



Invitation to Tender

To provide specialist research to NYCI's Equality and Intercultural Programme to:

Carry out scoping

National Youth Council of Ireland

February 2026

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Background to NYCI

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. NYCI functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations. NYCI's role is recognised in legislation (Youth Work Act) and as a social partner. NYCI aims through its member organisations and its representative role to empower young people to participate in society as fulfilled, confident individuals. The work of the Youth Council is based on principles of equality, social justice and equal participation for all. In achieving these aims the NYCI seeks the emergence of a society in which young people are valued citizens who can make a meaningful contribution to their community.

Project Title:

Scoping research to explore the presence, impact and responses to racist narratives showing up in Youth Diversion Project settings and to identify support needs for youth justice workers on tackling racism.

Background:

As the national body with responsibility to support the youth work sector with practice development and capacity building, NYCI is committed to taking a lead role in creating a racially just society, rooted in the values of inclusion, respect, and understanding that centres the voice of minority ethnic young people and their communities. Our aim is to resource youth workers and youth organisations tackling increasing levels of racism to better support and work with both young people who are targeted by hate, and those who are perpetrators.

With the rise in hate and hostility in recent years, NYCI's Equality and Intercultural Programme is aware of increasing levels of racist narratives pervading youth settings. We are, however, unaware if and how this is showing up in Youth Diversion Projects with young people deemed to be at risk of offending, and whether the young people are being targeted by bad faith actors to act on these

narratives – for example to take part in protests, riots, or racially motivated criminal acts.

Project details

Through its Equality and Intercultural Programme, the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) builds the capacity of the youth work sector to respond to racism. This involves building understanding, knowledge and confidence through:

- Dissemination of our newly developed eLearning on *Understanding and Responding to Racism*
- Delivery of *Transforming Hate in Youth Settings* training
- Dissemination of our new resource *From Anti-Racism to Racial Justice*
- Delivery of *Racial Justice* training
- Community of Practice networks
- Building on recommendations from research – our recent research report on mis and disinformation recommends engagement with young people under 18 and young people at risk of being targeted.

We are now in a position to identify and explore how we might resource, train and support the needs of Youth Justice Workers in this area.

Tender details

We are seeking a qualified practitioner to:

- Carry out scoping research with five or more Youth Diversion Projects:
 - Work with youth justice workers to understand if and how racism is manifesting
 - Identify current youth work interventions used to tackle racist narratives
 - Identify support needs and resource gaps.
 - Where appropriate identify or develop tools to fill identified needs
 - Co- facilitate training on Transforming Hate for Youth Justice Workers and orientate them to the new resources
 - Create networking opportunities for Youth Justice Workers to share practice and disseminate research findings
 - Collaborate with other NYCI projects to collate and share practice and reports on youth work responses to rioting, and race-related protests

Further Details:

Working closely alongside NYCI Programme Officers the successful candidate will:

- Find ways to collate the research data while also building Youth Justice Workers understanding and analysis of racism and giving them tools and resources to counter racism with young people.
- Build relationships of trust and support over extended visits including interviewing young people directly.

Objectives:

- Report produced that increases our understanding of the various ways in which young people are influenced and mobilised by far right and racist narratives.
- Increased number of Youth Justice Workers who have the necessary confidence, skills and tools to address racism and racist attitudes in their youth settings.

Methodology:

Candidates should send a clear methodology on how they would approach this project.

NYCI Equality and Intercultural Programme will oversee the project and play a proactive, and supportive role throughout the course of the project. Its functions will include, but are not limited to collaborating on project deliverables, and providing practical support, including linking to project participants and key stakeholders.

Timeframe and application process:

Closing date for tender applications is **10th March 2026**

We will seek to notify the successful applicant by **20th March 2026**

Timeline and Key milestones:

- **Contract issued and project begins:** March 2026
- **Mid-term report:** June 30th 2026
- **Completion of tasks:** 30th October 2026

Budget

The maximum budget for this project is €20,000 inclusive of VAT and this should include all costs such as, administration costs and expenses incurred, excluding travel and subsistence costs for agreed travel which will be reimbursed at the standard NYCI rates for external contractors.

Applicants should provide a detailed breakdown of costs.

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant.

The successful applicant will need to provide a tax clearance access code and tax number.

Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of an invoice. If at any stage during the project, the agreed level of quality of the work is not adhered to, payment may be withheld.

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- Candidates must have a youth work degree or equivalent youth work experience
- Experience working with minority ethnic young people is essential
- Garda vetting and Child First certificate will be mandatory alongside working within NYCI's Child Safeguarding Policies and procedures.

Other considerations:

Ownership of the report and any resources developed in relation to the project will reside with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

All data must be managed in line with GDPR requirements

Tender submission and for further information:

Please submit your tender submission to Kate O'Connell - Kateoc@nyci.ie by 10th March. Kate can be contacted for any queries.