A EUROPE FOR ALL

A ROADMAP FOR CHANGE

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

2024 MANIFESTO

ENAR European Network Against Racism

# RACIAL JUSTICE: A SOCIAL PRIORITY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EU

Racialised groups[1] are an integral part of the societies in Europe. However, they continue to be stigmatised by politicians and government officials and experience discrimination, with direct and violent impact on their daily lives, well-being and safety. Despite the diversity in the European population, narratives that stigmatise, scapegoat and seek to vilify racialised groups have gained ground and influence.This is reflected in the increasing number of illiberal and discriminatory policies, practices and incidents of racism as well as in increasing negative attitudes in the societies against racialised communities.

European parties may be tempted to support these based on a mistaken belief that there is an increasing majority in favour of them. However, European anti-racist civil society and progressive movements are convinced that a European campaign built on solidarity, inclusion and justice can be effective electorally, and lead to success in the ballot boxes. Most importantly, they are crucial for the future of all people and the planet as well as Europe's stability and sustainability.

For these reasons, fighting racism and exclusion in all its forms (Afrophobia/anti-Black racism, islamophobia/anti-Muslim racism, antisemitism, antigypsyism, anti-Asian racism, etc.) should be a continuous goal of all political groups in the European Parliament in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union. Thus, we aim to collaborate with European political parties and candidates to endorse 10 priorities[2] related to specific topics and to specific policies and structures, in their electoral manifestos and commitments. It is a unique opportunity to work together to create renewed impetus and make racism history in Europe.

[1] *In Europe, racialised people include Black person, people of African, Arab, Asian, Caribbean, Latin American, Roma or Sinti descent, Muslims or Jews (or perceived as such) as well as indigenous people, including migrants among these groups.*

[2] *These priorities are stemming from civil society recommendations voiced during the Anti-Racism and Diversity Week 2023 that gathered 100+ civil society members from across Europe, in the European Parliament, in March 2023.*
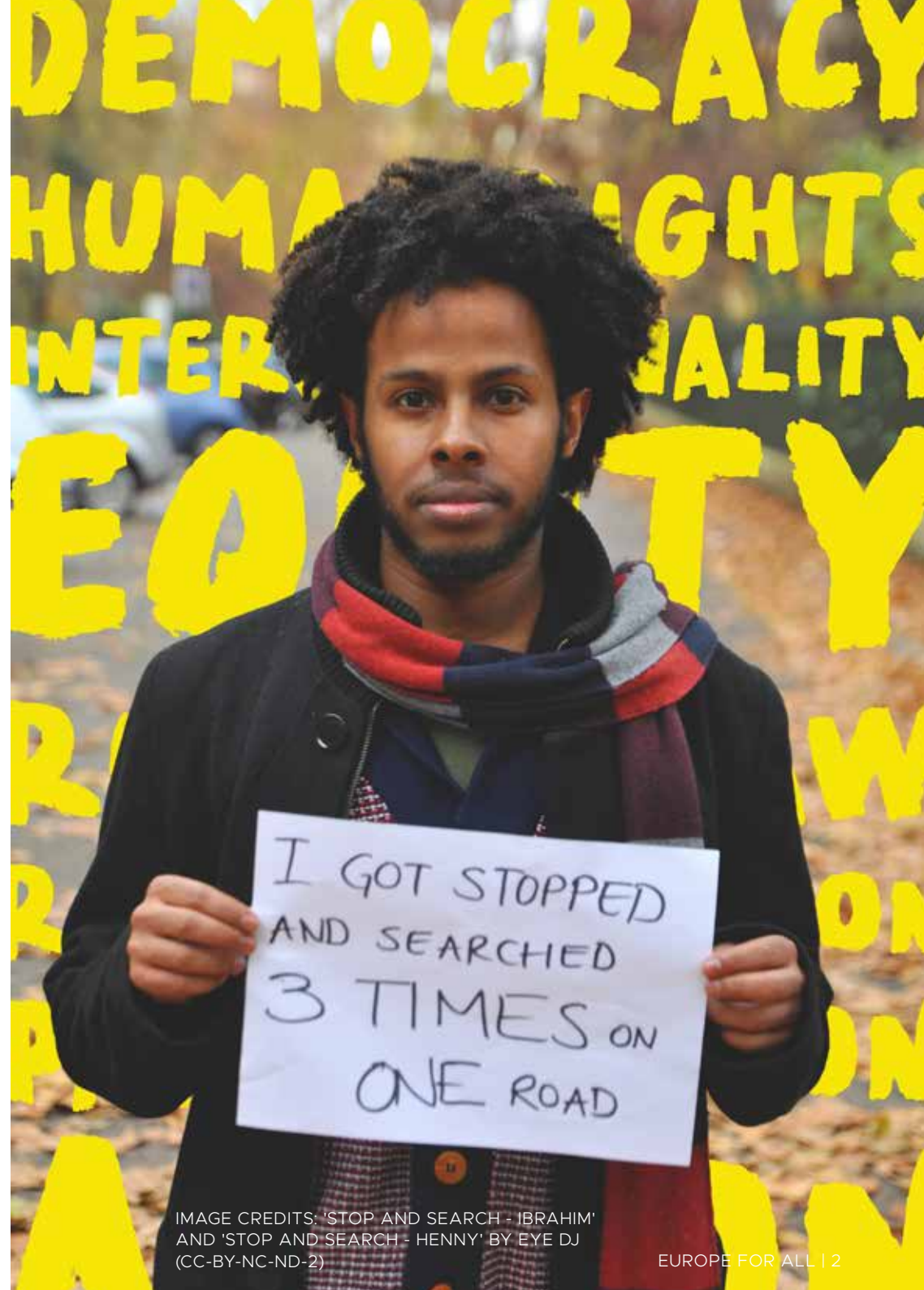
THEMATIC PRIORITIES

