



European Network Against Racism
Réseau européen contre le racisme

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People of African Descent and Black Europeans

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The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of more than 130 NGOs working to combat racism in all EU Member States. ENAR acts as the voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe. ENAR is determined to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals and to link local/regional/national and European initiatives.

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Introduction

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) seeks to raise awareness of the pressing issue of discrimination and racism permeating throughout European societies and in particular, to increase recognition of the specific forms of discrimination experienced by people of African descent and Black Europeans. ENAR believes that special focus needs to be directed towards the concept of Afrophobia and its impacts on people of African descent and Black Europeans.

What is Afrophobia?

Afrophobia can be understood as the irrational fear of people of African descent, usually incorporating individuals with West African or Sub-Saharan African origins. Afrophobia also incorporates the fear of 'Black' Europeans, or reflective of the US context 'people of colour'. While the terminology used and the target person or collective group vary, depending on the setting, Afrophobia can generally be understood as the fear of or hostility towards Black people.

Like homophobia, Islamophobia and other forms of hatred, Afrophobia seeks to dehumanise and deny the dignity of a large group of people.¹ Afrophobia is based in socially constructed ideas of 'race', implying deep historical roots that reflect the groundless belief that certain 'racial' groups are biologically and/or culturally inferior to others. This is associated with understandings of racism as a concept and correlates to historically repressive structures of colonialism, anti-negroism, negrophobia and/or Afrophobia, as well as with apartheid-systems in South Africa.²

Afrophobia can take many different forms: dislike, personal antipathy, bias, bigotry, prejudice, oppression, racism, structural and institutional discrimination, racial and ethnic profiling, enslavement, xenophobia, societal marginalisation and exclusion, systematic violence, and hate expressed in hate speech and hate crime.

The use of the term Afrophobia has itself been controversial within the anti-racist movement. Some of ENAR's members have expressed preference for the term 'anti-Black racism' in order to take focus away from the element of fear implied in the term Afrophobia. Others have suggested the use of the term Negrophobia in order to include Black people who are not of African descent, such as those of Caribbean origin. ENAR recognises this disagreement and welcomes further debate. For the ease in language, this paper uses the term Afrophobia.

¹ iRED, <http://www.red-network.eu/?i=red-network.en.thesaurus.1> accessed 10 September 2012.

² Cohen, Robin (1986) Endgame in South Africa?

Failure to fully recognise Afrophobia as a distinct issue from other forms of racism increases the difficulty in pinpointing the sometimes subtle prejudices and obstacles facing people of African descent. ENAR believes that wider use of the term 'Afrophobia' – on a par with the use of terms such as Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia- may be an important step in the fight against this form of racism.

Examples of Afrophobia

It is helpful to consider Afrophobia in light of post-colonial theories. The type of fear associated with Afrophobia incorporates hierarchical positioning, domination, suppression, etc. in order to avoid losing positions of power and privilege. Europe's lack of clear and consistent geographic borders over time and lack of a common language has meant that 'Whiteness' became crucial to forging a European identity.³ Accordingly, 'Black' does not necessarily refer to a skin colour so much as a sociologically constructed identity.⁴ It has been argued that the Western construction of the post-Enlightenment man of reason depended heavily on the creation of the 'Other'. According to Barbara Hudson,

“liberalism needs the irrational, uncivilized, Black and oriental 'Others' who are defined by their lack of everything that distinguishes the citizen of the West... The narratives which constitute this Otherness of 'lesser breeds without the law' are necessary not only to justify colonialism and slavery; they are necessary also to constitute the western subject's idea of (his) self-identity”.⁵

Europe remains largely insensitive to the racism which permeates its history and culture. The fact that the grandparents of Europeans might have visited human zoos (33 million visitors to the 1931 'Exposition coloniale' in Paris, which featured a human zoo)⁶ is but one indication of the bedrock of racism that underlies the mentality of much of the European population. Incidents of displaying people of African descent in zoos have continued to take place as recently as 2010 in Germany.⁷ There are many contemporary examples of insensitivity to racism in mainstream European culture. For example, in 2012 the Swedish Minister for Culture attended an art exhibition in which a cake was crafted to resemble the body of an African woman. By cutting the cake, participants symbolically acted out a genital clitoridectomy, while the artist imitated a woman's screams prompting laughter from the crowd. Philomena Essed writes, “Perhaps the most troubling part of the bizarre spectacle

³ See generally Clark Hine, Darlene and Keaton, Trica Danielle and Small, Stephen, *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (2009, full citation not available) p295.

