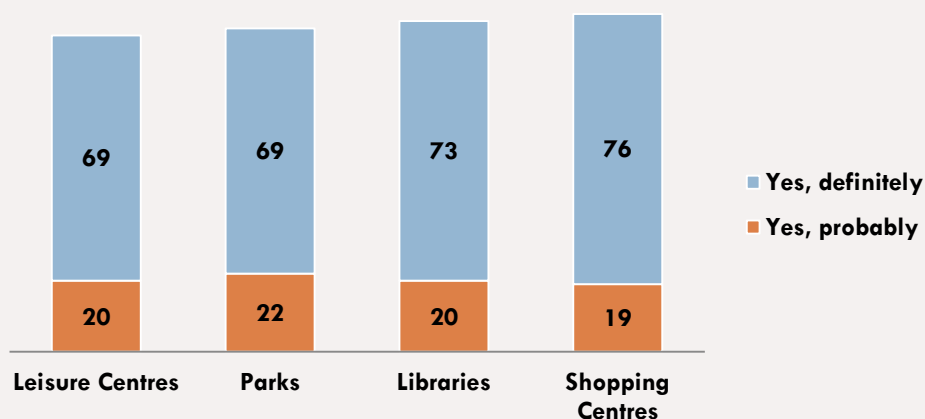
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.1a](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.1b

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.1b - % who think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics.



How we got here

There have only been slight fluctuations in responses since this question was first asked in 2012.

Outcome: Increased use of shared space and services

The **majority** of respondents think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics. There is little difference between religion and gender.

Why is this indicator important?

It is important that all public services and shared spaces are seen as accessible to the whole community.

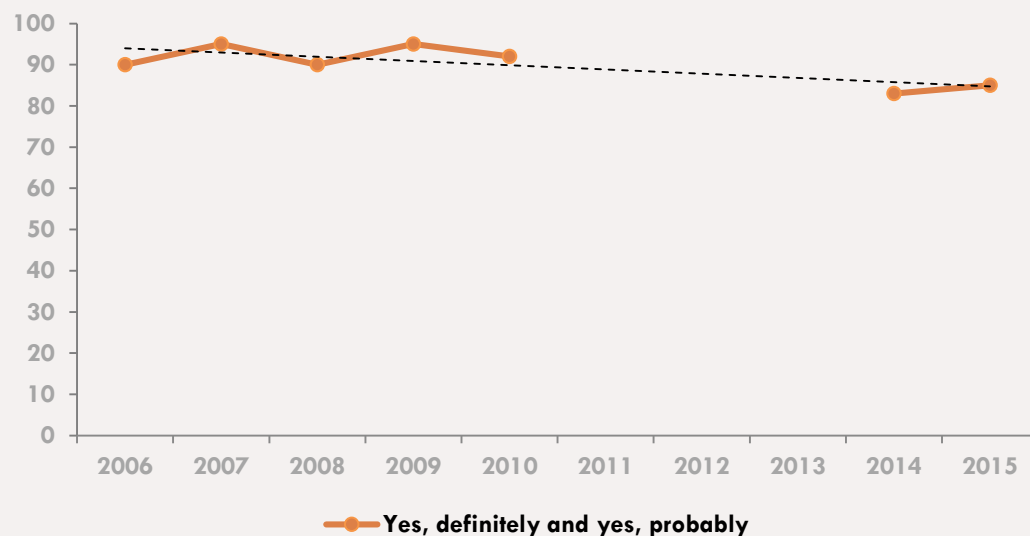
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.1b](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.1c

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.1c - % of those who have children at school who think that their child's school is somewhere they can be open about their cultural identity.



How we got here

Between 2006 and 2010, the percentage of respondents who have children at school and think that their child's school is somewhere they can be open about their cultural identity did not drop below 90 percent. The question was not asked again until 2014, when positive responses had dropped by nine percentage points. In 2015, positive responses rose by two percentage points.

Outcome: Increased use of shared space and services

85% of respondents who have children at school think that their child's school is somewhere they can be open about their cultural identity.

Why is this indicator important?

With education playing such a fundamental role in the development of children, it is important that schools are seen as places where they feel they can be open about their cultural identity.

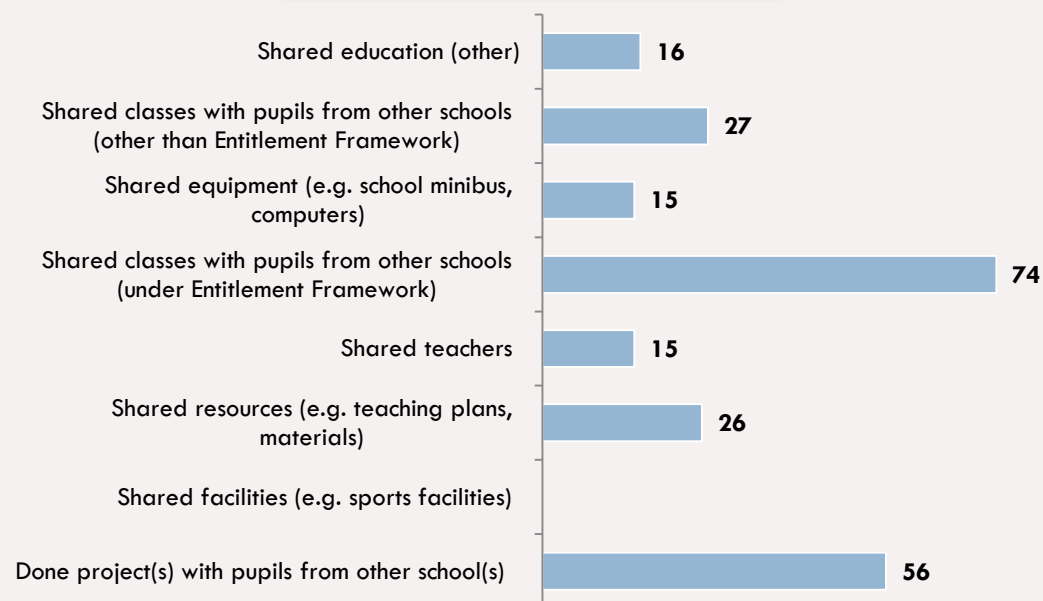
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.1c](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.1d

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.1d - % of schools who have:



How we got here

The School Omnibus Survey was first taken in 2013. It was repeated in 2015, which reports that there is a decrease in the percentage of schools reporting to have been involved in shared education. However, some areas such as shared resources and shared classes have shown an increase.

Outcome: Increased use of shared space and services

59% of schools were involved in shared education with another school in the last academic year. Of those, **56%** of schools did projects with pupils from other schools, **26%** shared resources, and **15%** shared teachers.

