

Probation Practice with Non-Irish National Offenders in the Republic of Ireland

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Summary: Probation practice with probationers from minority groups, in particular those with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, presents challenges to Probation Officers. This paper examines how Probation Officers view practice skills and methods of probation supervision with non-Irish national offenders from minority ethno-cultural backgrounds. Overcoming language barriers and cultural differences in areas such as engaging with offenders, encouraging compliance and gathering information for use in assessing risk are issues that were raised in focus group discussions with Probation Officers. These issues are explored and findings from the focus groups are summarised and discussed.

Keywords: culture, ethnicity, race, minorities, identity, inclusion, exclusion, marginalisation, offending, probation, Ireland.