**Combatting Afrophobia in the European Union**

**ENAR plans 2017 for implementation by person of reference**

**Updated June 2016**

***What is the problem and what is the impact of the problem?***

The prevailing lack of equality data collection – any type of disaggregated data collected to assess the comparative situation of groups at risk of discrimination - makes it difficult to know how many people of African descent and Black Europeans live in Europe. However, it is estimated that with approximately 15 million people, Europe’s African descent or Black population forms one of Europe’s largest marginalised communities.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Despite EU and national legislation providing legal remedies for discrimination, evidence from the FRA, the UN’s working group on people of African Descent and ENAR demonstrate that anti-Black racism in the EU is still a reality. Strong and specific policies are needed to address Afrophobia including its structural dimensions and impact on economic and social outcomes for PAD/BE in Europe, including in employment, housing, education, health, political participation, criminal justice and other sectors.

ENAR’s latest European Shadow Report on Afrophobia in the EU shows major disparities between Black and majority populations, which can be partially explained by racism and racial discrimination, in particular in the sector of criminal justice, education, employment, health, public and political life, media and housing.

There is no EU policy or national policy developed specifically to combat racism and discrimination against people of African descent and Black Europeans.

***What is ENAR aiming to achieve in response to the problem? What is the change we want to see? Outcomes (1. Change in law, policy and standards 2. Change in practices and accountability 3. Change in mobilisation  all of which to impact change in people’s lives)***

ENAR’s aim is to ensure that Member States recognise the specific situation of People of African Descent/Black Europeans (PAD/BE) and act politically to address the consequences of Afrophobia which affect PAD/BE and lead to their exclusion.

* More knowledge on a) the history of Afrophobia in Europe and its roots in colonialism, the translatlantic slave trade, nationalism, the construction of a European identity and notions of race and ethnicity and b) of the long-standing presence of people of African Descent and Black Europeans in Europe and its former colonies, including their contributions to European history, culture, and daily life.
* clear targets and measurable indicators are developed and set, and constitute the basis for a EU Framework for national strategies to combat Afrophobia
* Communities are involved at all stages of national plans development, from early stages until full implementation and assessment through the setting up of steering groups, sounding boards, expert groups or similar relevant bodies.
* There is available data and research conducted on PAD/BE in all field of life, and PAD/BE are involved in collection and analysis of data.
* improved relations between the police and Black communities through regular and respectful contact between police and communities, notably through community policing approaches, accountability and oversight on police (stop and search forms, spcial units on hate crime
* oversight on school practices, empowered Black students. Inclusive and non-stereotyping textbooks
* special measures developed on employment of PAD/BE
* balanced and diverse media reporting and force
* PAD/BE empowered to participate in political life and decision-making

***Why ENAR?***

ENAR has led EU advocacy on Afrophobia since 2013, when it established a steering group on Afrophobia. Our EP events on this issue were the first of the type at EU level. Two major publications were published in the last years. Now Afrophobia is recognised a specific form by the EP ARDI and its members.

ENAR role is to empower its members working for the advancement of PAD/BE and against Afrophobia. Our engagement should continue to its full steam until we achieve a first milestone at EU level and more groups are empowered to act at national level.

***What are the main barriers from achieving the desired outcomes?*** Power analysis. What is your analysis of the key forces driving/blocking such a change? What economic or political interests are threatened/promoted by the change? Which groups are drivers/blockers/undecided? Is it visible (rules and force) or invisible (in people heads – norms and values) or hidden (behind the scenes influence). Who do the key players listen to (because that may help us decide on our alliance strategy).

Inaction and status quo

White privilege and power

Invisibility and under representation

“Afrophobia is racism” but all other forms are specific

Deep rooted prejudice in history

Lack of champion among politicians and civil servants

Intra communities dispute on strategy

Blockers: far right, partisans of the status quo

Allies: UN WG former Chair Mireille Fanon Mendes-France

Black-led organisations

ENPAD

OSF

***What are the change hypothesis/assumptions***? Opportunities? How is the change we are discussing likely to take place? What alliances (e.g. between sympathetic officials or politicians, private sector, media, faith leaders or civil society) could drive/block the change? What would strengthen the good guys and weaken the bad – e.g. research and evidence, pressure from people they listen to (who are they?) or mobilisation in the street? Can you foresee any likely ‘critical junctures’: new governments; changes of leadership; election timetables when change is more likely to occur?

***Assumptions***

Afrophobia is a pressing issue across Europe and therefore needs to be addressed and countered on a European level in a coherent way with a targeted approach to ensure an equal level of protection of people of African descent and Black Europeans. An EU Framework for national strategies would ensure a common ground to implement EU and international law is in place, while ensuring that national situations and specificities are addressed.

Recognition will lead to action

Data and knowledge will lead to action

***Opportunities***

* Un decade people of African descent 2015-2025
* The FRA publicly committed to look specifically at the situation of people of African descent in an upcoming report as a follow-up to its EU-MIDIS survey.
* ARDI has established a working group on Afrophobia
* Both the Dutch and the Swedish governments, thanks to the mobilisation of ENAR members in these two countries, have committed to either dedicated plans/strategies taking into account the specificity of Afrophobia or action plans for the UN Decade for people of African descent. Only the Netherlands delivered so far.
* The European Commission (Fundamental Rights and Rights of the Child Unit, DG JUST) committed to discuss the idea of an EU strategy to combat Afrophobia internally.
* MEPs Malin Bjork and Cécile Kyenge keen on pushing for the LIBE Committee to hold a hearing or exchange of view with UN WGPAD and possibly an oral question to the EC with debate before an EP resolution on this form of racism specifically.
* Amnesty International EU Office agreed to specifically mention people of African descent as victims of hate crime in documents or speeches.
* ECRI committed to look into Afrophobia during its national visits.
* CoE Commissioner for Human Rights committed to writing human rights comment or an issue paper on people of African descent and to giving more visibility to Black people in country visits and reports

***How will we respond to achieve the desired outcomes?* Activities. Actions**

1.       Continue to disseminate shadow report and national briefs on Afrophobia. Use the findings to increase visibility of PAD/BE in European agenda. Disseminate findings by comms and media

2.       Support national advocacy or campaign projects (national launch shadow report, advocacy meetings, campaign on Decade) in UK, NL, FR, DE, IT, SI (see network development/community mobilization portfolio)

3.       Hold dedicated advocacy meetings on efforts to combat Afrophobia (asks: UN Decade plans of action, dedicated coordinator in EC, EU framework for national strategies) including with Council of Europe and OSCE bodies

6.       Explore and support initiatives to establish a trans-Atlantic diversity and inclusion caucus with European MEPs and MPs who belong to ethnic and religious minorities.

7.       Organise a larger delegation of parliamentarians, high level officials and civil society leaders (10 persons) to travel to the Congressional Black Caucus’s Annual Legislative Assembly

8.       Support mobilization of members and partners to initiate a European wide appeal/campaign on national strategies in the frame of the UN Decade, with the support of US officials (see network development and community mobilization portfolio)

9.       Work on EP resolution on Afrophobia including recognition

10. ECRI big event on European conference UN decade

11. disseminate CommHR human rights comment

1. See ENAR Shadow Report on Afrophobia in Europe, available at: http://www.enar-eu.org/Shadow-Reports-on-racism-in-Europe-203. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)