

WHO SUPPORTS THE DISSIDENTS?

VIOLENT DISSIDENT SYMPATHIZERS ON FACEBOOK

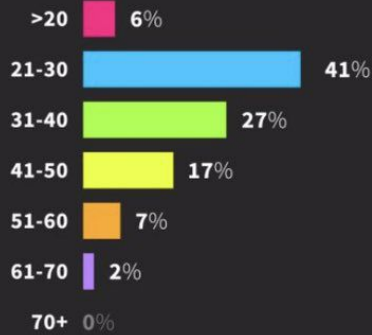
In 2015 we uncovered a series of Violent Dissident Republican (VDR) networks on Facebook, specifically linked to Republican Sinn Féin (RSF) and the 32 County Sovereignty Movement (32CSM). In order to avoid detection at the time both groups were using profiles rather than official groups or pages to organise.

In total we found 26 profiles which we confident were run by either RSF or 32CSM. At the time these two groups represented the political wings of the Continuity IRA and New IRA respectively, as this pre-dated the establishment of Saoradh. Working with the The Richardson Institute at Lancaster University, we scanned the network and coded the profiles, providing a unique snapshot of the demographics of those individuals sympathetic to VDR groups across Ireland.

GENDER BREAKDOWN



AGE BREAKDOWN



FACEBOOK BREAKDOWN

Between them, once we removed duplicates and non-human accounts, they were connected to 6322 individuals. We were confident that at least 1947 of these individuals were in Ireland (we couldn't establish a location for over 3000, so it's likely that 1947 is conservative). Only 639 of these individuals were connected to more than one account, painting a picture of thousands of passive sympathisers but very few activists.

6,322 TOTAL NUMBER OF USERS

1,937 ESTIMATED NUMBER OF USERS IN IRELAND

639 NUMBER OF USERS CONNECTED TO MORE THAN ONE ACCOUNT

VDR SYMPATHIZERS PER CAPITA