Why is this indicator important?

Shared education is being taken forward as one of the key elements of the Together: Building a United Community strategy.

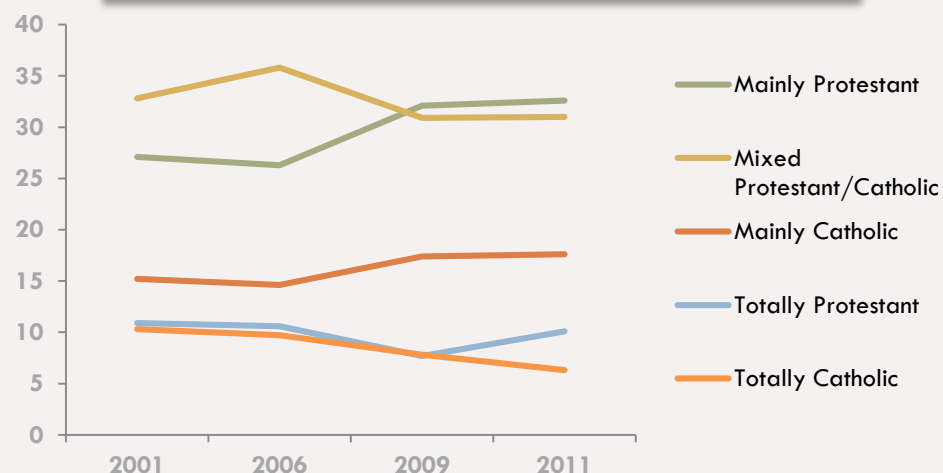
Source: [School Omnibus Survey 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.1d](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.1e

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.1e - % of people who see the area they live in as Protestant, Catholic or mixed.



How we got here

The number of areas seen as mainly or totally Catholic, or mixed, has seen a drop in percentage points since 2001, while the number of areas seen as mainly or totally Protestant has increased five percentage points. For comparison, in the 2011 Census, 28.2% of Super Output Areas (SOAs) were 70% or more Catholic, and 34.8% of SOAs were 70% or more Protestant.

An updated Northern Ireland Housing Condition Survey is expected to be completed in 2016.

Outcome: Increased use of shared space and services

43% of people see the area they live in as mainly or totally Protestant. **24%** of people say the area they live in is mainly Catholic. **31%** see their area as mixed.

Why is this indicator important?

If shared spaces in Northern Ireland are to thrive, perception of segregation in housing needs to be reduced.

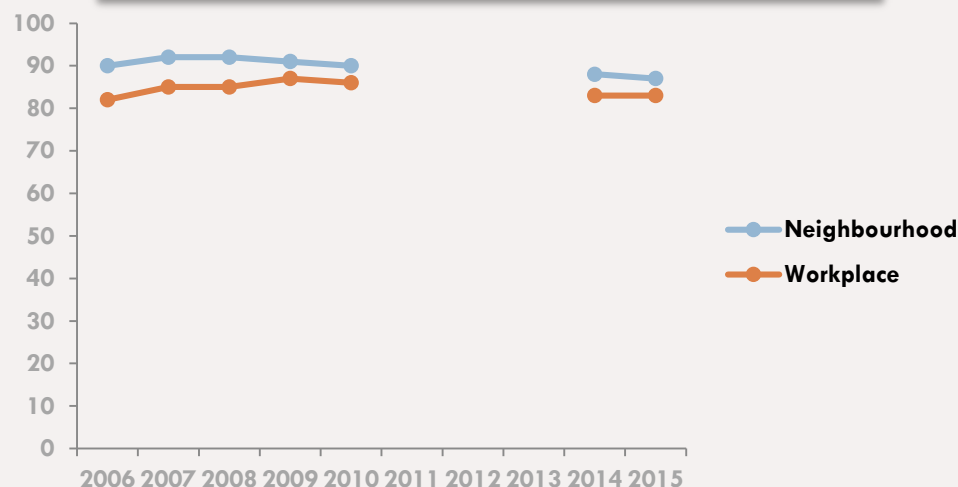
Source: [Northern Ireland Housing Condition Survey](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.1e](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.2a

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

Indicator 2.2a - % who would define their neighbourhood/workplace as somewhere they can be open about their cultural identity



How we got here

Since 2006, the majority of people appear to feel that they can be open about their cultural identity in both their neighbourhood and their workplace.

Outcome: Shared space is accessible to all

87% say they can be open about their cultural identity in their neighbourhood, and **83%** say the same about their workplace. Protestants remain more certain of this than Catholics, and people of no religion.

Why is this indicator important?

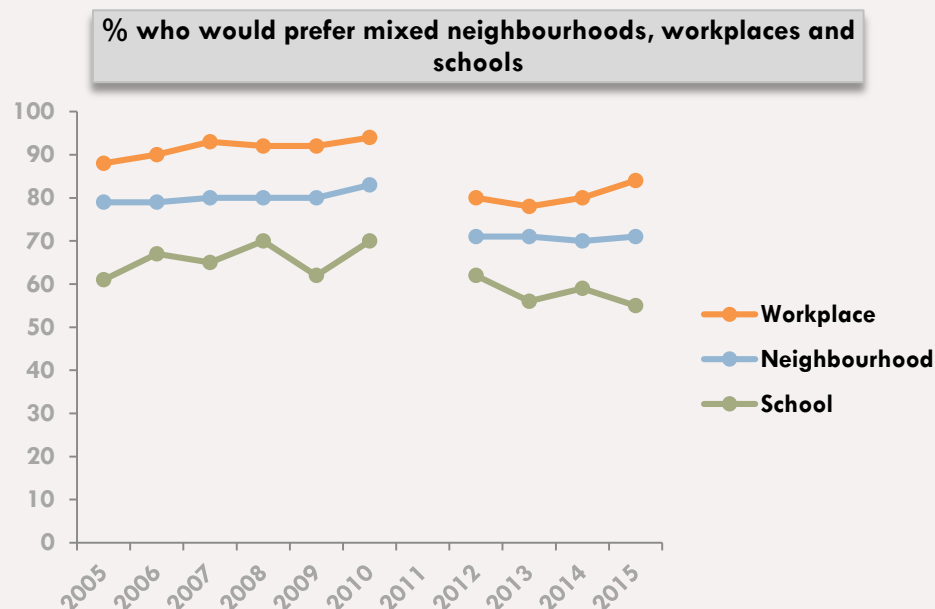
The accessibility of Shared Space to all, including neighbourhoods and workplaces is a central tenet of good relations policy going forward.

Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.2a](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.2b

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.



