



# CAMPUS WATCH



# CONTENTS

- 01 Your Personal Safety
- 03 Security of Your Accommodation
- 05 Security of Your Vehicle
- 07 Road Safety
- 09 Victims of Crime
- 10 Sexual Crime
- 11 Anti-Social Behaviour
- 14 Drug & Alcohol Awareness
- 15 Age Card
- 16 Money Laundering
- 17 Cyber Crime
- 19 Respect for Diversity

Campus sites are busy places with large numbers of people going about their daily routines. They form a concentration of a vast range of people from: campus staff, workers, visitors, to the students themselves.

The very nature of a campus, where unfamiliar faces are common and accepted, lends itself to the work of the criminal who can blend in quite easily around halls of residence. For example, it is not unusual to see people carrying backpacks and other items without suspicion.

For students on tight budgets, expensive items are difficult to replace, and it is highly advisable to spend a short time considering how effective measures can be taken to reduce the possibility of theft. The good news is that there are a number of actions you can take to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of crime.

Campus Watch is similar to a residential Neighbourhood Watch scheme in that it is a crime prevention and community safety programme. It operates as a partnership between An Garda Síochána and the Campus occupants. It works on the basis that every member of Campus can help to improve the quality of life on site by keeping a look out for students, staff and visitors, and reporting suspicious activities to the Gardaí.

Common Sense Security – Never assume that you or your property are safe, always take steps to make them secure. The aim of this booklet is to heighten your awareness so that you are more likely to prevent a situation arising where your personal safety and property may be put at risk.

For more information on any of the topics covered within this booklet, please contact [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) or your local Garda station.

Crime can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere. The culprit thinks that they won't get caught, and the victim thinks: "It won't be me!". The reality is very different. For every crime there is always a victim. Not every culprit will get caught, but every victim will suffer. The extent of your suffering or loss will depend on three key factors:

- Your vulnerability.
- Your environment.
- Your individual behaviour.

It's always better to be safe than sorry - follow some of our personal safety tips to help keep you safe.

## Streetwise Tips

### 1. Observation and Confidence

When walking in public do so in a confident and prompt manner. A thief or an attacker will seek out the most vulnerable target. When you are in public be observant. Look around you and be wary of strangers whether they are on their own or in groups. Note the nearest public building or place of safety. If you are not sure about your surroundings go back to where you came from, and seek a trusted companion to accompany you to your destination. Trust your instincts, avoid confrontation and if something is not quite right, go to a safe place straight away.



### 2. Plan Your Journey

Plan how you are going to get there and how you are going to return. Let people know where you are going and how long you should be. Let your friends know if you are leaving with someone outside of the group.



### 3. Mobile Phones

The number one target for the street thief is your mobile phone. Avoid making or taking calls in public. If your phone does ring, try and answer it in a public building rather than on the street. Keep your mobile phone safe and out of sight.

### 4. Wallets, Purses & Valuables

Conceal your wallet or purse. Carry only as much cash and cards as necessary. Keep a separate amount of cash on your person in case your wallet or purse is stolen. Do not struggle with a thief; you may injure yourself in the process. Avoid displaying expensive or sentimental jewellery in public.

### 5. Choose Well Lit Locations

Avoid darkly lit places for walking or parking. Keep your car locked at all times. Avoid leaving valuables on display in cars. If you need to travel through a poorly lit area, do so with a companion. Likewise, if you are in a group, be conscious of others walking by on their own. If you think you are being followed - cross the road. If you are being followed go to the nearest public place, like a shop, a pub or a house with lights on and contact the Gardaí.

If you are assaulted, help is available to you 24 hours a day. Call 999 or 112 immediately.

**Use Your Brain Not Your Fists** is a public safety campaign by An Garda Síochána that aims to reduce the number of assaults carried out by men between 18 and 39 years of age.

It appeals to young men to think of the consequences for themselves and others of being involved in assaults as statistics show a rise in assaults in last number of years in line with the rise in the nighttime economy.

The vast majority of assaults are carried out by men aged between 18 and 39 against men of a similar age. These assaults typically take place in and around public places (street, roads, pubs and hotels) between 8pm and 5am at the weekend. Approximately 25% of incidents linked to the nighttime economy involved intoxication of either the suspect offender, the victim, or both. Perpetrators of assaults tend not to repeat the crime and there is a very low level of repeat victimisation.