⁴ Clarke, note 4, p5.

⁵ Hudson, Barbara 'Beyond White Man's Justice; Race, Gender and Justice in late Modernity' *Theoretical Criminology* 2006 10: 29, p 33.

⁶ ENAR Press release 2 December 2011 *People of African Descent's experiences of Racism need to be Recognised* available at http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/pdfpress/11-12-02_Abolition%20of%20Slavery_Sp.pdf accessed 19 September 2012.

⁷ <http://blog.derbraunemob.info/2010/07/02/german-zoos-displaying-africa-and-africans-again/>

was that it appeared normal and funny entertainment to violate the bodily integrity of a black object, to the amused eyes of an overwhelmingly, if not all white audience".⁸ Criticism of the event was met with irritation and impatience at perceived 'unnecessary' political correctness, revealing a sense of entitlement to offend which permeates much of European racism today. Indeed, the British left-wing paper, *The Guardian*, ran an article which mocked supposed overreaction to the controversy, dismissing the idea that the incident is rooted in true racism:

"Everyone in the world, apparently, is now shocked at the racism of Sweden revealed by the [telltale gâteau](#). A bigoted piece of confectionary has exposed a mild-mannered and even sedate Scandinavian nation for the hive of complacent colonialist monsters it is".⁹

Similarly, in Holland and Germany, efforts to rename the chocolate 'Negro Kiss' in recent years were met with a largely negative reaction ranging from indifference to outright racism.¹⁰

Simplistic, tribal and exotic images of Black people are often used in advertising.¹¹ Recently in March 2013, the Spanish fashion chain Mango issued an apology for a necklace advertised as "slave style".¹² As UKREN have reported 'in 2011, an advertisement for Swedish coffee brand Gevalia, which depicted a Black man as a coffee bean, was accused of being racist, degrading and stereotypical and was subsequently removed.'¹³ In 2012, The European Union was forced to withdraw a promotional video where a White woman representing the European Union was surrounded by male warriors purportedly representing China, India, and Brazil and included a black man with dreadlocks utilizing martial arts towards the woman.¹⁴ In 2007, Intel faced criticism after an advertisement likened the power of its new product to Black sprinters. The ad depicted a White businessman surrounded by Black employees who appear to be bowing to him.¹⁵

⁸ Essed, Philomena 'Entitlement Racism: License to Humiliate' in Pfohman, Shannon/Fekete, Liz (2013) *Recycling Hatred: Racism(s) in Europe Today* p 64.

⁹ Jones, Jonathan 'Racist Swedish Cake You Say? Let's Have a Slice of the Outrage' available at <https://www.google.ie/url?sa=f&rct=j&url=http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/apr/20/sweden-racist-cake-pippa-middleton&q=&esrc=s&ei=tv1FUbWFIY25hAee3YCYBw&usg=AFQjCNFUWADnRvDsEP3GsMIhM3XtPFWzAQ> accessed 15/03/2013

¹⁰ Alghasi, Sharam and Erikson, Thomas Hylland and Ghorashi, Hallah (Eds) *Paradoxes of Cultural Recognition; Perspectives from Northern Europe* (Ashgate Publishing Limited, Farnham, 2009), p42.

¹¹ Clarke, note 4, p10.

¹² An online petition organised by French actresses Aissa Maiga and Sonia Rolland and columnist Rökkaya Diallo, entitled "Slavery is not fashion", Read more: <http://www.news.com.au/world-news/mango-apologises-for-slave-style/story-fndir2ev-1226590351123#ixzz2RaAtgdIP>

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ European commission criticised for 'racist' ad <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/mar/06/european-commission-criticised-racist-ad>

¹⁵ Intel under fire for 'racist' ad <http://www.theinquirer.net/inquirer/news/1004060/intel-racist> accessed 19 September 2012

Why ENAR's focus on Afrophobia?