How we got here

Preferences for mixed religion workplaces, neighbourhoods and schools were at their highest in 2010, and whilst preferences for mixed religion workplaces are climbing again, they are still down 10 percentage points in 2015 compared to five years ago. Preferences for living in a mixed religion neighbourhood over the last four years are also down around ten percentage points compared to previous levels, with those who would prefer their children to go to a mixed religion school down four percentage points on 2014, and fifteen percentage points lower than 2010.

Outcome: Shared Space is accessible to all

71% of people would prefer to live in a mixed-religion neighbourhood, and **84%** would prefer a mixed-religion workplace. **55%** would prefer to send their children to a mixed-religion school. All figures are **higher** for those of no religion.

Why is this indicator important?

Preference for mixed neighbourhoods and workplaces is an important indicator of attitudes towards other communities, as well as an indicator of preference for a shared community.

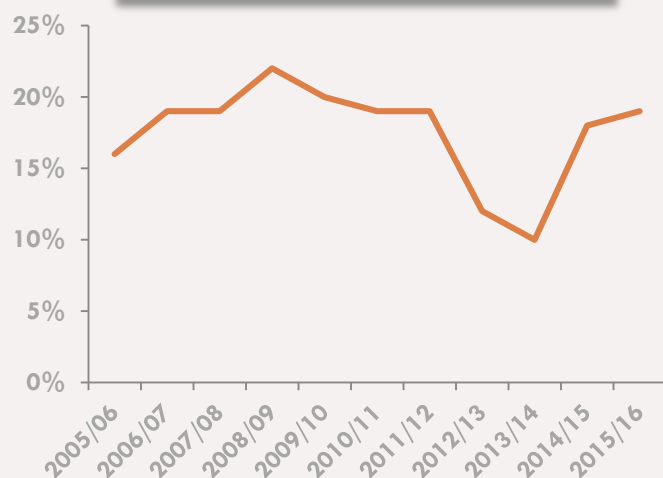
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.2b](#)

Our Shared Community – Indicator 2.2c

Shared Aim: to create a community where division does not restrict the life opportunities of individuals and where all areas are open and accessible to everyone.

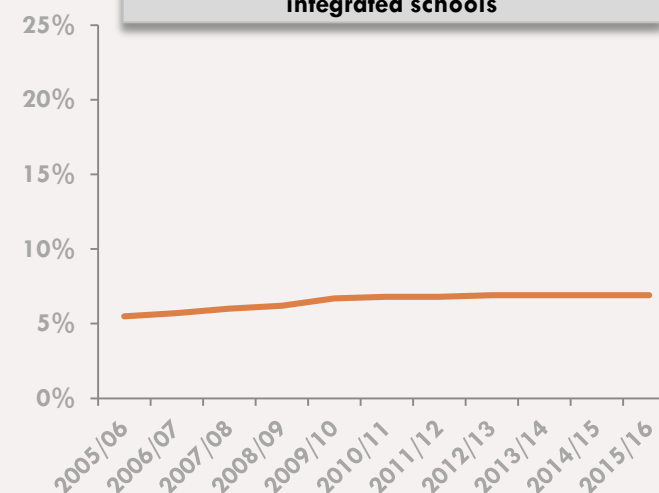
Indicator 2.2c - % of first preference applications to post-primary integrated schools that do not result in admissions



Outcome: Shared Space is accessible to all

19% of applications to post-primary integrated schools did not result in admission in 2015/16. **6.9%** of pupils enrolled at grant-aided schools attend integrated schools.

Indicator 2.2c: % Of pupils enrolled at grant-aided schools, the proportion enrolled at integrated schools



How we got here

The proportion of pupils enrolled at integrated schools has not changed, due to the number of places available not changing for several years.

Why is this indicator important?

Preference for integrated education is an important indicator of attitudes towards other communities, as well as an indicator of preference for a shared community.

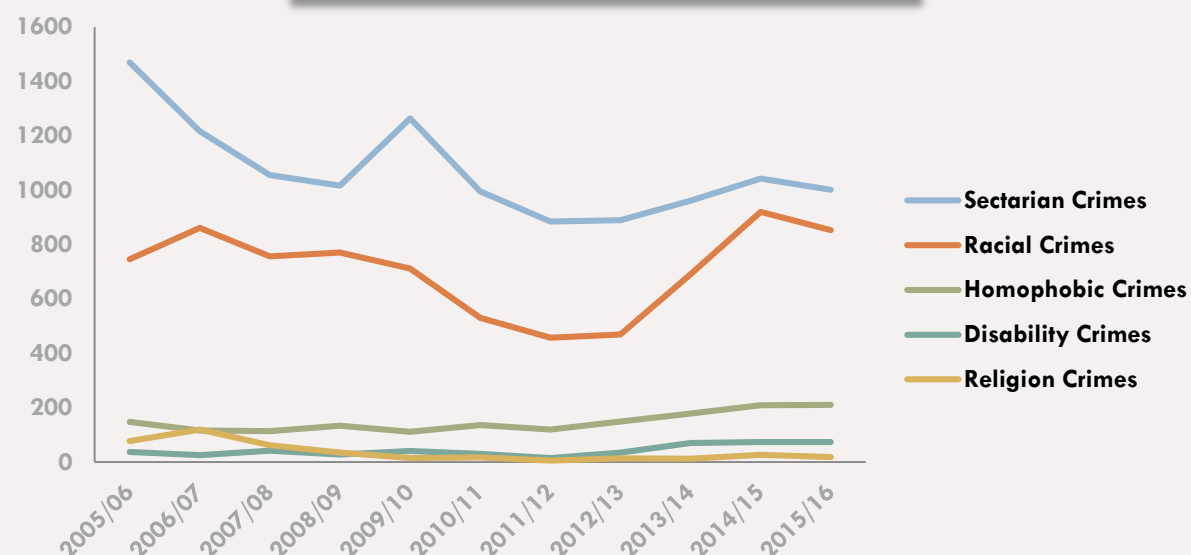
Source: [Department of Education](#)

[Data for Indicator 2.2c](#)

Our Safe Community - Indicator 3.1 a

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Indicator 3.1a - Number of Hate Crimes



How we got here

For the first time since 2010/11, crimes with sectarian or racist motivation have been lower than the preceding year's figure. The number of homophobic crimes, and crimes relating to disability are similar when compared to 2014/15, and crimes relating to religion remain small, so that year on year differences are difficult to interpret. It should be noted, that an increase in the number of crimes reported can be seen as a positive outcome, as it may be attributed to better reporting, improved detection, or an increase in confidence in the police.

Outcome: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation

In 2015/16, **1,001** hate crimes were **sectarian** in motive, and **853** were **racially motivated**.

The number of other hate crimes has remained relatively small: homophobic (210), disability (74) and religion (19).