A short feature highlighting the dangers of assaults has been produced by Comhairle na nÓg Leitrim and can be accessed here <https://youtu.be/ImtWJbgoVBE>



The security of your accommodation, whether an apartment or house, is vital to safeguarding you and your property. Follow these tips to help secure your residence:

- Ensure that all windows and doors are locked at all times.
- Never give your keys to anyone else. Do not leave your keys where others could have access to them.
- Before you admit any callers to your accommodation, ensure you are satisfied with their identity – ask for ID if in doubt.
- Inform a trusted neighbour or friend if you are going away.
- Ensure that you do not have obvious signs of vacant accommodation – curtains drawn during daylight hours, etc.
- Ensure that all of your property is marked with your own personal identification code, like your Eircode (e.g. D08 HN3X). Items of value should be securely locked away.
- Always lock outside doors. The main entrance is the first line of defence to your property. Close your curtains after dark. Act on suspicions you have, don't dwell on them. Let the professionals share your suspicions. Never reveal you are alone.

Don't be afraid to check the ID of unfamiliar people. You do not have to challenge people aggressively. You can approach someone and ask if they are lost or need help if you are unsure. Perhaps enlist the help of a fellow student before making any approach.

Don't let strangers in, or hold doors open for strangers who are arriving as you are leaving. Use the door chain on your room door. Remember – Other people live in the building too!

If you think someone is behaving suspiciously, or trying to gain unauthorised access to accommodation, contact the Gardaí / Campus Security Personnel.

Likewise, if you receive any strange, threatening, or abusive phone calls to your accommodation, report them to the Gardaí / Campus Security Personnel.



## Bicycle

### The Basic Do's and Don'ts:

- Do keep purchase receipts for the bicycle in case you need to make an insurance claim.
- Do record a description of your bicycle. Include the make, model, frame number, and a photograph, and note any distinguishing marks and their precise location.
- Do spend 10% to 20% of the value of the bike on 'D' lock and Cable Lock.
- Do mark your bicycle with a UV Pen with your Eircode.
- Do lock tight to an immovable object, and keep lock off the ground.
- Don't leave your bicycle unattended unless it has been locked - not for a second!
- Don't park it in concealed places, even if it has been locked. Better to lock indoors. But if outside: secure where well lit, with CCTV or natural surveillance.
- Don't leave the bicycle unlocked in the back garden. Store it in a secured garage or other outbuilding and lock it up.
- Don't leave easily removable accessories on the bicycle when you leave it, such as lights and quick release saddles or wheels.
- Always report bicycle thefts to the Gardaí.



## Motorcycle

Motorcycles are a popular form of transport, but secure parking for them can be hard to find. 'U' shaped pieces of scaffolding pole embedded into concrete located in areas which have good natural surveillance can help secure motorcycles, and reduce the opportunity for theft.

# Car

Many students are car owners, and criminals are always on the lookout for an easy opportunity. With this in mind:

1. Ensure your car is locked, and check it before leaving. Use your alarm if you have one.
2. Avoid leaving windows open, even slightly, – regardless of where you've parked, or how long you're leaving the car for.
3. Do not leave valuables in your car. If this is necessary, secure them out of sight in the boot.
4. Do not leave personal documents, i.e. driving licenses, passports, etc., in your car.
5. If you have to keep money in your car for parking meters, keep it in a closed glove box, or in another out-of- sight compartment. If it is on view, a desperate thief might smash a side window (worth €200) to steal €3 in change.



Road safety is everyone's responsibility. Each of us is responsible for the way we act on the road, no matter how we use it, and we should always drive with due care and attention.

**Speed** is the single biggest cause of road deaths in Ireland. Excessive or inappropriate speed is a factor in one third of fatal road collisions. Reducing speed saves lives.

**Alcohol** is a contributory factor in 38% of all fatal crashes (drunk drivers/riders and drunk pedestrians). More than half of fatal road crashes that happen between 9pm and 5am are alcohol related.



Since 13th April 2017, An Garda Síochána have the power to test the oral fluid of drivers for the presence of Cannabis, Cocaine, Opiates (e.g. Morphine) and Benzodiazepines (e.g. Valium) at the roadside or in a Garda station.