While the problem of racism directed towards persons of African descent is well known, especially to the victims in Europe, most Europeans generally view anti-Black racism as an American phenomenon.¹⁶ Due to the influence of mass media and familiarity with historic events, such as the slave trade, the Civil Rights movement, the US penal system, the wider European public has come into contact and become familiarised with Afrophobia as it exists in the US.¹⁷ Consequently, there has been relatively little attention paid to the distinct issues which arise in the European context. Failure to consider this issue in the light of factors prevalent in Europe – such as the legacy of colonialism, role in transatlantic slave trade, and the diverse backgrounds of those might be described as 'Black' – implies that understanding Afrophobia in Europe among state actors and members of the wider public is often very limited.

The approximately 7-15,000,000 people of African descent in Europe constitute a large proportion of the African diaspora.¹⁸ There is considerable diversity within the Black population in Europe. Some European countries – notably the UK and France – have experienced large amounts of immigration from their former colonies.¹⁹ A large proportion of these people have been settled in Europe for several generations creating new and distinct identities. For example, 'Black British' is now a category on the national census in the UK.²⁰ These might be contrasted with recent and short term labour migrants, who are less settled in their respective European countries. For example, the UK Race Europe Network has reported that the Black population of Ireland rose from 4,000 to 40,000 between 1997 and 2001.²¹ Refugees and students also account for a large proportion of the Black population of Europe.²²

While a large proportion of the Black population in Europe were either born in Europe or have been settled in European cities for some time with a long history of citizenship, it appears that their visibility often poses an obstacle to so-called complete integration and inclusion;²³ "There is a common conflation of Blackness and immigration in many countries

¹⁶ Essed, Philomena *A Brief ABC on Black Europe*, p6, forthcoming in ENAR publication on people of African descent.

¹⁷ Essed, Philomena *A Brief ABC on Black Europe*, p6, forthcoming in ENAR publication on people of African descent.

¹⁸ *Racism in Europe – ENAR Shadow Report 2010-2011* p6 available at http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadow%20report%202010-11/shadowReport_EN_final%20LR.pdf accessed 12 September 2012

¹⁹ Clarke, Amy UK Race Equality Network *Briefing Paper on People of African Descent* p3 available at <http://www.ukren.org/uploads/Black%20Europeans%20Briefing%20Paper%20Summer%202012.pdf> accessed 15 September 2012.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p4.

²¹ *Ibid.* p 4.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *ENAR Shadow Report*, note 2, p3.

and as such, Black population estimates are often presented as a percentage of immigrants rather than as citizens or communities in their own right.”²⁴

A further challenge is complacency. Unlike most other forms of discrimination, Afrophobia remains tied to ideas of ‘race’. The terminology of ‘racism’ is itself somewhat outdated, recalling theories of racial hierarchies of the early 20th century.²⁵ Since most European countries have long since rejected such theories, it is often wrongly presumed that animosity towards people of African descent has also disappeared.²⁶ Negative stereotypes of Black people continue to resonate in the media and in popular discourse, while many individuals of African descent encounter hate crimes and discrimination in their everyday interactions.

ENAR aims to increase recognition of this phenomenon. While a number of legal measures already exist in Europe, which tackle racism and anti-discrimination, notably the Racial Equality Directive and the Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, it is clear that Afrophobia, nonetheless, remains a pressing concern. ENAR considers that the specific problems faced by those of African descent in Europe mean that existing legal instruments cannot adequately address this problem and must be reinforced by a comprehensive effort on the part of policy makers and civil society to tackle Afrophobia and promote full inclusion. In recent years, there have been several efforts to focus on the issue of Afrophobia in Europe such as the 2009 “Black European Summit: Transatlantic Dialogue on Political Inclusion” held in the European Parliament and follow on events,²⁷ the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s (OSCE’s) November 2011 “Roundtable on the contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia affecting people of African Descent in the OSCE region”²⁸ and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 2012 adoption of the Resolution “Addressing Racism and Xenophobia Affecting People of African Descent in the OSCE Region”.²⁹ However, despite these efforts and the numerous activities highlighting the global human rights situation of people of African descent during the United Nation’s 2011 International Year for People of African Descent,³⁰ little has been done to place the distinctive difficulties faced by people of African descent firmly on the EU agenda in their own right. ENAR believes that efforts in recent years to call for action to tackle discrimination against the Roma – by enabling concerted action by related NGOs through platforms such as the European Roma Policy Coalition and by calling for tailored action such

²⁴ Clarke, note 4, p4.

