

## JOINT STATEMENT BY EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION ORGANISATIONS

# Call for the re-establishment of the European Parliament Anti-racism and Diversity Intergroup

**11 September 2024** — We, the undersigned human rights and civil society organisations, urgently call upon the newly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their respective political groups to actively support the reestablishment of the **Anti-racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI)** in the European Parliament. This intergroup has played an important role in the past mandate in promoting and safeguarding human rights, racial equality and non-discrimination in EU policies.

In the post-EU elections political environment, where principles of justice and equality are challenged and where the most marginalised are disproportionately harmed by policies and institutional practices, it is imperative to acknowledge the rise of the far right and its normalisation in the European Parliament. These forces have built their electoral campaigns by scapegoating racialised groups, threatening the very fabric of our democratic society. Now, more than ever, we need a strong coalition of MEPs in the European Parliament who will resist and champion equality, inclusion, and justice. Most recently, the violence against migrants and asylum seekers, discrimination in sports and many key areas of life, the surge of far-right extremism, and the targeting of racialised communities are clear indicators of the dangerous path Europe is on concerning human rights.

We support the decision of the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's to reappoint a **Commissioner for Equality**, ensuring continued focus on equality, anti-discrimination, anti-racism. We also acknowledge the collaborative efforts between DG Justice and the ARDI Intergroup in the past mandate. However, despite these efforts, equality in Europe remains more of an aspiration than a reality. As long as racism, discrimination, and social exclusion are deeply entrenched in our society, we remain far from achieving a Union of equality.

In light of this, the re-establishment of the ARDI Intergroup is key to ensure that the European Parliament continues to be a leader in promoting equality, diversity and non-discrimination.

Given the current political landscape, and as CSOs that have long advocated for anti-racism, non-discrimination, and social justice, we strongly recommend that the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup's **objectives focus on:**

1. **Building a progressive front** against the promotion of racist narratives and policies by offering a bold alternative narrative on racial justice.

2. **Collaborating with CSOs**, advocacy groups and other stakeholders working on anti-racism and with people from racialised groups to ensure their meaningful participation, support their resistance and leverage collective expertise and lived experiences.
3. Promoting and participating in the development and the **implementation of anti-racism legislation and policies** as well as advocating for the enforcement of existing laws, while addressing intersecting inequalities and safeguarding fundamental rights.
4. Raising awareness and advising about the prevalence and impact of racism against racialised groups in Europe.

Moreover, the current political climate requires ARDI and its members to step up as courageous leaders who champion anti-racism and non-discrimination through an intersectional approach. Members should authentically represent diverse perspectives, centre the lived experiences of racialised people, and address the complex realities they face. Specifically, ARDI members should play a critical role in holding member states accountable for implementing robust national strategies that tackle racism, social exclusion and discrimination against racialised communities. They must also leverage their positions to influence EU policymaking with a commitment of working closely with civil society to ensure that diverse voices inform legislative actions and drive meaningful, systemic change.

The undersigned groups stand ready to support this effort and look forward to the European Parliament reaffirming its commitment to these foundational values.

**Signed by:**

European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO)

Equinox

Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

ILGA-Europe - the European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

AFRO DANISH COLLECTIVE

ASOCIACION EN PERVENCION Y SISTENCIA DE LA VIOLENCIA

ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL PRESENCIA GITANA

Asociación Rumiñahui

Centre for European Volunteering

Centre for Gender Rights and Equality DIOTIMA

Changemakers Lab

European Roma Rights Centre

Feminist Collective of Romani Gender Experts  
Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations  
Fundacja Inicjatywa Dom Otwarty  
Groupe pour l'Abolition des Mutilations Sexuelles féminines (GAMS Belgium)  
IDPAD (Hackney)  
Institución asuntos culturales de España  
International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network (IPPF EN)  
Kif Kif vzw  
Lallab  
Migrant Tales  
Multi Kulti Collective  
Network for Children's Rights - Greece  
New Women Connectors  
NGO RomanoNet  
Northern Ireland Council for Racial Equality  
Phiren Amenca International Network  
Povod, Institute for culture and development of international relations in culture  
Quaker Council for European Affairs  
RECLAIM  
S.P.E.A.K (Muslim women collective)  
Swiss Minorities Sports Culture & Integration. (Swiss Minors)  
The End FGM European Network (End FGM EU)  
The Shelter Students Refuge  
Waterford Integration Services  
Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE Network)