**The penalties for intoxicated driving have changed. Every driver found over the legal limit now faces a minimum of three month's disqualification from driving.**



**Safety belts** save lives. Without a seat belt, 3 out of 4 people will be killed or seriously injured in a 50km per hour head-on crash. Always wear a seat belt while driving and make sure every passenger wears a seat belt. Children should use the appropriate child restraint when necessary. On average, one in five vehicular road deaths had no safety belt on at the time of the collision.

**Tiredness** could be a factor in up to 20% of fatal crashes in Ireland. Driving when very tired is as dangerous as driving while over the drink drive limit.





## Mobile Phones

Do not use your mobile phone while driving. It is against the law and you could face a fine and three penalty points, or five if convicted in court. Only use mobile phones with a hands free device, but never be distracted when driving.

Unaccompanied learner permit holders not only face penalty points and a fine, but can now have their vehicle impounded on the spot and will only be released on payment of the appropriate fee. In addition, the owner (if different from the driver) faces prosecution if they allow a learner permit holder drive that vehicle. Learner drivers must display L plates and be accompanied by a fully qualified driver at all times.

Tyres need to be inspected regularly for damage, inflation and wear. The legal tread depth limit is 1.6mm for cars and 1mm for motorcycles.

Learner and novice drivers face disqualification after 7 penalty points. See [www.penaltypoints.ie](http://www.penaltypoints.ie) for a full list of penalty point offences.

We believe that there is a special place for victims in the Garda Service and within the criminal justice system. We seek to put victims at the heart of the justice system and ensure that statutory rights to information, advice and other appropriate assistance are met effectively and efficiently. We will at every opportunity support the dignity, concerns and needs of all victims.

All members of the Garda Síochána will treat victims with dignity and respect – whatever your gender, race, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age, nationality, disability, economic circumstances, marital or family status.

If you are a victim of a crime or traumatic incident, we will

- Respond quickly to your call and investigate your complaint.
- Give you the name, telephone number and station of the investigating Garda and the PULSE incident number - this is the number given to your incident so that we can quickly find the details of your case.

We will keep you informed of all significant developments in your case and provide you with details of support organisations. As a victim, with your co-operation an assessment will be conducted of your needs in order to identify any issues in relation to your safety and your vulnerability to retaliation, intimidation and re-victimisation.

Other helpful information and details of policing developments are available at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

or you contact the Crime Victims Helpline at Freephone 116006.

Alternatively, for further advice and support you can contact,

The Garda Victim Liaison Office,  
An Garda Síochána,  
Garda National Protective Services Bureau,  
Harcourt Square,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 666 3349

Email : [crimevictims@garda.ie](mailto:crimevictims@garda.ie) (All are monitored during business hours).

Nobody may engage in a sexual act with you without your consent. To do so is a crime.

**Consent means freely and voluntarily agreeing to engage in a sexual act and your consent may be withdrawn at any time before or during the activity. Failure or omission to offer resistance does not of itself constitute consent to a sexual act.**

You do not consent if you are, for example:

- (a) submitting because of the use/threat of force, or a well-founded fear that force may be used;
- (b) asleep or unconscious;
- (c) incapable of consenting because of the effect of alcohol or some other drug;
- (d) suffering from a physical disability preventing you from communicating consent;
- (e) mistaken as to the nature and purpose of the activity;
- (f) mistaken as to the identity of any other person involved;
- (g) unlawfully detained at the time that the activity occurs.

Nobody else may consent on your behalf.

If you are the victim of a sexual crime, contact the Gardaí immediately, either by dialling 999 or 112, or by contacting your nearest Garda station. Do not wash or change your clothing or clean up the immediate vicinity – you may unintentionally destroy vital evidence.

For further information see [www.garda.ie/en/crime/sexual-crime](http://www.garda.ie/en/crime/sexual-crime)

## **Other Contacts/Links**

**Garda Síochána Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Line - Free Phone 1800 555 222.**

[www.hse.ie/satu](http://www.hse.ie/satu) - Sexual Assault Treatment Units operating throughout Ireland.