1. REVIVING CIVIC SPACE IN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES

WHY

A thriving democracy depends on the participation of all and is an essential ingredient to ensuring social cohesion. Across Europe, ENAR is witnessing an increasing number of restrictions and attacks (such as smear campaigns, violent repression and racist violence) that are preventing people and associations from meaningfully participating in crucial societal developments and from holding Member States accountable. They are also less able to support and protect communities and human rights defenders at risk, leaving space to authoritative and sometimes violent practices and policies.

HOW

• **Secure** strong and meaningful participatory processes and adequate funding in all policy and legislative processes.

• **Support** the creation of platforms and initiatives that involve racialised community led movements, to engage in decision-making processes.

• **Advocate** for stronger legal protections, freedom of expression and assembly, and by actively supporting civil society organizations, including those involved in Search and Rescue.

2. A EUROPE SAFE FOR ALL

WHY

Existing foundations and practices of current EU migration policy and law enforcement structures are historically based on racial discrimination. This needs to be acknowledged and addressed, such as the notion of who belongs to Europe and the criminalisation of moving, disproportionality impacting racialised groups. Repression, violence and denial of basic rights lead to more precarity and instability and go against the building of a safe and prosperous Europe.

HOW

• **Ensure** that the European Union no longer criminalises people on the move and protects their rights, including the right to asylum and to non-discrimination, as well as expanding access to safe and legal pathways.

• **Prohibit and sanction** structural and institutional discrimination and violence in EU migration policies and by law enforcement through new policies and legislation, such as the Race Equality Directive.

• **Champion** the mobilisation of EU funding to ensure data collection, protection, support and safety to racialised people instead of criminalising them, especially in security policies and the implementation of the New Pact on Migration.

3. CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE CENTERING THE MOST MARGINALISED

WHY

Racialised communities in the Global South as well as in European societies have been historically bearing the brunt of the climate crisis and other environmental problems while receiving the least amount of support. European nations have built their wealth from colonialism through extraction and exploitation of racialised minorities. Policies at the EU level need to address these disproportionate impacts which include health issues, poor living conditions but also additional economic burden. Racial equality and justice need to be an integral part of these policies so that they do not exacerbate racial inequalities and further harm communities in the name of the greater good and ensure equitable access to all.

HOW

• **Center and involve** racialised people (including indigenous communities) in policy development related to climate and economic justice in order to better understand, monitor and address historical roots of the climate crisis and economic exploitation.

• **Recognise** environmental racism as a form of racism and ensure that proper mechanisms to combat it and mitigate its effects are created and implemented.

• **Move away** from austerity measures that reinforce historical racial inequalities and prevent reparations and redistribution of wealth.

4. RECONCILING THE USE OF AI WITH RESPECT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

WHY

Technology is not neutral and certain applications, in the fields of policing, security, migration and recruitment are disproportionally impacting, targeting and experimenting on racialised communities. Many technological applications exacerbate and compound existing forms of discrimination against racialised groups, often without regulation, transparency, democratic oversight or concrete mechanisms for redress.

HOW

• **Ensure** clear legal limits are implemented around Artificial Intelligence.

• **Regulate and monitor** the use of AI and other digital tools that violate fundamental rights and exacerbate racial discrimination, especially in border controls and law enforcement.

• **Ensure** racialised people have access to redress and can meaningfully participate in the development of AI tools.

RACISM HAS NO PLACE IN EUROPE: UNITE AGAINST RACISM AND BUILD AN INCLUSIVE EUROPE WHERE EVERYONE IS TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND RECOGNITION OF EUROPE'S PERSECUTIONS

WHY

Racism, discrimination and exclusion present in Europe are inherently linked to historic injustices, war crimes and crimes against humanity. We need to recognise and address these histories to tackle racism experienced by racialised groups today, in order to bring about justice and peace in Europe.