Why is this indicator important?

An increase in good relations should result in lower numbers of hate crimes and incidents being recorded.

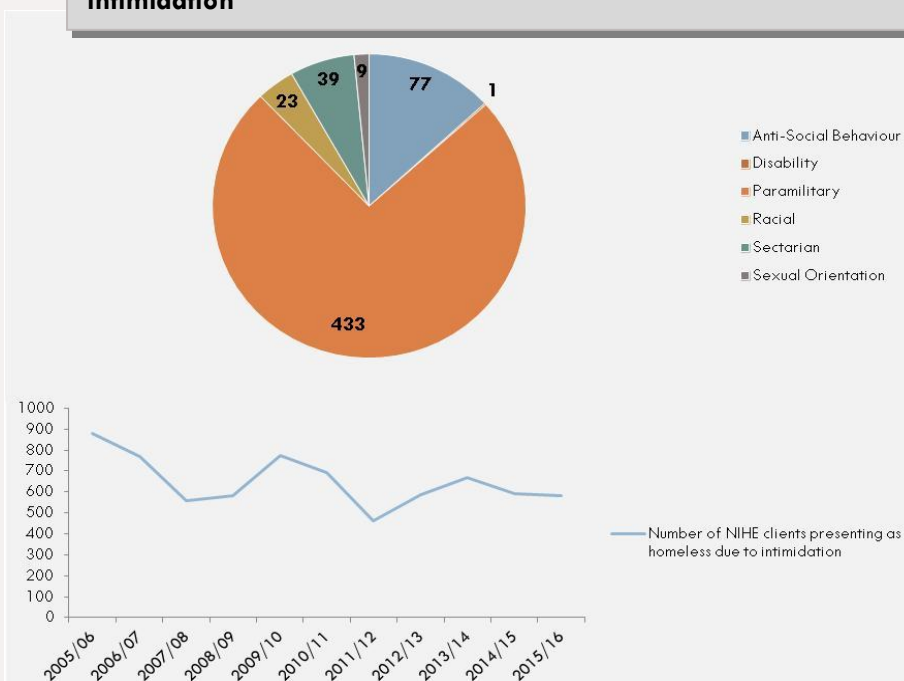
Source: [PSNI](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.1 a](#)

Our Safe Community - Indicator 3.1b

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Indicator 3.1b – Number of people presenting as homeless as a result of intimidation



Outcome: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation

74% of the **582** people who presented as homeless due to intimidation in 2015/16 did so because of paramilitary intimidation, **more than twice as many** as for all the other categories of intimidation put together.

Why is this indicator important?

The number of people presenting as homeless due to intimidation is an indicator of people's fears around safety, as well as allowing us to measure the prevalence of intimidation.

How we got here

Although the overall trend in the number of people presenting as homeless as a result of intimidation appears to be a downward one, the introduction of a new data management system in July 2011 means data across all years is not comparable. Please see additional data for more information.

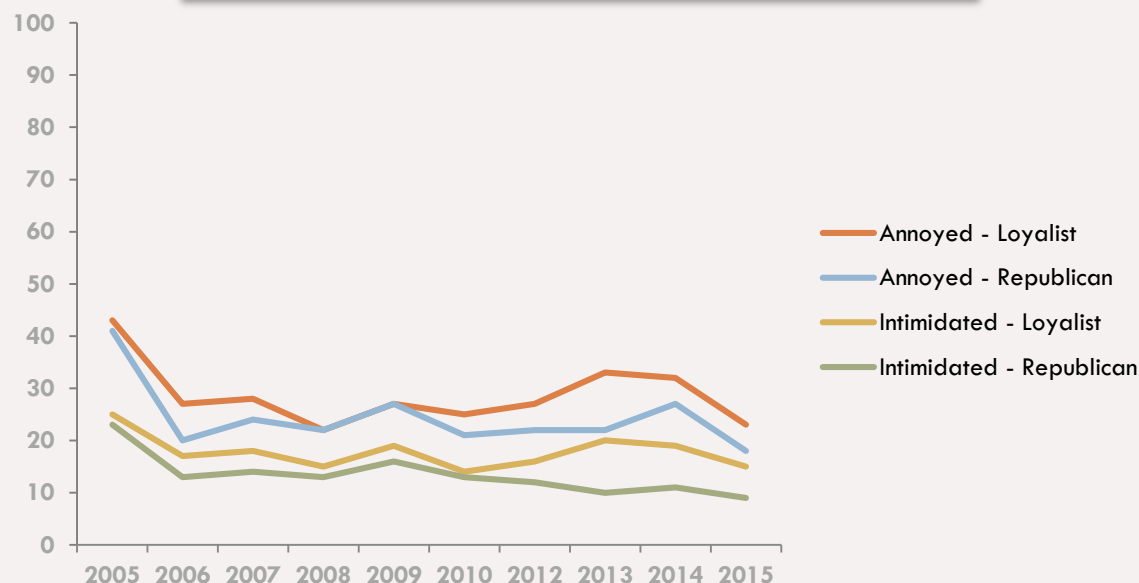
Source: [Northern Ireland Housing Executive](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.1b](#)

Our Safe Community – Indicator 3.1c

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Indicator 3.1c - % of people who felt annoyed/intimidated by republican/loyalist murals, kerb-paintings or flags in the past year.



How we got here

2015 appears to show a return to previous levels of annoyance and feelings of intimidation towards murals, kerb-paintings and flags after increases in 2013 and 2014 which were likely as a result of increased awareness surrounding the flag protests of late 2012/13.

Outcome: Reduce the prevalence of hate crime and intimidation

18% of people said they had been annoyed and **9%** intimidated by republican murals, kerb-paintings or flags in the last year. **23%** of people said they had been annoyed and **15%** intimidated by loyalist murals, kerb-paintings or flags in the same period.

Why is this indicator important?

A reduction in the use of murals, kerb-paintings and flags to mark territory will result in a community where people feel safe moving around, and are not inhibited by fear.

