



EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM

The voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe

10 EQUALITY DEMANDS: ENDING RACISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

European Parliament election candidates have the opportunity to put the European Union on a fairer path by actively promoting equality, fundamental rights and social justice for all. Our safety, opportunities and outcomes are still affected by race, class, age, gender, nationality and migration status, religion, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity. To end racism, the EU must tackle structural inequality experienced by migrants and minorities across Europe.

The European Network Against Racism calls on candidates for the European Parliament elections to:

1. DENOUNCE RACIST VIOLENCE AND ALL FORMS OF HATE

Racist violence persists throughout the European Union and has long-lasting, damaging effects on victims and their families, communities and entire societies. For societies to be safe, we need an effective response to hate crime and speech.

MEPs should ensure EU Member States effectively prevent and combat racist violence through the fair and accurate recording, investigation, prosecution and sanction of all hate crimes, including those motivated by multiple forms of hate, as well as adequate protection for victims of crime and access to justice. MEPs have a special responsibility to take a stand against groups promoting racism, white supremacy, and neo-fascism, by actively challenging and reporting the use of racist, xenophobic or discriminatory speech.

2. PROMOTE POSITIVE NARRATIVES ABOUT MINORITIES IN EUROPE

The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

MEPs as representatives of a united and diverse Europe have a historical responsibility to promote diversity, equality, and the inclusion of racial, ethnic and religious minorities. This means challenging discourses of “migration management” and the portrayal of racial minorities as threats to “European values”, safety and public life. Instead, the EU must visibly recognise and value minorities’ contributions to Europe’s economy and society; focusing on solidarity and building a shared future.

3. ADOPT STRONG, COMPREHENSIVE POLICIES TO COMBAT STRUCTURAL RACISM

Racial inequality is systemic and cannot be eradicated with existing EU law alone. Concrete and targeted action plans will increase the capacity of governments to tackle racism meaningfully.

MEPs should ensure that EU Member States develop comprehensive action plans to tackle racism, discrimination and structural inequalities, with clear systems for improved reporting, monitoring, implementation and assessment. These plans should include positive measures to tackle racial inequality and complement existing anti-discrimination law.

4. MEASURE PROGRESS TOWARDS EQUALITY

Racist crime, discrimination and structural inequalities in access to housing, education, healthcare, employment, and other socio-economic rights persist for racial, ethnic and religious minorities, in particular the most marginalised within these groups, but the lack of data makes this invisible.

MEPs should urge EU Member States to measure the extent of racism, discrimination and inequality on an ongoing basis. This includes data on racist violence and speech, discrimination in public life, and the socio-economic situation of racial, ethnic and religious minorities. Collecting this data, with an intersectional approach, is necessary to combat racial discrimination and inequality and to adopt more targeted and effective equality policies. The collection of equality data must be conducted in compliance with data protection and fundamental rights standards.

5. END STATE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

Policies that discriminate do not make us safer. Racial, ethnic and religious minorities across Europe – in particular those perceived as people of colour, Muslims, migrants, people of African descent, Roma and Travellers – are disproportionately affected by counter-terrorism policies and practices. The safety of all is at stake: human rights compliant and inclusive security policies work better than those that discriminate.

MEPs should call for a definite end to racial profiling, police brutality, and all other forms of discrimination in Member States' criminal justice, security, counter-terrorism and immigration systems. MEPs must work to promote fair and efficient policing, provide justice for victims of police violence (and their families), and ensure that security and counter-terrorism policies do not target minority communities.

6. END THE DISCRIMINATION, CRIMINALISATION AND EXCLUSION OF ALL MIGRANTS

Member States implement policies which criminalise migrants and the migration process, and permit discrimination against migrants. Many governments maintain institutional discrimination against third country nationals due to their residence status – this will further increase inequality and exclusion faced by migrants.

MEPs should call for an end to institutional discrimination against all migrants in EU Member States. This includes policies that criminalise migrants for claiming their right to seek asylum. Member States should allocate resources to the economic and social inclusion of migrants and ensuring migrants and their children access to rights and services.

7. PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE AND REDRESS FOR HISTORIES OF ENSLAVEMENT & COLONIALISM

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 minorities today.

MEPs must actively promote remembrance and call for meaningful and effective redress for historical injustices against racial, ethnic and religious minorities. This includes endorsing political processes of reparations, the restitution of stolen artefacts to countries of origin, and improved formal and non-formal education about these histories.

8 - ENSURE A DIVERSE AND REPRESENTATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS

Representation of minorities in politics will improve the ability of the EU to make laws and policies that reflect the needs of Europe's diverse population. The EU institutions should not only represent the elite. Racial, ethnic and religious minorities make up a large proportion of the EU's demography, yet are completely under-represented in the EU institutions.

MEPs must ensure that the EU institutions reflect the diversity of our society in terms of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, gender identity and sexual orientation. MEPs should actively call for improved political representation, and implement positive measures that improve access to the EU workforce for racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

9 - SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY TO TACKLE INJUSTICE AND INEQUALITY

Specific funding for civil society is key to ensure governments are held accountable in their commitment to ensure all residents are treated equally and fairly.

The EU must ensure that civil society and – in particular grassroots organisations – have consistent, effective and timely support to protect communities at risk of discrimination and violence. EU must ensure adequate funding to sustain the vital work of frontline actors and human rights defenders.

10 - RE-ESTABLISH A STRONG EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ANTI-RACISM & DIVERSITY INTERGROUP

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.

MEPs should renew the mandate of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) and enhance its resources to address rising racism, discrimination and nationalism. ARDI should be renewed with a dedicated coordination team to ensure racial equality remains a priority for the European Parliament.