²⁵ Essed, note 2, p5.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Reports and Information on the Black European Summit and Transatlantic Minority Political Leadership Conferences held in the European Parliament can be found at www.csce.gov and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wesDxqDRr0Q> and <http://transatlantic-progressives.blogspot.com/p/domestic-policy.html>.

²⁸ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/87967>.

²⁹ <http://www.oscepa.org/meetings/annual-sessions/2012-monaco-annual-session>.

³⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyfad2011/documents.shtml>

as the National Roma Integration Strategies - may provide a template for concerted action in recognising the need to take action against Afrophobia at European level.

Prevalence of Afrophobia in Europe

Data: Lack of systematic data is a major obstacle to researching this topic and confirming its many manifestations.³¹ A large number of European countries are reluctant to disaggregate data based on race or ethnicity, due to concerns about data protection legislation and privacy as well as fears about the potential misuse of such data.³² ENAR recognises these concerns and has, consequently, identified the systematic collection of disaggregated data as a priority to support non-discrimination and equality. Advocating for EU institutions to adopt a common EU framework for the collection and analysis of reliable comparable data disaggregated by racial or ethnic origin for the purpose of combating discrimination will be one of ENAR's priorities over the coming years.³³

In spite of the lack of consistent and reliable data, it is clear that people of African descent encounter a wide range of racist behaviour and discrimination. A survey by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency shows that 41% of Sub-Saharan African respondents felt they had been discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity at least once in the previous 12 months.³⁴ ENAR's 2009-10 Report on Racism in Europe also highlighted that in Malta, 66% of African immigrants interviewed had experienced discrimination.³⁵

Labour and Employment: In fact, a large proportion of Black Europeans face harsher socio-economic conditions than the majority population. People of African descent face serious discrimination in the job market. While no pan-European research has been conducted, a number of countries have reported that a disproportionate number of people of African descent are unemployed or working in a job below their qualification level.³⁶ It has been reported that in the UK there are currently more young Black men who are unemployed than there are in employment, with official sources citing Black employment at more than 50%.³⁷ The findings in the UK are mirrored in other countries, where the unemployment rate for African descendants is double to triple that of the unemployment rate for others.

³¹ *Ibid*, p5.

³² *ENAR Fact Sheet 46: Social Inclusion and Data Collection* available at http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/Factsheet_Final.pdf accessed 19 September 2012.

³³ For more information, see <http://www.enar-eu.org/Page.asp?docid=32201&langue=EN>.

³⁴ The report covered the 2010 year. See: *EU MIDIS Data in Focus Report; Multiple Discrimination* http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/EU_MIDIS_DiF5-multiple-discrimination_EN.pdf accessed 19 September 2012.

³⁵ *ENAR Shadow Report 2009-2010; Racism in Europe* http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/publications/shadowReport2010_EN_web_LR%20final.pdf accessed 19 September 2012.

³⁶ *ENAR Shadow Report*, note 2, p10.

³⁷ Clarke, note 4, p7.

FRA, for example, found that 54% Africans in Malta were unemployed³⁸ and has expressed concern at the ripple effect of high unemployment rates for this group; “This result is alarming as education and paid employment hold the key to integration and social inclusion, representing the ‘prerequisite’ for leading a dignified, free and confident life”.³⁹

Housing: These problems are exacerbated by the difficulty faced by some people of African descent in accessing housing. In a number of countries in Europe ethnic minorities tend to be grouped together in communities isolated from the rest of society. It was reported that in Germany, as a result of rent increases in re-developed inner city areas, poorer inhabitants have been forced to seek cheaper accommodation at the edges of the city. This has disproportionately impacted people of African descent.⁴⁰ Similarly, in France social housing is often situated in *banlieues* surrounding large cities. Since in 2002, 38% of Black African families lived in social accommodation, this has led to the development of Black communities who are *de facto* segregated from the majority population.⁴¹ Similar findings have been found in Denmark and Sweden. In some countries, individuals reported undisguised racism on the part of landlords and letting agents. For example, in Germany an individual of African descent reported being told that ‘We do not want your complexion colour at this place’.⁴²