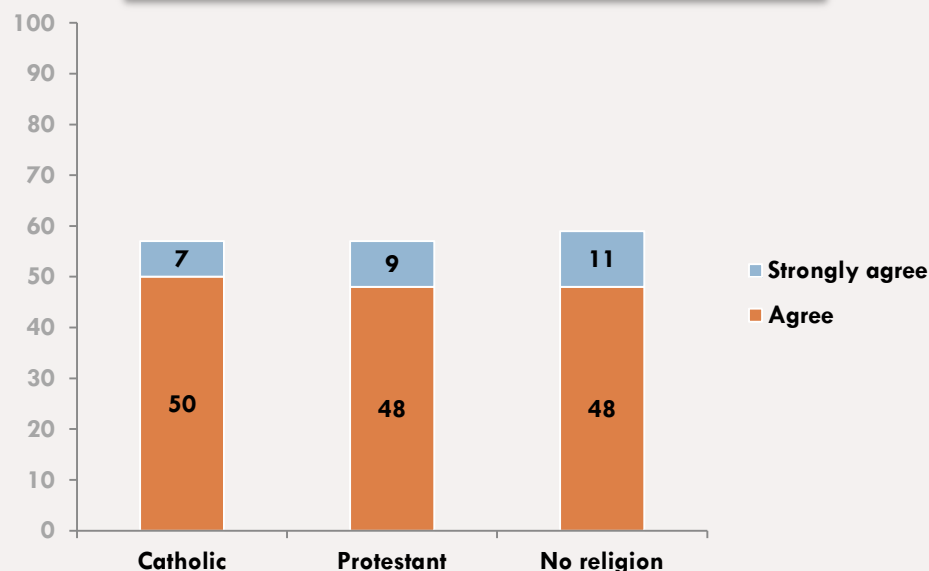
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.1c](#)

Our Safe Community – Indicator 3.2a

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

% of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life



Outcome: A community where places and spaces are safe for all

57% of both Catholics and Protestants see town centres as safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life.

Why is this indicator important?

Town centres must be seen as places where people can feel safe in moving around, and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

How we got here

Whilst there is a small increase in the overall amount of people who report town centres as "safe and welcoming places for people from all walks of life" since 2014 (from 54% to 57%), the proportion of people who 'strongly agree' with this statement has fallen by 4 percentage points, and the percentage who strongly disagree has doubled, from 3% in 2014 to 6% in 2015.

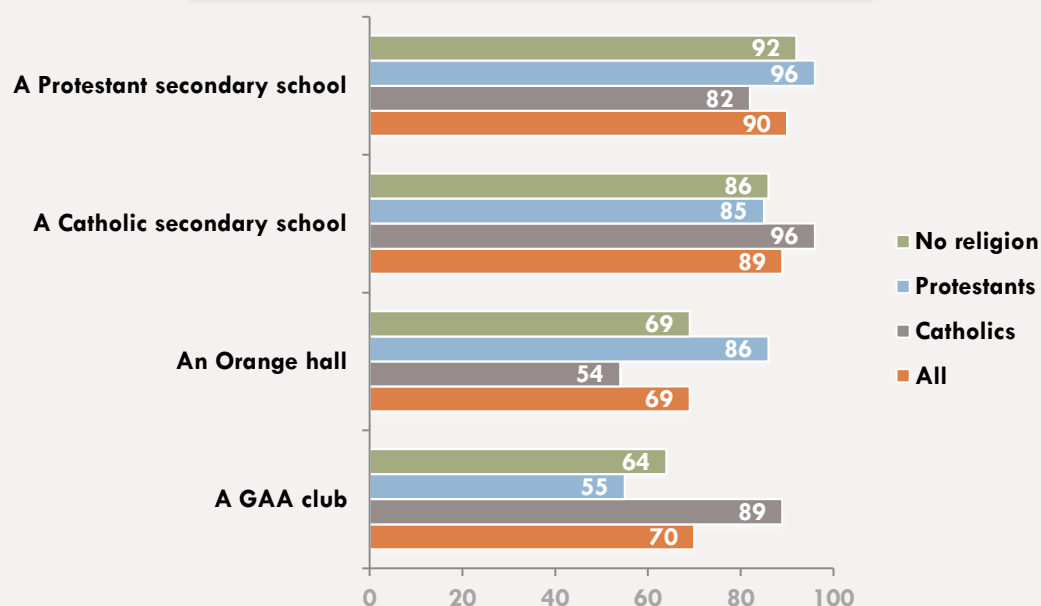
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.2a](#)

Our Safe Community – Indicator 3.2b

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Indicator 3.2b - % feeling safe going to events held in:



How we got here

Between 2013 and 2015, feelings of safety have either stayed the same, or increased slightly for events held in all venues.

Outcome: A community where places and spaces are safe for all

In 2015, **55%** of Protestants said they would feel safe going to events held in a GAA club, and **54%** of Catholics said they would feel safe going to events held in an Orange Hall. **85%** of Protestants said they would feel safe going to an event held in a Catholic secondary school, and **82%** of Catholics said they would feel safe going to an event held in a Protestant secondary school.

Why is this indicator important?

Asking people about where they feel safe helps to measure whether all communities are perceived as welcoming for everybody. This helps to identify what extra steps we can take to overcome negative perceptions.

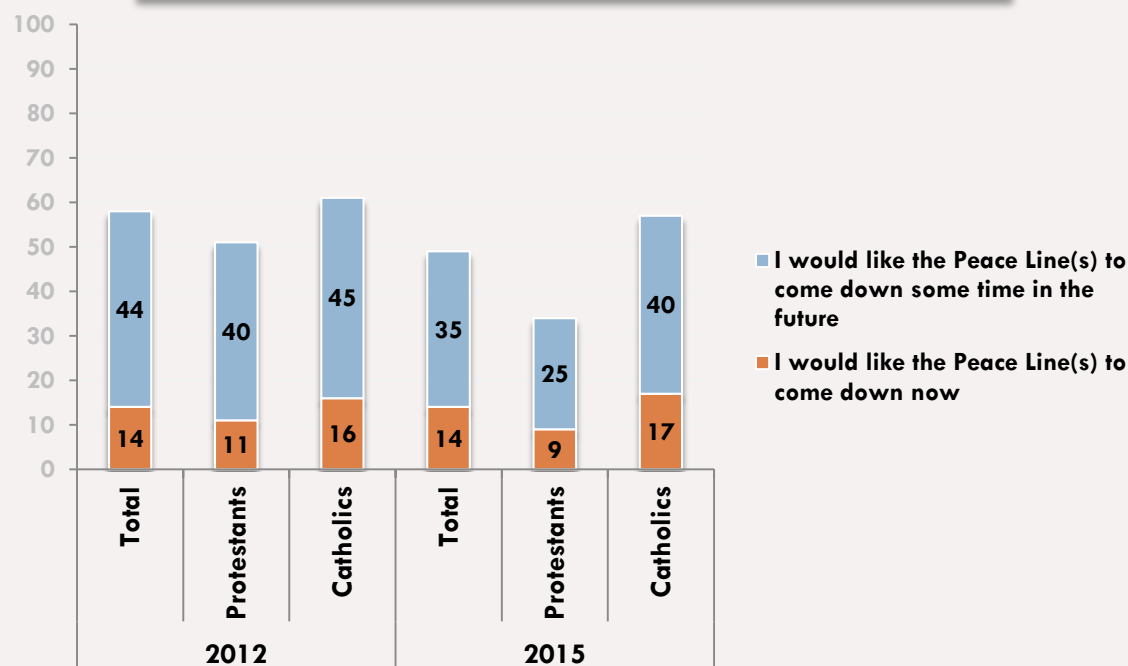
Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.2b](#)

Our Safe Community - Indicator 3.2c

Shared Aim: to create a community where everyone feels safe in moving around and where life choices are not inhibited by fears around safety.