HOW

• **Actively promote** remembrance and call for meaningful and effective redress for historical injustices against racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

• **Enhance** meaningful participation of racialised communities in policy development and centering their needs.

• **Endorse** political processes of reparations, the restitution of stolen artefacts to countries of origin, and improved formal and non-formal education about these histories.

NON-DISCRIMINATION
TRANSPARENCY
RACIAL JUSTICE
EQUALITY
DECENTRALISED NETWORK
EMPOWERMENT
SOLIDARITY
EMPOWERMENT

REPRESENTATION
SOLIDARITY
EMPOWERMENT
ADVOCACY

POLICIES AND STRUCTURES

1. FLAGSHIP POLICY AND LEGISLATION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE WITHIN A UNIFIED FRAMEWORK

WHY

While strides have been made in acknowledging and comprehending structural racism in Europe, the fragmented nature of the current anti-racism agenda hampers its efficacy. A new cohesive and overarching EU anti-racism action plan with a dedicated governance structure, strengthened legislation, and appropriate funding is necessary. Key areas such as migration, law enforcement, AI as well as the climate and economic crises cannot continue to be overlooked.

HOW

• **Ensure** the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan is renewed after 2025 and more consistently monitored in all policy areas and at national level through National Action Plans against Racism.

• **Promote** the scope extension of the Race Equality Directive to address discrimination and violence by law enforcement as well as forced evictions, including towards people on the move at the borders.

• **Adopt** a comprehensive non-discrimination legal framework that addresses intersectional discrimination.

• **Support** the nomination of a Commissioner for Justice, Equality and Fundamental Rights that would head this work under a clearer governance structure.

2. A STRONG EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ANTI-RACISM AND DIVERSITY INTERGROUP

WHY

The Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) has been the lead intergroup championing equality and diversity in the EU and raising awareness on issues of racism and discrimination. ARDI, thanks to a coordinator and a team of dedicated MEPs, allows MEPs to join forces and propose improvements to legislative and non-legislative parliamentary work on racism. ARDI's work will be even more instrumental to address far-right narratives and policies in the next mandate.

HOW

• **Renew** the mandate of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) and enhancing its resources to address rising racism and far-right narratives.

• **Finance** a dedicated coordination team within ARDI to ensure racial justice remains a priority for the European Parliament.

3. A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF RACIAL INEQUALITIES AS KEY SOCIAL ISSUES

WHY

Measuring progressive and effectiveness of our efforts is essential to unlocking Europe's full potential. The primary tool to combat racism and adopt evidence-based policies is through comprehensive and disaggregated equality data. However, the absence of comparable data disaggregated by race impedes the identification and understanding of intersections among various forms of discrimination, especially related to race.

HOW

• **Call** for strengthened data collection tools disaggregated by race (intersecting with other grounds) to capture incidents of racism and discrimination and reveal intersectional discrimination, including in the case of racial profiling and violence against migrants.

4. RESPECT AND PEACE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND DURING MANDATES

WHY

With far-right narratives gaining influences in public discourses, we need responsible and brave leadership to denounce and promote positive narratives about inclusive and diverse societies. Hate speech has an impact on the number of racist incidents because of the entitlement it gives to perpetrators to attack physically marginalised groups.

HOW

• **Ensure** election campaigns and mandates are free from hate and discriminatory speech and acts, including at the highest political level.

• **Adopt** and enforce sanction mechanisms inside parties but also through stronger policies and laws, both online and offline.

• **Speak out** against racism and prejudice targeting racialised groups.

5. EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND PARTIES REFLECTING DIVERSITY OF EUROPEAN POPULATION

WHY

Representation of racialised groups in politics will improve the ability of the EU to make laws and policies that reflect the needs of all of Europe's diverse populations. The EU institutions should not only represent certain groups. Racialised groups make-up a large proportion of the EU's demography and yet are completely under-represented in the EU institutions.

HOW

• **Call and support** improved and harmonised Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategies at inter-institutional and party levels, including measures that enhance representation and participation of racialised minorities in the EU workforce at all hierarchical levels.

• **Ensure** the nomination of racialised communities on politically leading positions.

For more information, please contact:
Julie Pascoet, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, julie@enar-eu.org
Nourhene Mahmoudi, Policy and Advocacy Advisor, nourhene@enar-eu.org

IN A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE FOR ALL, WE STAND UNITED AGAINST RACISM. TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE CONTINENT WHERE EVERY INDIVIDUAL, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BACKGROUND OR ETHNICITY, CAN THRIVE.