# Ballymena violence intensifies as Facebook page fuels racial tensions with personal address sharing



Ballymena is currently grappling with escalating tensions following a series of violent incidents that have drawn widespread condemnation from community leaders and politicians alike. A Facebook page entitled "Ballymena Reaction Group" has emerged as a concerning platform where local residents are sharing street names and home addresses, purportedly to protect their properties from ongoing attacks. This has coincided with three consecutive nights of violence marked by arson, vandalism, and assaults on police.

The surge in unrest follows the arrest of two Romanian-speaking teenagers, accused of a serious sexual assault, which many blame for igniting racial animosity in the community. Riotous crowds have taken to the streets, launching fireworks, bricks, and bottles at law enforcement. Reports indicate that at least 41 police officers have been injured since the violence erupted. Moreover, some homes, especially those belonging to minority families, have suffered attacks, with arson being reported as a particularly alarming trend. A family was even forced to evacuate after their home was targeted in a racially motivated arson attack, demonstrating the palpable fear among minority communities.

In response to the violence, residents have resorted to displaying flags and signs in their windows, ostensibly as a means of deterring further damage. One community member shared online, "Saw elderly people putting the union jacks up this afternoon. Totally heartbreaking to watch," illustrating the emotional toll this unrest has taken on local families. The aim of these displays is understood to be a protective measure against the aggressive mobs that have reportedly shown no restraint.

Sinn Féin’s North Antrim MLA Philip McGuigan has vocally condemned the actions associated with the Facebook page, insisting on immediate intervention from both the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the platform’s parent company, Meta. He described the page's content as "absolutely disgusting and disgraceful," calling for urgent investigations into those behind it. “The PSNI need to investigate this page…as a matter of urgency,” McGuigan urged, highlighting the potential dangers posed by the social media group.

Amidst the turmoil, PSNI Assistant Chief Constable Ryan Henderson confirmed that the police are monitoring social media activity related to the protests. He stressed that the police will not tolerate repeats of the violent clashes that have erupted in Ballymena and similar locales. The PSNI’s commitment to ensuring public safety remains resolute as they seek to navigate the complexities engendered by such racially charged unrest.

The gravity of the situation has not gone unnoticed beyond local borders, with both the British and Irish governments expressing their condemnation of the violence. Officials are now calling for a thorough investigation into the causes of the unrest, while also reflecting on the inadequacies in policing that have allowed such tensions to flare unchecked.

Community advocates are urging local residents to oppose hate crimes and support those affected by these incidents, as they seek to foster a spirit of solidarity against the tide of racism and violence. Public statements have reiterated the importance of safety and integration for all residents of Ballymena, signalling a need for renewed dialogue and understanding in an increasingly divided community.

While the Facebook page has garnered attention for its inflammatory content, the wider implications of this unrest extend into the socio-political landscape of Northern Ireland. As discussions about the safety and rights of minority groups continue, the events in Ballymena may serve as a critical flashpoint in the long-standing battle against racism and discrimination in the region.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/), [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/disorder-breaks-out-northern-ireland-third-straight-night-2025-06-11/), [[4]](https://irr.org.uk/calendar_entry/family-flee-ballymena-home-following-racist-hate-crime-arson-attack/), [[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Ballymena_riots)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51457844)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.irishpost.com/news/psni-facebook-post-aimed-ethnic-minority-recruits-removed-racist-responses-179442), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/disorder-breaks-out-northern-ireland-third-straight-night-2025-06-11/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/), [[4]](https://irr.org.uk/calendar_entry/family-flee-ballymena-home-following-racist-hate-crime-arson-attack/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/disorder-breaks-out-northern-ireland-third-straight-night-2025-06-11/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/demand-for-action-as-facebook-page-shares-ballymena-addresses-LL67PM565REWVF2QWI4VKAEMHE/> - A Facebook page named 'Ballymena Reaction Group' has been sharing street names and addresses in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, amid escalating racist violence. Residents have posted their addresses, claiming to be locals, to deter attacks. The town has experienced three consecutive nights of violence, including arson and property damage. Some residents have displayed flags and notices to protect their homes. Sinn Féin MLA Philip McGuigan condemned the page and called for urgent action from both police and Facebook to address the situation.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/disorder-breaks-out-northern-ireland-third-straight-night-2025-06-11/> - Northern Ireland has witnessed a third consecutive night of anti-immigrant violence, primarily in Ballymena. The unrest began after two Romanian-speaking teenagers were charged with a serious sexual assault. Rioters attacked police, set homes and vehicles ablaze, and targeted a leisure centre housing migrant families. Authorities have condemned the violence as racially motivated, with 41 police officers injured since the unrest began. The British and Irish governments, along with local leaders, have strongly condemned the violence.
4. <https://irr.org.uk/calendar_entry/family-flee-ballymena-home-following-racist-hate-crime-arson-attack/> - A family in Ballymena, Northern Ireland, was forced to flee their home following a racist arson attack. The Institute of Race Relations reports that the incident is part of a series of racially motivated attacks in the area. The community has been urged to stand against such hate crimes and support affected families. The attack has raised concerns about the safety and integration of minority communities in Ballymena.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51457844> - The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) faced racist responses to a Facebook post promoting a recruitment event aimed at encouraging ethnic minorities to join the force. The post was removed due to hurtful and racist comments, leading the Policing Board to state that there is 'no place for hate in our community.' The incident highlights ongoing challenges in addressing racism within Northern Ireland's policing and broader society.
6. <https://www.irishpost.com/news/psni-facebook-post-aimed-ethnic-minority-recruits-removed-racist-responses-179442> - A PSNI Facebook post encouraging ethnic minorities to consider a career in policing was removed after receiving racist responses. The Policing Board described the reactions as 'deeply disappointing,' emphasizing the need for diversity in the PSNI. The incident underscores the challenges faced by minority communities in Northern Ireland and the importance of fostering inclusivity within public institutions.
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Ballymena_riots> - The 2025 Ballymena riots in Northern Ireland began on 9 June 2025, following the arrest of two Romanian-speaking teenagers charged with attempted rape. The unrest led to rioting, vandalism, and arson, with multiple properties and vehicles damaged. The violence was described as 'racist thuggery' by police, targeting ethnic minorities and law enforcement. The riots prompted widespread condemnation and raised concerns about community tensions and the adequacy of policing resources.