Indicator 3.2c - % who would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future



Outcome: A community where places and spaces are safe for all

49% of Peace Line Residents would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future. With **57%** of Catholics reporting that they would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down, they are much more in favour than Protestants (**34%**).

Why is this indicator important?

Peace Lines impact on the delivery of services and reduce the potential for communities living in these areas to attract and benefit from inward investment. This indicator helps identify where more work is needed to create the conditions and gain the confidence of the community that will allow the peace lines to come down.

How we got here

This research was first conducted in 2012 amongst Peace Line residents and the general population of NI.

In 2015, a similar study was conducted of peace line residents, with the inclusion of residents from Portadown and Lurgan.

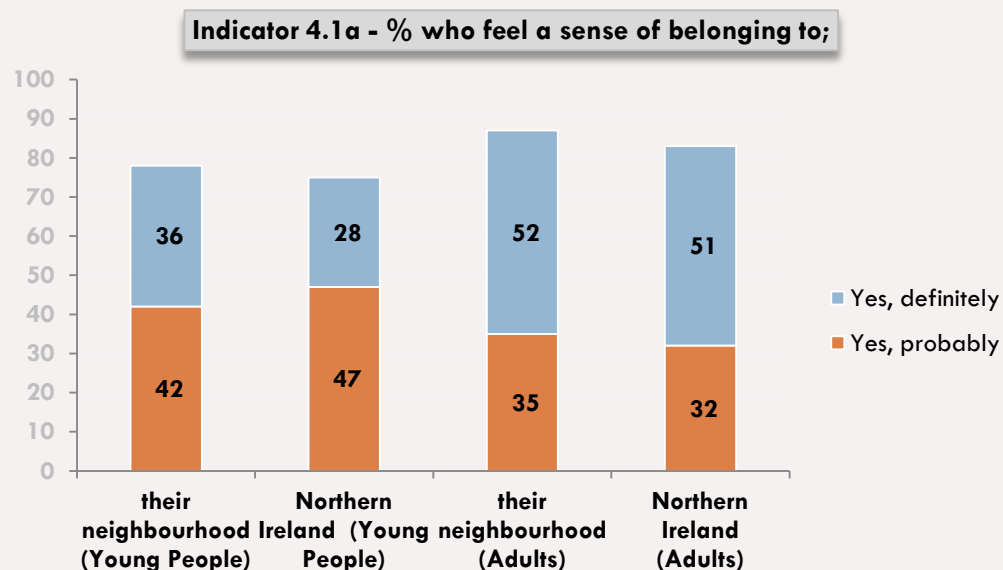
Data from the two surveys are not directly comparable.

Source: [Attitudes to Peace Walls 2013 & 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 3.2c](#)

Our Cultural Expression – Indicator 4.1a

Shared Aim: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.



How we got here

Since 2014, there has been a slight increase in the number of people who report that they feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, and Northern Ireland as a whole. The gap between adults and young people has decreased in 2015.

Outcome: Increased sense of community belonging

87% of adults said they felt a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood, with **83%** saying they felt a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland as a whole. Young people were **9** and **8** percentage points behind adults, respectively.

Why is this indicator important?

This indicator measures people's sense of belonging towards their neighbourhood and Northern Ireland as a whole, and compares young people to adults.

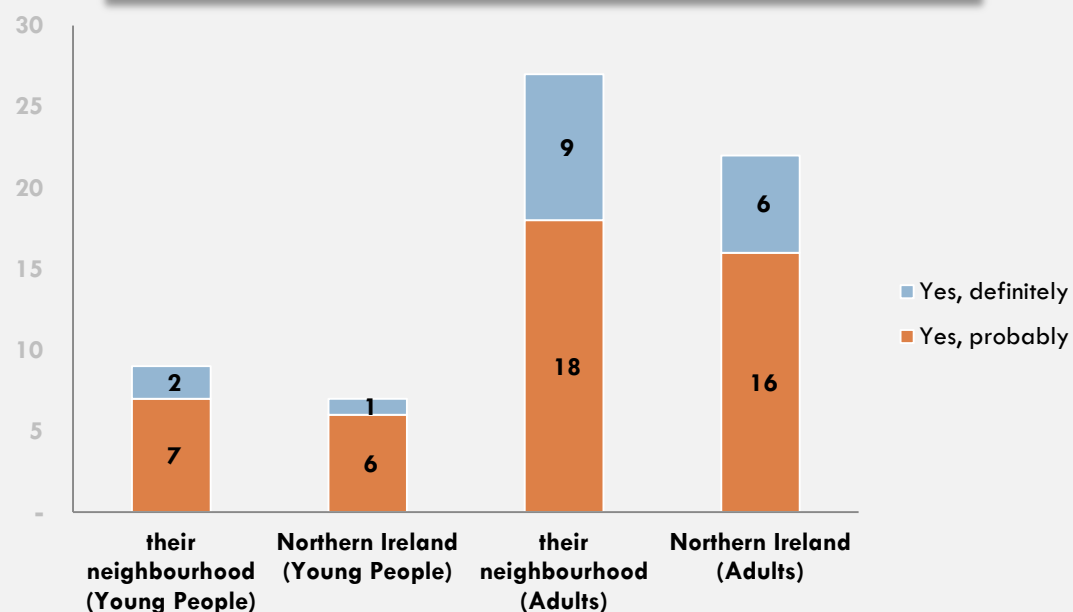
Source: [Young Life and Times/Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 4.1a](#)

Our Cultural Expression – Indicator 4.1b

Shared Aim: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

Indicator 4.1b - % who feel like they have an influence when it comes to any of the decisions made in;



How we got here

The general feeling of having influence has decreased between 2014 and 2015 across both adults, and young people. This has been most marked when it comes to decisions made in Northern Ireland for adults. The opportunity to vote in the general election in May 2015 might have affected this indicator.

Outcome: Increased sense of community belonging

Less than a third of adults (27%) felt like they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood, and **less than a quarter** (22%) to the decisions made in Northern Ireland. For young people, these proportions were **much lower** (9% and 7%, respectively).

Why is this indicator important?

For people to feel like they belong to their community, it is important that they feel like they have an influence when it comes to decisions made in their neighbourhood, and in Northern Ireland.