Justice: There is also a concern that people of African descent may be over-represented in prison populations in a number of European countries.⁴³ For example, a 2012 UK House of Commons Report found that blacks made up 13% of the prison population, while Jamaicans made up a significant number of foreign nationals in UK prisons.⁴⁴ Given the serious nature of this issue in both the UK and the US, and reports of religious and ethnic minorities making up large segments of prison populations in Denmark and France, for example, ENAR considers that this issue is in urgent need of additional research.⁴⁵ The connections between crime rates and poverty are well documented.⁴⁶

³⁸ http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/664-eumidis_mainreport_conference-edition_en_.pdf

³⁹ http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/eu-midis/eumidis_main_results_report_en.htm..

⁴⁰ ENAR Shadow Report, note 2, p14.

⁴¹ Clarke, note 4, p9.

⁴² ENAR Shadow Report, note 2, p14.

⁴³ ‘In 2002, for example, Black groups formed 15 per cent of the overall male prison population and 24 per cent of the female prison population, whilst comprising only 3 per cent amongst the general population aged 10 and over’ (Home Office 2004). Cheliotis, Leonidas K and Liebling, Alison *Race Matters in British Prisons: Towards a Research Agenda* BRIT. J. CRIMINOL. (2006) 46, 286–317.

⁴⁴ [PDF] Prison population statistics – Parliament www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/sn04334.pdf

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⁴⁵ <http://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/300-what-the-difference-the-problem-of-ethnic-minorities-in-the-danish-prison-and-probation-system> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2008/04/28/ST2008042802857.html>.

⁴⁶ See for example Bobo, Lawrence D *Crime, Urban Poverty and Social Science* http://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/4724024/Crime%20Urban%20Poverty%20and%20Social%20Science_DBR.pdf?sequence=1 accessed 21 June 2013.

Considering the US context, it has been claimed that high imprisonment rates among Black communities are simply a reflection of higher crime rates in these communities. This view is, however, overly simplistic. Evidence suggests that high imprisonment rates of people of African descent may be seen as the end product of a racist society, as is Michelle Alexander puts forward in her book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.⁴⁷

In addition, people of African descent are disproportionately stopped and searched by the police. The UK organisation, Stopwatch, have reported that Black people are seven times more likely to be stopped by police than White people.⁴⁸ In Paris alone, Black people are on average six times more likely to be stopped than White people, prompting recent lawsuits in France.⁴⁹ German courts ruled in favour of a black German student stopped on a train by Federal police because of his skin colour.⁵⁰ Open Society has advanced an EU-wide research and litigation strategy on ethnic profiling given its frequency and impact on African descendants and others.⁵¹ As Bernard Harcourt has argued, ethnic profiling is often a self-fulfilling prophecy since increased police attention to one segment of society will lead to the discovery of higher crime rates among that group. These higher crime rates in their turn serve to justify further scrutiny from police.⁵² While Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff has found that racial biases at the subconscious level may also be playing a role in profiling and other disparities in the justice system experienced by blacks.⁵³ Strained relations between the police and Black communities mean that people of African descent may be less likely to report crimes, including hate crimes, to the police and to cooperate when under investigation.⁵⁴ Policing at airports, train stations, and border entry points also continues to be an under researched area impacting person of African descent, such as the profiling of Dutch Caribbean populations travelling through Schiphol airport,⁵⁵ in addition to numerous other incidents.

⁴⁷ *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander (2010, 2012), with an introduction by Cornel West.

⁴⁸ Conference Documentation Convening of national activists and researchers on Ethnic Profiling in Europe http://cms.horus.be/files/99935/MediaArchive/Internet_Documentation_Ethnic%20Profiling%20Conference_9-10_Nov%202011.pdf.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ <http://www.dw.de/german-court-raps-police-over-racial-profiling/a-16343389>

⁵¹ <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/projects/ethnic-profiling-europe>

⁵² Harcourt, Bernard E *The Shaping of Chance; Actuarial Models and Criminal Profiling at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* 70 U. Chi. L. Rev. 105 2003, p 118.

