

PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN EUROPE: EU POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

May 2018

The first **EU People of African Descent Week** is taking place in Brussels from 14 to 17 May 2018. This is a key initiative to increase awareness of the 15 million people of African descent living in Europe and discuss solutions to address the racism and violence they face. The Week will consist of a series of events featuring experts, activists, and policymakers.

This document summarises key developments relating to People of African Descent at the EU level as context for the PAD week. It highlights recommendations for EU policymakers to promote inclusion of PAD and combat Afrophobia/anti-black racism.

Developments at EU level:

- The European Parliament held an agenda point on Afrophobia in the European Parliament LIBE Committee (1st time in official EP meeting). ENAR Board member Karen Taylor addressed the Committee and called for a resolution on Afrophobia in Europe - **7th September 2017**.
- EU encouraged via a European Commission Recommendation to Member States to offer 50,000 resettlement opportunities to persons in need of international protection from third countries by October 2019 - **September 2017**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency published the second iteration of the EU MIDIS survey with data on minorities' experiences of discrimination – **December 2017**.
- Fourth Meeting of the EU High Level Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, European Commission – first time the group specifically discussed hate crimes specifically against PAD - **December 2017**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency will publish a 'Guide on Preventing Unlawful Profiling' by **November 2018**.
- The EU Fundamental Rights Agency is working to produce a specific report on racism against people of African descent using the data from the EU MIDIS II survey by the **end of 2018**.
- The European Commission is working with EU member states to produce guidelines on equality data collection, to be published **by end of year 2018**.
- The European Commission is working to publish a guidance for Member States on the implementation of the EU Framework Decision on hate crimes and speech – **end of 2018**.
- MEP Cecile Kyenge and others have committed to tabling a European Resolution on the Fundamental Rights situation of People of African Descent and Black Europeans – **foreseen**.

Recommendations for EU:

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 Afrophobia (anti-Black racism) in the EU is still a severe reality. Strong and specific policies are needed to address Afrophobia, including its structural dimensions and impact on economic and social outcomes for people of African descent and Black Europeans.

1. The European Parliament should adopt a **Resolution detailing the fundamental rights situation of People of African Descent in Europe**, with recommendations to the European Commission and Member States for how best to tackle Afrophobia/ anti-black racism.
2. **Adopt an [EU framework for national strategies to combat Afrophobia](#) or EU standards for National Action Plans Against Racism** that would take into account specific forms of racism. Member States should develop specific national objectives and targets in national strategies to combat forms of racism, including Afrophobia.
3. Raise awareness of a) the history of Afrophobia in Europe and its roots in colonialism, and the transatlantic slave trade and b) of the long-standing presence of people of African descent and Black

Europeans in Europe, for instance by issuing a **statement from First Vice President Timmermans** on the occasion of the UN International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (25th March), the European day for the memory of the victims of slavery and colonization (12 October), and Black History Month.

4. Participate in the **UN Decade on People of African Descent conferences** and mark the Decade, possibly by proclaiming a European Year for People of African Descent to promote awareness of the history of Afrophobia and the positive contributions of people of African descent.
5. **Create funding opportunities for grassroots and People of African Descent-led organisations**, in particular with a specific earmarked fund for PAD civil society organisations.
6. Appoint a **European Commission coordinator on Afrophobia**, with sufficient leverage and resources to conduct an ambitious working plan.
7. Develop **guidelines on good practices to promote fair and efficient policing**.
8. Ensure that employment and social inclusion benchmarks - such as the European semester country analysis - specifically aim for equal access and outcomes for people of African descent in Europe.
9. Set up a special initiative to **raise the employment rates of African descent and Black youth to ensure equality of outcomes**. The initiative should include access and treatment within employment, entrepreneurial and vocational traineeships, volunteer opportunities and further education such as summer school programmes.
10. Provide Member States with support and resources for schools and educational institutions to combat racism and discrimination, and support the study of diverse cultures.
11. Revise its own **diversity strategy** to include targeted measures for racial and religious minorities including people of African descent. Launch an internship program for people of African Descent in the European Institutions.

Resources:

- ENAR: Towards an EU framework for national strategies to combat Afrophobia, http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/afrophobia_strategydoc_final.pdf (2015)
- Afrophobia in Europe: ENAR Shadow Report 2014-15 summarizing 20 national reports – available at: <http://www.enar-eu.org/Shadow-Reports-on-racism-in-Europe-203> (2016)
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights publishes [Human Rights Comment on Afrophobia](#) (July 2017).
- Equality Data Collection: Facts and Principles – available at: <http://www.enar-eu.org/Equality-data-collection-151>
- UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), General Recommendation No 34: Racial discrimination against people of African descent (2011)
- Invisible visible minority: ENAR book on people of African descent in Europe available at: <http://www.enar-eu.org/Invisible-visible-minority-our> (2014)

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