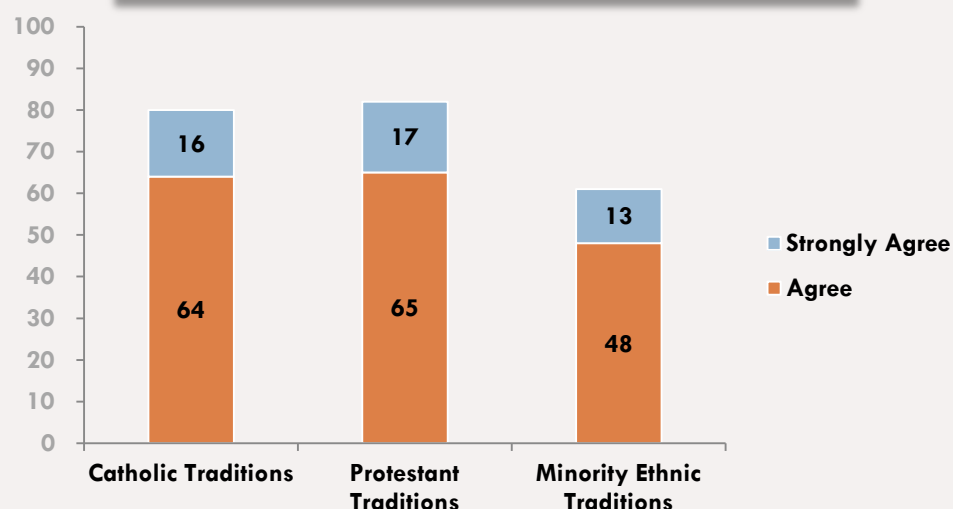
Source: [Young Life and Times/ Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 4.1b](#)

Our Cultural Expression – Indicator 4.2a

Shared Aim: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

Indicator 4.2a - % who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society



How we got here

There has been an increase since 2014 in the belief that the culture and traditions of different communities add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society.

Outcome: Cultural Diversity is celebrated

80% of people believe that the culture and traditions of the Catholic community adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society. **A similar proportion (82%)** believes this about Protestant culture and traditions, whilst **a smaller proportion (61%)** believe this about culture and traditions of people from different Minority Ethnic groups.

Why is this indicator important?

Embracing cultural diversity and celebrating cultural expression will be key to good relations in the future.

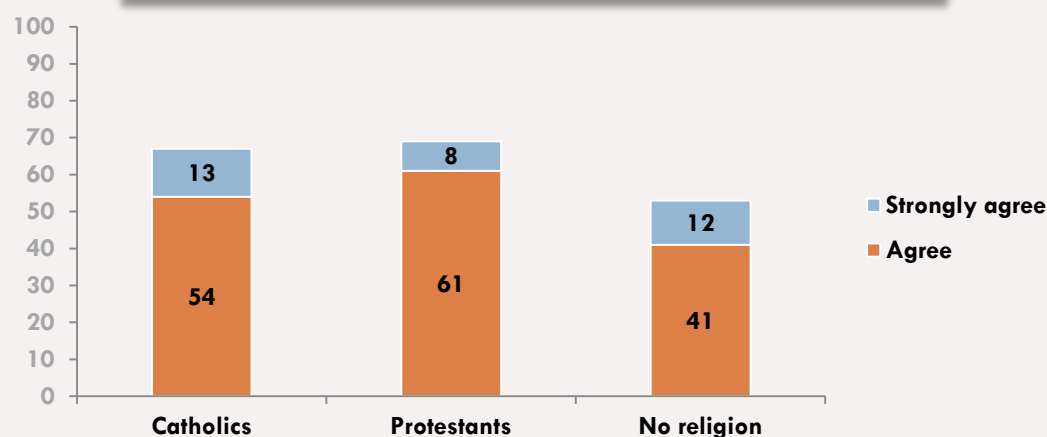
Source: [Young Life and Times/Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 4.2a](#)

Our Cultural Expression – Indicator 4.2b

Shared Aim: to create a community which promotes mutual respect and understanding, is strengthened by its diversity, and where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced.

Indicator 4.2b - % who feel their own cultural identity is respected by society



How we got here

The number of Catholics who have reported feeling that their cultural identity is respected by society has decreased by six percentage points, and a slight decrease has also been reported by people with no religion. However, Protestants have shown an eight percentage point increase. These are the first comparable figures since this question was added to the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey in 2014, and more data are necessary to indicate trends.

Outcome: Cultural diversity is celebrated

67% of Catholics and **69%** of Protestants think that their cultural identity is respected by society. **53%** of people with no religion think this.

Why is this indicator important?

If our society is to be based on mutual respect, then everyone must feel that their own cultural identity is respected by the society in which they live.

Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times 2015](#)

[Data for Indicator 4.2b](#)

Technical Notes

Good Relations Indicators Criteria

The criteria for selecting the indicators as agreed by an expert advisory group, comprised of key stakeholders from departments, District Councils and the community and voluntary sector, are that indicators should be:

- **Outcome focussed**, rather than process focussed. In other words the indicator will give an indication that the outcome is being achieved;
- **Relevant**, that is, relevant to one or more of the high level priorities or aims of the Strategy;
- **Available**, that is published regularly; and
- **Robust**, that is to be confident in data from surveys, in other words the sample should be representative of the relevant population and collected using recognised best practice in surveys.

A draft set of outcomes and indicators was agreed by the Advisory Group and consulted on more widely between 22nd January and 31st March 2014. Consultants were invited to provide comments on the indicators via an online survey on Executive Office website, or by hardcopy.

The indicators are measured using a range of data sources. The data from each source are not available at the same time, but those contained within this report are the most current at the time of this publication. More information on each data source used can be found below.

Data Sources

Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey was launched in the autumn of 1998. Its mission is to monitor the attitudes and behaviour of people across Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how our attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues. The Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey is a direct descendent of the Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey (NISA) which ran from 1989 to 1996.

The 2015 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey received ethical approval from the Ethics Committee in the School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, Queen's University Belfast, where the survey coordinator is based.

The 2015 NILT Survey involved 1,202 face-to-face interviews with adults aged 18 years or over. The sample consisted of a systematic random sample of 2,350 addresses selected from the Postcode Address File database, resulting in a 55% response rate.

All analyses of the adult data are weighted in order to allow for disproportionate household size. As only one individual is sampled at an address means that the probability of selection for the survey is inversely related to the size of the household. In other words individuals living in large household

have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals living in small households.