[www.rapecrisishelp.ie/find-a-service](http://www.rapecrisishelp.ie/find-a-service) - Rape Crisis Network Ireland

[www.drcc.ie](http://www.drcc.ie) - Dublin Rape Crisis Centre) - National 24-hour Helpline – Free Phone 1800 778888.

[www.itstopsnow.org](http://www.itstopsnow.org) - a project of the National Women's Council of Ireland to combat sexual harassment and violence in third level institutions.

Anti-Social behaviour is a major issue affecting quality of life in modern Ireland. While people have a right to lead different lifestyles, it is not acceptable if their lifestyles interfere with the rights and freedoms of other people.

Many families and older people live in close proximity to student accommodation. Please ensure that your behaviour does not impact negatively on their rights to peaceful enjoyment of their property. Noise levels should be kept to a minimum, especially at night.

If you or your neighbours are the victims of anti-social behaviour, don't suffer in silence. Report it to An Garda Síochána. We will treat you with courtesy, consideration, understanding and respect. Working together through Campus Watch we can and will make a difference.

## What is Anti-Social Behaviour?

Anti-Social behaviour is when a person acts in a way that causes or is likely to cause someone:

- Harassment.
- Significant or persistent alarm.
- Distress, fear or intimidation.
- Inability to enjoy their property, in a significant or persistent way.

The law does not apply if the person is living in the same household (Criminal Justice Act 2006 – Parts II - Civil Proceedings in Relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (113)).

## How We Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

A Garda may issue a Behaviour Warning to the person involved in anti-social behaviour. A Behaviour Warning lasts for three months. A Garda can issue a warning verbally, and later issue it in writing.

If a person over 18 years of age fails to obey a warning, the Gardaí can apply to the District Court for a Behaviour Order. A Behaviour Order states what the person is not allowed to do. These behaviour orders last for two years.



The Gardaí actively enforce the law in respect of repeat offenders whose anti-social behaviour affects their neighbours. They investigate and charge the people involved, and can use the following laws;

- Criminal Justice Act 2006
- The Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 1994
- The Non-Fatal Offences against the Person Act 1997
- The Criminal Damage Act 1991
- The Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act 1989.

## Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour

The role of An Garda Síochána is not just to police local neighbourhoods, but to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour. They work in partnership with local communities and other agencies to achieve this. Garda Clinics are a regular feature of communities which are facilitated by local Community Gardaí. These help An Garda Síochána to identify anti-social behaviour offenders, and allow them to respond appropriately.

The aims of An Garda Síochána are:

- To engage with young people at risk.
- To divert them away from anti-social behaviour.
- To involve them in positive behaviour in their community.

## Drugs and the Law

The Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 to 2016, and the Criminal Justice (Psychoactive Substances) Act 2010 are the primary Acts which provide legislation in relation to drug offences in Ireland.

### Offences

**Possession:** A person shall not have a controlled drug in his/her possession unless such is prescribed for use within the provision of the Misuse of Drugs Acts.

### Possession with Intent to supply

Possession of an amount of a controlled drug (or otherwise Psychoactive Substance) that is in excess of what could be considered appropriate for personal use is considered to be possession with intent to supply others.

Remember, consuming illegal drugs may result in a criminal record and can seriously jeopardise your health and your academic and professional future.

If you are in need of help with a drug problem, or are concerned in any way about yourself or a friend, consult the College Health Service, Student Counsellor or a respected and responsible person.

A wide range of information in relation to Drug Awareness can be found at [www.drugs.ie](http://www.drugs.ie).

**Leave the  
mixing to  
the DJ**

**DRUGS** ie  
Drug and Alcohol Information and Support

**USI**  
Union of Students in Ireland  
Student Representative Council



## Alcohol Awareness

Many third level institutions prohibit the consumption of alcohol on campus, except in permitted areas such as licensed clubs. Similarly, the majority of local authorities have introduced Bye-Laws which prohibit the consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places. Fines on the spot are issued for breaches of these laws which if left unpaid can lead to prosecution in the courts.

## National Drug Strategy 2017 – 2025 Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery

It is Ireland's strategy to reduce harm and support recovery which is a health led response that sets out the Government's strategy to address the harm caused by substance misuse in our society up to 2025.

An Garda Síochána are one of the lead agencies in this strategy and fully support this person centered and health led response to drug misuse.