⁵³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/phillip-atiba-goff/trayvon-martin-race_b_1376621.html

⁵⁴ Hate crimes in the OSCE region : incidents and responses - annual report for 2011 ODIHR <http://tandis.odihr.pl/hcr2011/>

⁵⁵ Guilty Until Proven Innocent: Racial Profiling at Schiphol Airport <http://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/146-guilty-until-proven-innocent-racial-profiling-at-schiphol-airport>

Institutionalised racism in policing is also a concern in several European countries.⁵⁶ For example in Germany, questions remained unanswered about the death in police custody of Oury Jallow, a young Black man. Jallow burned to death in a police cell. In spite of a number of suspicious circumstances, his death was treated as a suicide and the police were investigated only for having acted negligently. His death remains a controversial symbol of strained relations between the Black community and the police. Friends of Jallow's who continue to protest his death have experienced extreme harassment by police.⁵⁷

It appears that people of African descent are also disproportionately likely to be victims of crime, including hate crime. An EU-MIDIS survey shows that 33% of Sub-Saharan Africans considered themselves to have been victims of a crime (theft of or from a vehicle, burglary or attempted burglary, theft of personal property not involving force or threat, assault and threat, or harassment of a serious nature). Additionally, annual EUFRA and OSCE reports have indicated numerous incidents of hate crime toward people of African descent.⁵⁸ According to a survey by the FRA, the majority of victims of African descent did not report crimes against them, including hate crimes, to police.⁵⁹ Thus, it is likely that actual victimisation rates are considerably higher than official figures.

Education, Culture, and Heritage: Despite a lack of consistent European-wide data on ethnicity, non-governmental reports and anecdotal evidence point to a sizeable Black population in Europe,⁶⁰ which suffers disproportionate levels of discrimination and violence.⁶¹ They are subjected to constant assault with negative stereotypes, which has the effect of eroding the self-esteem of the victims while fortifying uncharitable notions of them held by others. This tradition is fostered in Europe by the portrayal of Africans, People of African Descent and Black Europeans in school books relative to history, geography, and the sciences as a people with less cognitive abilities and who have contributed little to civilisation. More often than not, Africa is featured in the news as an overpopulated and underdeveloped region in which poverty, violence and sickness are endemic. For centuries, this tradition of prejudice against Africans, People of African descent and Black Europeans has continued across Europe and has led to all kinds of discrimination.

⁵⁶ See for example the Stephen Lawrence enquiry in the UK <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/jan/06/stephen-lawrence-verdict-police-racism> accessed 18/09/2012 or the death in police custody of Oury Jones in Germany <http://www.irr.org.uk/news/germanys-stephen-lawrence/> accessed 19/09/2012

⁵⁷ See: Bruce-Jones, Eddie "Institutional Racism in Germany: Law Enforcement" in Pfohman, Shannon/Fekete, Liz (eds.) (2013), Recycling Hatred: Racism(s) in Europe Today, ENAR. Brussels, p.96.

⁵⁸ 2011 OSCE/ODIHR Annual Hate Crimes Report (see pages 40, 47, 49); 2010 OSCE/ODIHR Annual Hate Crimes Report (see pages 36, 44, 47, 50, 68); EUFRA 2011 Annual Report (see pages 40, 57-58, 60, 164-167) ; 2010 Annual Report (see pages 14, 40-44, 51-60, 66, 78, 80, 82, 129, 155)

⁵⁹ EU MIDIS Main Results Report available at http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/eu-midis/eumidis_main_results_report_en.htm accessed 19 September 2012

⁶⁰ 7mn – 10mn in number.

⁶¹ Clarke, Amy. 2012. People of African Descent in Europe. A UKREN Briefing Paper, UKREN, London, U.K.