Before analysis the data are weighted in relation to the number of eligible adults at the address, derived from the details of the household structure recorded by interviewers on the questionnaire. This weighting process adjusts the results to those which would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a systematic random sample of adults rather than of addresses. ([ARK](#))

Young Life and Times Survey

From 1998 to 2000, the Young Life and Times (YLT) survey sought the views of all 12 to 17 year olds living in the same household as the respondent to the Northern Ireland Life and Times survey. However, in 2003, the aims and methodology of the survey were changed. From 2003 onwards, the Young Life and Times survey recorded the attitudes of 16 year olds only.

The YLT sample is drawn from the Child Benefit Register and usually contains the names and addresses of all young people resident in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday during February and March.

In 2015, 3,853 names of eligible respondents were received. 1,156 completed questionnaires were received by the end of the fieldwork period, resulting in a response rate of 30.8%.

Please note that the YLT data does not require weighting.
([ARK](#))

School Omnibus Survey

The School Omnibus Survey is a multi-purpose survey of all Principals in grant-aided schools, designed to collect a range of required information as determined by DE policy teams. The questions produced both quantitative and qualitative data, generally using yes/no and multiple response questions as well as open-ended response types.

The survey was web-based, with the option to complete in either English or Irish, and each school received the link to the survey via email, along with a unique username and password to maximise security. The survey was issued on 19 May 2015, with a completion date of 12 June 2015. A reminder was sent on 4 June to all those schools which had not responded and the deadline extended slightly until 30 June 2015.

The shared education section received a total of 450 responses giving a response rate of 41.6%. 38.9% of primary schools responded, 49.0% post-primary, and 59.0% of special schools. ([Dept. of Education](#))

Northern Ireland House Condition Survey

The 2011 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey was based on a random sample of 2,030 dwellings completed in two stages. The sampling method chosen was one considered to permit a better matching with the 2011 Census for the purpose of regression modelling.

The first stage was a random sample of 1,000 properties across Northern Ireland. This was checked for distribution and was considered to be a reasonable representation of District Council areas.

The second stage was a further random sample of 1,030 properties selected by District Council Area to ensure that each district total added to 70. In Belfast District Council Area, a total of 280 households were selected (70 in North, East, South and West Belfast). The overall response rate was 71%.

The sample frame in 2011 was the survey sampling database held at the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). This database contained a subset of the computerised records for domestic residential property maintained by the Valuation and Lands Agency. ([NIHE](#))

School Census

Information on pupil enrolments is collected annually from schools, as part of what is commonly known as the schools census. This data collection exercise is an annual snapshot of pupil and school level data for each pre-school centre, nursery, special, primary, post-primary, hospital and independent school in Northern Ireland. As well as data relating to school enrolments and numbers, information in relation to attendance is collected as part of the overall school return. ([Dept. of Education](#))

Integrated Education

Data on numbers of first preference applicants admitted to post-primary schools is collated each year at the end of the annual admissions process by the regional offices of the Education Authority. The figures for integrated post-primary schools have been extracted from this. ([Dept. of Education](#))

PSNI Hate Crime Statistics

Unlike the Northern Ireland Crime Survey (NICS), police recorded crime figures do not include crimes that have not been reported to the police or those that the police decide not to record, but they do cover crimes against those aged under 16, organisations such as businesses, and crimes

‘against the state’ i.e. with no immediate victim (e.g. possession of drugs). Like any administrative data, police recorded crime statistics are affected by the rules governing the recording of data, systems in place and operational decisions in respect of the allocation of resources. More proactive policing in a given area could lead to an increase in crimes recorded without any real change in underlying crime trends. These issues need to be taken into account when using these data. ([PSNI](#))

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homeless Presentation Figures

Statistics on Homelessness are sourced from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). They are published in the DSD’s annual Housing Statistics report. The figures reported for each reason for presentation from 2011-12 onwards are not fully comparable with other published figures. Data migration issues and coding variations following the introduction of a new operational Housing Management System (HMS) in July 2011 meant that no data on reason for presentation was recorded for 3,731 cases in 2011-12 and 835 cases during April-June 2012. ([NIHE](#))

Attitudes to Peace Walls Survey

Two separate but similar questionnaires were used for the study. The first questionnaire was designed to gather the views of the wider Northern Ireland population. The second questionnaire was refined to take account of the situation of those living in close proximity to identified Peace Lines.

The primary research took the form of two distinct postal surveys. The first survey was administered to residents

situated on, or within a short distance from, a peace wall in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry. The second survey was administered to people who resided across Northern Ireland. The surveys were conducted by post, and included an incentive to encourage response rate, with a reminder sent to non-responders. A total of 840 Peace Line residents and 611 residents in the rest of Northern Ireland completed and returned questionnaires. This represents response rates of 26% and 32% respectively.

(<http://www.ark.ac.uk/peacewalls2012>)

Supplementary Data

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is committed to increasing the amount of data released in open and reusable formats in the production of its statistical outputs. To this end, additional data is also available in .xls and .csv format. This data includes additional breakdowns by gender and religion. Excel files are linked throughout the report, but data can also be found on the [Executive Office website](#):

Our Children and Young People

1.1a - % of people who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better than they were five years ago

1.1b - % of people who are favourable towards; Catholics, Protestants, Minority Ethnic Groups

1.2a - % of young people who regularly socialise or play sport with people from a different religious community.

1.2b - % of young people who have; shared sports facilities or equipment; shared classes; done projects, with other schools

Our Shared Community

2.1a - % of people who think that Protestants and Catholics tend to go to different local shops or use different GP surgeries and other services in their area

2.1b - % who think that leisure centres, parks, libraries and shopping centres in their area are 'shared and open' to both Protestants and Catholics

2.1c - % of those who have children at school who think that their child's school is a shared space

2.1d - % of schools that have done projects or shared education with other schools

2.1e - % of people who see the area they live in as Protestant, Catholic, or mixed

2.2a - % of people who would define their neighbourhood/workplace as a shared space

2.2b - % of people who would like mixed religion neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools

2.2c - % of first preference applications, and % attending, integrated schools

Our Safe Community

3.1a - Number of hate crimes

3.1b - Number presenting as homeless due to intimidation

3.1c - % of people who felt annoyed/intimidated by Republican/Loyalist murals

3.2a - % of people who see town centres as safe and welcoming for all walks of life

3.2b - % of people who feel safe going to events in a; Protestant secondary school; Catholic secondary school; Orange Hall; GAA Hall

3.2c - % of people who would like to see the Peace Line(s) come down now or in the future

Our Cultural Expression

4.1a - % of people who feel a sense of belonging to; their neighbourhood; Northern Ireland

4.1b - % of people who feel they have an influence in; their neighbourhood; Northern Ireland

4.2a - % of people who think that the culture and traditions of; Catholic; Protestant; Minority Ethnic, communities adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society

4.2b - % of people who believe their own cultural identity is respected by society