In line with our National Drug Strategy An Garda Síochána encourage people to not be afraid to get help. If you or a friend become unwell or feel suicidal after taking drugs get help immediately. Be honest about what was taken, emergency services are there to help. Emergency Services can be contacted on 112 or 999.

An Garda Síochána wish to reiterate that all illegal drugs are bad for your health and you do not know what you are taking.

For information and support go to [Drugs.ie/Saferstudentnights](https://www.drugs.ie/Saferstudentnights) or free phone the HSE Drug and Alcohol Helpline on 1800 459 459 (Monday-Friday 9:30am-5:30pm).

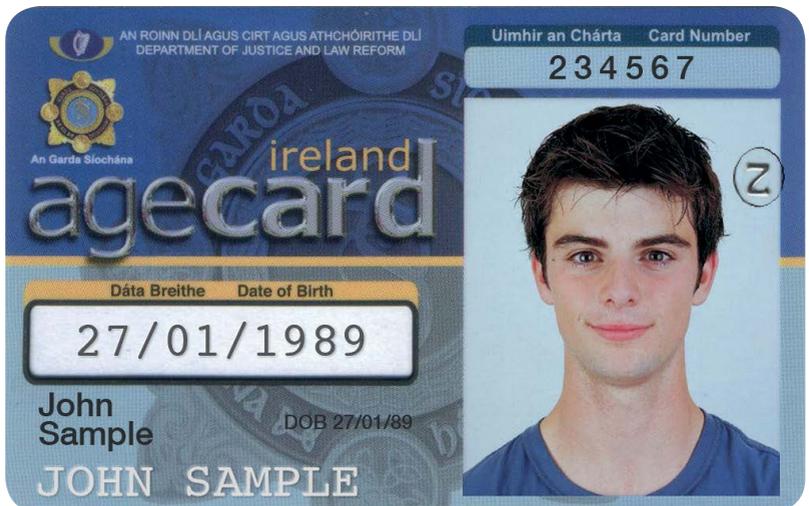
The Age Card is issued under the Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1988, and is widely accepted as “proof of age”. It proves that the cardholder is legally old enough to purchase alcohol.

The cost of the card is just €10, and displays the following:

- Name
- Date of Birth
- Photograph
- Numerous security features to ensure its validity

Visit [www.agecard.ie](http://www.agecard.ie) to apply for an Age Card. You will need the following to hand:

- A Birth Certificate, or a Passport, or a Irish Residency Permit Card.
- One other form of ID.
- One colour passport photograph.
- €10 payment from a credit/debit card, or an Age Card Voucher. A voucher can be purchased in any Post Office.



# Self-Responsibility.

In order to avoid being implicated in Money Laundering, students should:

- Protect your personal identity details such as address, date of birth, PPS number etc.
- Secure your bank cards. Do not disclose your on-line banking log in details, PIN Numbers, CVV Number etc.
- Ignore e-mails requesting banking information.

## Money Laundering and the Law

The Criminal Justice (Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing) Act 2010 is the primary legislation in relation to Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Ireland.

Do not allow your bank account to be used by somebody else to receive funds, transfer funds or for any action in respect of the dispersal of funds.

**#DontBeAMule**

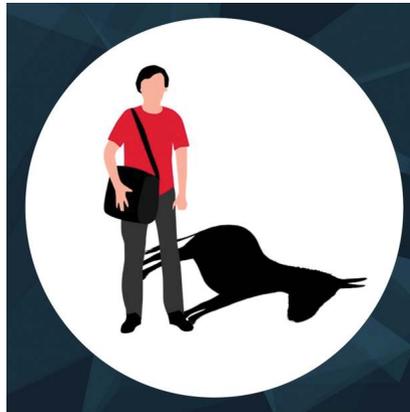


Image courtesy of EUROPOL

### Warning

Money Laundering is a serious offence which, on indictment, carries a sentence of up to 14 years' imprisonment. A Money Laundering conviction could have serious implications for your future travel and employment prospects.

***Short term gain will probably mean long term pain.***

According to CSO figures in 2016, only 2% of people aged 16-29 years old had never used the internet, and 96% of the 98% that did – accessed the internet via their mobile or smart phone. The most common student online activities related to Social Networking, Email, live streaming, finding information on goods & services, and uploading information.

