



# **Recommendations for the 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy**

**July 2025**



**UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Regional Office Europe

## Recommendations for the 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy

8 July 2025

### Introduction

This document sets out recommendations to inform the elaboration of the 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy (the Strategy). It should be read in conjunction with the [Consultation Report](#) comprising of recommendations on 6 thematic areas and respective action points, which were submitted to the EC Coordinator on combatting racism on July 27, 2024. The 6 thematic recommendations addressed the following topics:

- 1) Recognizing racism and discrimination against people of African descent as fundamental determinants of health.
- 2) Strengthen the meaningful involvement of affected communities.
- 3) Using respectful and inclusive language to enhance the quality of dialogue and discourse.
- 4) Address major gaps and challenges regarding the collection, availability and comparability of equality data across EU member states.
- 5) Breaking down silos in policy mainstreaming efforts and bolster participation in policy-making processes.
- 6) Addressing racism and discrimination in healthcare and science and respective action points.

The present document is informed by consultations and other participatory processes with over 300 civil society and other actors with specific expertise on and lived experience of racism across the European Union, organized by the Office of the High Commissioner

for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Europe (ROE) since July 2024.<sup>1</sup> This work has been carried out in coordination with the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) through its [Anti-Discrimination and Health Equity Network \(DisQo\)](#).

The OHCHR Regional Office for Europe stands ready to continue to engage with the European Commission's Coordinator on combating racism and other partners to ensure that the 2026-2030 anti-racism strategy is as comprehensive as possible to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

---

<sup>1</sup> In addition, there were conversations with representatives of multiple organisations including PAD Belgium, Artikel 1 Midden Nederland, A.I.R.E, AME (Les Amis du Monde Entier), EOTO, Ingwee African Tales, Equinet, independent writers and cultural curators, Generation for Change, Mental Health Europe, Keep Dreaming, Human Rights Cities Network, Place Network, De Hofnar Present and Marissa Foundation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. The 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy seeks to implement international human rights obligations of and commitments by EU Member States and recommendations by international human rights mechanisms

- Reference international normative obligations of EU Member States and design the Strategy based on analysis and recommendations by the most recurrent areas of concern highlighted by UN human rights mechanisms.<sup>2</sup>
- Design the Strategy to addresses the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in relation to the full spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and applying an intersectionality framework showing how groups – and individuals within those groups – experience discrimination in qualitatively different ways, considering their diverse identities. This should include explicitly addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance notably faced by women and girls and specific population groups such as LGBTIQ+ persons, persons with disabilities, children, youth and the elderly, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and persons with lower socio-economic status, among others.
- Urge States to adopt and implement comprehensive national laws, including anti-discrimination laws and policies that include positive duties to eliminate racial discrimination, to combat prejudice, stereotypes and stigma, and to advance formal and substantive equality.
- Urge all States to make a declaration of acceptance under Article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) recognizing the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to receive and consider communications from individuals or groups of individuals within its jurisdiction who claim to be victims of a violation by

---

<sup>2</sup> [The Universal Human Rights Index](#) offers a compilation of the observations and recommendations made by the international human rights protection system.

that State Party of any of the rights set forth in the ICERD and withdraw reservations when applicable.

- Urge States to effectively combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people on the move, including through the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
- Urge States to collect and publish data disaggregated by race or ethnic origin, and additionally by other factors, with a view to analyzing the effect of all laws and policies on racial and ethnic groups.<sup>3</sup>
- Ensure that the Strategy addresses effectively all human rights and all concerned groups and individuals: cross-reference relevant EU policy and institutional frameworks, notably those for combatting anti-gypsism, antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred; and highlight specific policy measures for people of African descent in the absence of a specific framework for this group.
- Encourage the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action and the program of activities of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent.
- Urge States to include progress reports in efforts to combat racism and racial discrimination in Voluntary National Review reports through which countries assess and present national progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **2. Address the legacies of the past in order to eliminate today's contemporary manifestations of racism**

The 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy must address the legacies of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans, colonialism and successive racially discriminatory policies and systems by:

---

<sup>3</sup> On these and remaining HRBA recommendations, please refer to the Consultation Report submitted on June 27, 2024.