What is needed urgently is for Governments and States in Europe to vigorously promote the full and accurate inclusion, in the education curriculum, of the history and contribution of Africans, People of African Descent and Black Europeans. European Governments and States have an obligation to promote greater knowledge of and respect for African heritage and culture. They should allocate additional investments to education and related social services focused primarily on People of African Descent and Black Europeans. There is urgent need for Governments and States to ensure access by People of African Descent and Black Europeans to education at all levels as well as promote for them reliable access to new technologies. An equitable system of affirmative or positive action measures will be necessary to realise some of these measures.

ENAR's approach to countering Afrophobia

The approach to countering Afrophobia needs to be based on a “whole society vision, guaranteeing ‘security, equality and prosperity for all’ by maximising the potential of all, towards developing confident and strong communities, integrated and cohesive societies, as well as a stable and prosperous Europe”.⁶² This should be firmly grounded in a human rights-based approach ensuring anti-racism and anti-discrimination through a common set of rights for all. It requires the active participation of people of African descent, beyond rhetoric and tokenism, making equal treatment and social inclusion a reality.

Consequently this paper elaborates a number of key areas and the principles that should underline the necessary actions for countering Afrophobia:

1. Afrophobia must be identified as a European problem, worthy of attention at European and national levels
 - Recognise latent Afrophobia in European society
 - Collect and use disaggregated data to better monitor discrimination and measure progress over time of imposed equality measures
 - Apply measures that tackle racism in the justice system and counter unconsciously accepted forms of structural discrimination
2. Respect and exercise effective protection of fundamental rights on the basis of policies aimed at countering Afrophobia

⁶² ENAR Strategic Plan 2011-2013.

1. Afrophobia must be identified as a European problem, worthy of attention at European and national levels

Discrimination against people of African descent has deep historic roots and manifests itself in a unique and multidimensional manner. Though instances of blatant Afrophobia are not uncommon in Europe, fear and hatred of people of African descent are often more subtle. A false belief in the notion of White supremacy has helped to shape European identity and continues to resonate in our society today. ENAR recognises that power structures in place in societies play a role in determining what attitudes and behaviours are acceptable and normalised. ENAR urges European leaders to be aware of – and be prepared to react to – latent Afrophobia in the fabric of society.

Adopting the term ‘Afrophobia’ can help give an identity to the diverse and sometimes elusive forms of racism directed at people of African descent.

Recognising the issue of Afrophobia must not mean essentialising the Black population of Europe. There is no one clear narrative shared by the 7 000 000 people of African descent in Europe. The diversity and heterogeneity of this population must be recognised, and the community members’ contribution to European society and culture must be valued.

ENAR calls on the European Union and national governments to:

- Recognise and actively counter latent Afrophobia in society
 - Afrophobia must be recognised as a specific form of racism. Racism directed at people of African descent should be recognised as an inherent part of the European cultural heritage that resulted from Europe’s history of colonial abuse and the slave trade.
 - School curricula must take into consideration the presence of people of African descent and their contribution to culture and society, and contribute to overcoming stereotypes and promoting inclusion. School curricula must include an honest account of Europe’s legacy of racism, slavery and colonial abuse.
 - The economic, social and cultural contribution that people of African descent have made to European society must be recognised and mainstreamed within the general population.
 - Following the success of the UN International Year for People of African Descent 2011, a European Year of African Descent could be organised to promote a positive image of Black people in Europe.
 - National governments must strive to better understand and counter the specific problems relating to Afrophobia which exist in each Member State.
 - Public authorities must promote a fair image of people of African descent. A zero tolerance policy must be applied to stigmatising comments and terminology likely to incite Afrophobia or other forms of discrimination towards people of African descent by public authorities at all levels.

- Measures and policies to encourage more positive media reporting about Black Europeans must be adopted, since the media have a key role in promoting a positive image of people of African descent. The importance of including people from an ethnically diverse background, in particular people of African descent, in media staff should be promoted.

➤ Make use of data, invest in research, and challenge stereotypes

- Qualitative and quantitative research should be produced in order to better monitor racism and related discrimination against people of African descent in Europe and Black Europeans.
- Progress must be made in collecting disaggregated data to monitor the situation of people of African descent on a strictly anonymous, voluntary and self-defining basis and in compliance with rules on the protection of personal data, in order to provide more insight to inclusion policies and to challenge existing stereotypes.
- People of African descent should be involved throughout the research process (e.g. as researchers, assistant researchers or data collectors) to ensure greater disclosure, to increase the legitimacy of research findings, and to help in overcoming mistrust towards public institutions. Institutions need to reach out to diverse researchers, since at present, academics in some disciplines feel uncomfortable conducting research on issues relating to 'Black Europe' since the academy is overwhelmingly 'White' and privileged.
- The lack of disaggregated data must not be used as an excuse for inaction.