With the explosion in popularity of social networking sites like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat, it is important to be aware of the risks of using them. By applying the following tips, it reduces your exposure to hackers, spammers, virus writers, identity thieves, and other criminals.



## Popular Online Tips:

1. The internet is permanent. Once you post something, even if you delete your account, assume that it is there forever.
2. Remember that the control of your photos is no longer yours once you've "shared" them online.
3. When accepting a friend, ask yourself - Do you really know them? Only "friend" people you know in the real world.
4. Don't trust unsolicited messages. Hackers can break into accounts and send messages that look like they're from your friends. This includes invitations to join new social networks. If you suspect that a message is fraudulent, use an alternate method to contact your friend to verify.
5. Manage your privacy settings. Make sure that you are only sharing information with friends and family.

6. Turn off the location setting on your smartphone camera. If you plan to share images online, doing this will keep your exact location private.
7. Change your passwords frequently. Choose hard-to-guess passwords which are at least eight characters long with a combination of letters, numbers, and symbols.
8. If you have more than one social networking account, ensure that you use different passwords for each one.
9. Many social networking sites allow you to download third-party applications that let you do more with your personal page. Criminals sometimes use these applications to steal your personal information. To download and use third-party applications safely, take the same safety precautions that you take with any other program or file you download from the web.
10. Your bank won't ask you to verify your account or unlock your account details via an email
11. If you didn't purchase a ticket for the lottery that you 'won', don't respond to the email telling you congratulations.
12. Don't respond to messages from friends claiming they have been robbed abroad and need financial help. Contact them first before sending money and never send via a money transfer agency.
13. Keep your antivirus protection up to date and be careful what you access to prevent malware/ransomware being downloaded to your system.
14. Public Wi-Fi can be vulnerable to interception or abuse. Users should take care not to access personal accounts such as social media or bank accounts when using open Wi-Fi networks.
15. Don't share passwords and don't save passwords on your computer or when asked to by online profiles or accounts. These can be vulnerable to interception and misuse.
16. Only use official websites for services such as Revenue, Sky, Eir or another provider. Don't click on links telling you that you are owed money or that your service will be interrupted if you don't act quickly. Hovering over the link will tell you if it will bring you to where it says it does.
17. Romance Scams are becoming increasingly prevalent. Only join legitimate sites and never offer to financially help potential suitors with travel, business ideas or with a family member's medical bills. These are likely attempts to defraud you.
18. Ignore calls from people telling you they are from software companies such as 'Microsoft' and that they can help you fix your computer. These scams are only interested in your money. If your computer isn't working properly bring it to a repair service or back to the place you bought it.

## Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit (GNDIU)

In establishing the Garda Racial and Intercultural Office in 2001 (now named the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit - GNDIU), An Garda Síochána demonstrated its capacity to quickly anticipate and respond to the need for appropriate policing initiatives to welcome and assist New Communities who have settled in Ireland. The GNDIU endeavours to foster good community relations in a multi-ethnic environment, by:

- Consulting with representatives from groups across the diversity spectrum that seek to break down barriers (perceived or otherwise), between police and minorities.
- Meeting and presenting to newly arriving asylum seekers and refugees to build confidence while reassuring them of non-discriminatory Garda services.
- Providing guidance and advice to the public generally in relation to the policing of multi-cultural Ireland.
- Endeavouring to ensure the prevention and detection of hate crime and racism.
- Providing support to victims of suspected racist/hate crime, and encouraging the reporting of same.
- Facilitating the roll out of the Garda Diversity Strategy.
- Promoting anti-extremism and anti-radicalisation policing initiatives.
- Providing a sensitised service to the LGBTI community based on the understanding of their needs and fears as potential victims of homophobic and transphobic crime, and in relation to their subsequent contact with the police.





- Providing advice and training to Gardaí in relation to all matters relevant to policing in multicultural Ireland.
- Providing guidance and advice to Gardaí in the investigation of crime involving ethnic minority individuals.
- Promotion of the work and services of GNDIU through participation in open-days, national events, talks and lectures with GNDIU stakeholders, community groups, government and educational institutions and any organisation with a vested interest in diversity.



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

[WWW.GARDA.IE](http://WWW.GARDA.IE)



Garda Community Engagement & Public Safety Bureau