- Recognizing that behind contemporary forms of racism, dehumanization and exclusion lies the failure to acknowledge the responsibilities of States and others for enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism, and to comprehensively repair the harms.
- Acknowledging that truth, justice and reparations with regard to enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism and their legacies contribute to non-recurrence and reconciliation and benefit all of society.
- Calling for the recommendations made by the Secretary General, the High Commissioner and UN human rights mechanisms in this regard; including the High Commissioner's [Agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality](#) for Africans and people of African descent which sets a blueprint for advancing towards racial justice.
- Urge EU Member States to:
  - Put in place a comprehensive package of measures that halts, acknowledges and repairs the lasting consequences and ongoing manifestations of systemic racism suffered by Africans and people of African descent through wide-ranging and meaningful initiatives, within and across States, including through formal apologies, truth-telling processes, and reparations in various forms.
  - Create, reinforce and fully fund national and other processes to construct a shared narrative on enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism and their lasting consequences for Africans and people of African descent.
  - Re-envision public spaces, including by memorializing the contributions of and harms against people of African descent and ensuring that enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism are not glorified.
  - Ensure the effective participation of people of African descent and their communities to guide the design and implementation of these processes including broad and inclusive consultations.
  - Dismantle structures and systems designed and shaped by enslavement, colonialism and successive racially discriminatory policies and systems.
  - Address the insufficient or inaccurate inclusion of the history of enslavement, the trade in enslaved Africans and colonialism in educational curricula.



### **3. Strengthen the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of affected communities and individuals in the development, implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy**

The 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy must ensure that the voices of all those who experience racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are protected and heard, and their concerns are acted upon. The full spectrum of their lived experiences and expertise should be central to decision-making processes. Further, the Strategy must articulate the need for removing the legal and financial barriers for civil society participation in decision making and policy implementation and impact monitoring, by targeted actions that:

- Ensure effective participation and/or representation of people of all those who experience racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular women and youth, at every level in State institutions, including law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and policy-making processes.
- Recognise past and current contributions by individuals and organisations that stand up against racism and encourage and support solidarity across equality movements.
- Ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and recognize the right to peaceful protest as a way of effecting change.
- Protect the safety and rights of organisers, participants, observers and journalists in protests with particular attention to members of groups that are or have been subjected to racial discrimination.
- Investigate effectively, impartially and in a timely manner, any allegation of human rights violations or abuses against individuals and organisations that stand up against racism.
- Address the restrictions and limitations for civil society participation and combatting the sense of exclusion.
- Advocate for sufficient financial support for civil society participation and updated mapping of associations and human rights defenders representing concerned groups so they can be effectively included.

- Ensure that processes are not tokenistic, one-off or cursory, and lend themselves to genuine consultation.
- More broadly, implement the recommendations contained in the Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs and the Guidance Note on [How to effectively implement the right to participate in public affairs: A spotlight on people of African descent](#).

#### **4. Accountability in law enforcement**

Accountability of law enforcement officials, trust deficits, and institutional oversight remain a challenge. The Strategy must address these issues by setting a framework for implementing the following:

- Reimagine policing and the criminal justice system by supporting and implementing community-driven models for dignity and collective safety that protect and serve all members of communities without discrimination.
- Implement reforms to restrict use of force and prohibit racial profiling; consistently and effectively bring to justice law enforcement officials for violations against concerned groups and individuals; and provide redress for victims and their families.
- Regularly publish data, disaggregated by victims' race or ethnic origin, on deaths and serious injury by law enforcement officials and related prosecutions and convictions, as well as any disciplinary actions.
- Create and/or strengthen independent oversight and complaints procedures and mechanisms regarding action by law enforcement; institutionalize and standardize reporting and review of use of force leading to death or serious injury and stocktaking of lessons learned.
- Establish and resource independent mechanisms to support families and communities affected by law enforcement violations, including through funding for separate autopsies, victim compensation programmes, psycho-social and bereavement assistance, support to bury victims, and accessing justice.
- Provide legal advice, assistance and representation to victims and their families as well as other types of support, such as interpretation, psychological and medical services to victims.



## 5. Education

While responsibility for the content and organisation of education and training systems lies with EU Member States, strengthening inclusive education is one of the priorities for EU cooperation. Therefore, the 2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy should provide guidance on educational curricula, with a focus on equal access to education as well as quality education, notably to: revise textbooks and materials that contain incorrect facts about enslavement and colonialism and ensure accurate history teaching, showing the linkages with today's racism, including systemic racism and its structural and institutional factors; remove negative stereotypes about racialized groups; and integrate positive examples and representations of racialized groups in education, both in terms of content and teaching staff.

The Strategy should also encourage States to:

- Support local initiatives and informal community education focusing on combating racism, in addition to formal education.
- Undertake effective anti-racist education from early years through to higher education; and support Indigenous and Black studies and related courses at schools and universities. A gender and economic inequality perspective is crucial in anti-racist education, as it brings to light the specific experiences and struggles notably of women, LGBTIQ+ persons and people living in poverty.
- Recommend that Offices for equality and diversity, and those with similar responsibilities and functions, at schools and universities must be regularly monitored and assessed, including by representatives of racialized groups.