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A Truly Shared Future? Attitudes towards migrant communities and minority ethnic people in Northern Ireland

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- The context of migration to Northern Ireland
- Outline of key figures from the 2012 NILT 'module on minority ethnic people'
- Some key issues identified by the data

- Earliest migration to NI throughout 20th century
- Lack of official recognition until late 1990s

Post-1998 immigration

- The 'peace' factor
- Expansion of EU in 2004
- 2011 census: NI residents born in over 140 different territories

- 4.5% born outside Britain and Ireland
- Poland (19,658) & Lithuania (7,341)
- China and Hong Kong (4,129)
- 2.13% of households have no English speaker (c. 15,000 homes)
- Polish identified as the second most common 'main language' (17,731)

- Module on “Attitudes to Minority Ethnic People” in 2012 NILT
- 4% identified as members of minority ethnic communities

Four areas today:

- Migration in the European Union
- The impact of immigration
- Contact with Minority Ethnic Communities
- Changing(?) levels of prejudice

- How welcome is the right to live and work in the EU?
 - 75% welcomed this statement
- How welcome is the right of EU citizens to live and work in NI?
 - 70% welcomed this statement

Impact of Immigration to Northern Ireland

	%		
	For NI	For NI Economy	For NI Cultural Life
Very Bad	5	10	4
Bad	19	22	17
Neither good nor bad	31	26	30
Good	38	36	39
Very good	7	7	11

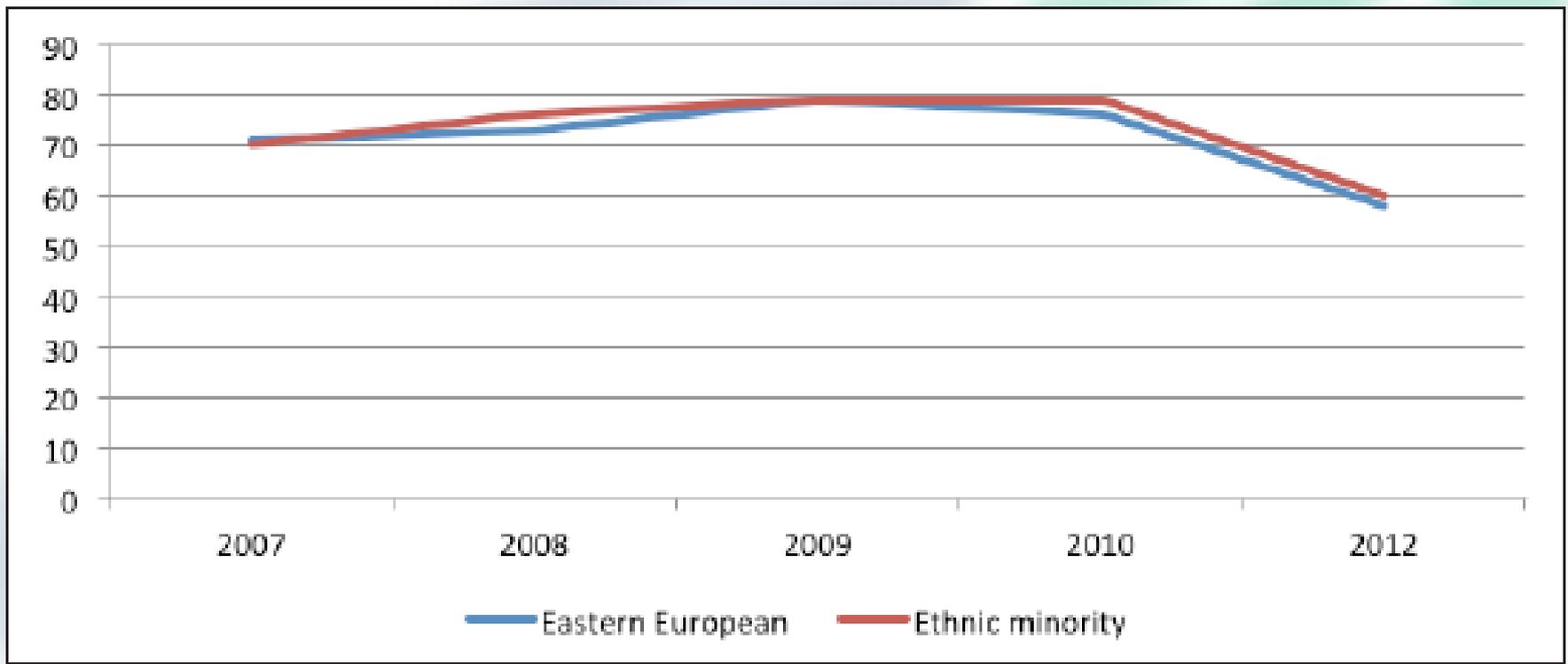
Views on Immigration Flows

	%	
% saying that the number of immigrants should be:	NI	GB
Increased a lot or a little	10	3
Remain the same as it is	43	18
Reduced a little	21	24
Reduced a lot	26	51

- 17% had daily contact with Eastern Europeans
- 19% had contact with Eastern Europeans once or twice a week
- 49% had no contact with Muslims
- 37% had no contact with Irish Travellers

- 46% noted that the nature of their contact had been momentary – such as a greeting
- Only 26% of contact was classified as a closer form of interaction (e.g. a lengthy conversation)

Would willingly accept as a relative by marriage



- Almost 80% believe that there is ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ of prejudice against minority ethnic communities in Northern Ireland nowadays.

Perceptions of Racial Prejudice Now Compared with 5 years ago

	%
More Now	41
Less Now	17
About the same	35
Don't Know	6

What Might Racial Prejudice be Like in 5 Years Time?

	%
More in 5 years time	31
Less	22
About the same	38
Don't Know	9

- Support for free movement within the EU, although some apprehension
- 24% see immigration as bad for NI
- 45% see immigration as good for NI
- Muslims and Irish Travellers had least contact with respondents
- The perception of racial prejudice is that it is not decreasing

- Further qualitative research to gather oral testimonies
- Further research – wider statistical study to gather opinion specifically from ethnic minorities