➤ Take measures to tackle racism in the justice system

- Member States should launch campaigns to raise awareness of fundamental rights, anti-discrimination law and equality bodies.
- Actors in the legal and prisons systems should be provided with training to increase sensitivity to racial issues, i.e. to avoid racial discrimination and to prevent racist stereotypes from impacting on sentencing, parole assessments, and ensuring effective legal redress in cases of discrimination, etc.
- Quality legal aid must be made available to people of African descent if they are to be able to vindicate their fundamental rights. Alternative dispute resolution should be promoted as it has often proved to be particularly effective in dealing with racism against people of African descent.
- It is essential that targeted support initiatives be put in place for victims of racist crime, either through mainstream service provision or, if appropriate, through specific services that deal with racist crime.
- States should adopt special measures to facilitate increased representation of people of African descent in the judiciary and in law enforcement.

2. Respect and effective exercise of fundamental rights must be the basis of policies aimed at countering Afrophobia

The EU must respect the rights of all persons living and working in its territory and effectively implement the Treaty of Lisbon and the now binding Charter of Fundamental Rights. It must ensure that the Charter means something to all EU citizens in practice, and particularly Article 21, which states that:

“Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited”.

EU and national efforts to tackle this issue must include supporting empowerment and awareness raising schemes, offering to Black individuals and community organisations tools to know and effectively claim their rights.

Respect for fundamental rights is not only an obligation of the EU and its Member States by law; it is also a prerequisite for successful inclusion policies and for achieving equality. Respect for fundamental rights creates more cohesive and stable societies.

ENAR calls on the European Union to:

➤ Ensure the respect and fulfilment of fundamental rights

- The EU institutions must respond strongly and swiftly to infringements of minority rights by all Member States with no exception. Infringements in the area of anti-discrimination and fundamental rights should be treated in the same way as infringements in the economic field.
- The European Parliament should address the situation of people of African descent in the EU in its annual human rights report, and the European Commission should do the same in its annual report on the implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- The EU should sign the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and encourage Member States who haven't done so yet, to ratify it.
- The EU institutions must ensure that the national equality bodies created in order to promote equality and fight against discrimination function properly, are independent from political interference, are endowed with the mandate to investigate potential discrimination, and are accessible to those who are most likely to become victims of racism and discrimination.

- The European Commission should publish an annual survey on the work of national equality bodies and promote good practices that are conducive to ensuring the protection of people of African descent in Europe and Black Europeans. .

ENAR calls on the Member States to:

➤ Ensure the respect and fulfilment of fundamental rights

- Racism, hate speech and racist violence against people of African descent must be tackled and punished; racist attacks should be investigated promptly and the perpetrators of these attacks brought to justice.
- The EU Framework Decision against Racism and Xenophobia must be fully implemented.
- Member States should ensure that the Racial Equality Directive is properly implemented and that violations thereof are sanctioned. States should issue best practice guidelines to employers to raise awareness of racial and other forms of discrimination.
- Discriminatory policing and ethnic profiling that target people of African descent must be stopped.
- NGOs working in the field of human rights and anti-discrimination should receive adequate support.
- Positive action should be promoted by Member States and local authorities to foster full inclusion of people of African descent in employment, education, health and housing, as well as their political participation.
- Inclusion policies should encompass the different segments of Black communities, ensuring that the most marginalised groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities, elderly and others) are included.

Conclusion

If the EU and its Member States are to be successful in curbing Afrophobia and preparing all their citizens for a more inclusive and diverse Europe for the future, a change in approach is required at all levels. ENAR strongly believes that all the parties involved should rise to the challenges of promoting a progressive narrative on equality and diversity, while ensuring the respect and fulfilment of fundamental rights, and encouraging full inclusion of all.

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