DRAFT REPORT

on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism (2021/2057(INI))

Committee on Culture and Education

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

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The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Treaty on European Union, in particular the second, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh indents of the preamble, Article 2, Article 3(3), second subparagraph, and Article 6 thereof,

– having regard to Articles 10 and 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 21 thereof,

– having regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin¹,


– having regard to the establishment in June 2016 of the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 22 May 2018 entitled ‘Building a stronger Europe: the role of youth, education and culture policies’ (COM(2018)0268),


– having regard to Directive 2010/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2010 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)³,


and training, youth and sport⁴,

– having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027)⁵,


– having regard to the general policy recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, in particular recommendation No 10 on combating racism and discrimination in and through school education,

– having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture and Education (A9-0000/2021),

A. whereas the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected those from racial and ethnic minority communities, highlighting and exacerbating inequalities including in culture, media, education and sport;

B. whereas according to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, racial discrimination and harassment remain commonplace throughout the European Union; whereas racial and ethnic minorities are subjected to harassment, violence and hate speech, both online and offline; whereas racial and ethnic minorities face structural discrimination in the EU in all areas, including housing, healthcare, employment and education;

C. whereas racist and xenophobic attitudes are embraced by certain opinion leaders and politicians across the EU, fomenting a social climate that provides fertile ground for racism, discrimination and hate crimes; whereas this environment is further fuelled by extremist movements which seek to divide our societies; whereas these acts run counter to the common European values which all the Member States have undertaken to uphold;

D. whereas the fight against racism and discrimination in our societies needs to be stepped up and is a shared responsibility; whereas the European Union needs to further reflect on and commit to tackling the structural racism and discrimination faced by many minority groups;

E. whereas access to education and educational attainment is an issue for racialised communities throughout Europe; whereas segregation in education remains an issue in certain Member States;

⁵ OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 34.
F. whereas it is important for children and young people to see that they are represented throughout society, including in the classroom and on the media that they use;

G. whereas although sport has the power to unite communities, there is a serious issue of racism within sporting organisations across Europe;

H. whereas data collection has been proven to be the most effective way to analyse social problems both quantitatively and qualitatively and to develop evidence-based public policy responses;

**General context**

1. Acknowledges the EU anti-racism action plan; welcomes the inclusion of specific sections on education and media; calls on the Commission to provide adequate funding and resources to ensure the achievement of the outlined commitments;

2. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the anti-racism coordinator is given adequate resources and that the work of mainstreaming racial equality throughout EU policies is shared by all DGs;

3. Welcomes the Commission’s dedication to ensuring that Member States develop national action plans against racism; calls for specific targets on culture, education, media and sport to be included in the development of those plans;

4. Welcomes the publication and implementation of specific EU guidelines on the collection of equality data based on racial or ethnic origin; calls on the Member States to adapt national statistics and to remove barriers in order to facilitate the collection of quality data on equality; calls on the Commission and the Member States to use this data to develop policies to attain racial justice;

5. Welcomes the commitment to diversity and inclusion within Erasmus+, Creative Europe, the European Solidarity Corps, and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme; calls on the Commission to ensure that the recently published inclusion strategies are mainstreamed across all educational, cultural, media and sporting initiatives;

6. Welcomes the Commission’s acknowledgement of the need for an intersectional approach to policymaking; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the relevant anti-racism objectives are implemented across all policy areas;

**Culture**

7. Acknowledges that racism is inherently a matter of culture, heritage and norms; highlights, therefore, the role that culture can play in combating discrimination and racism;

8. Calls for the Commission and the Member States to foster a more diverse cultural sector by removing barriers to participation in culture for racialised communities through funding from all the relevant programmes; encourages the creation of support networks and outreach activities, especially for those in rural and outermost regions;
9. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to improve monitoring and evaluation, including by testing and sharing participatory tools, which can demonstrate the effects of promoting inclusion and non-discrimination and combating racism through culture and help to create more inclusive policies;

10. Welcomes the recent report by the Open Method of Cooperation (OMC) Working Group of Member States’ Experts on gender equality in the cultural and creative sectors; calls on the OMC Working Group to produce a study on the role that culture plays in promoting racial equality within the cultural and creative sectors;

11. Welcomes the acknowledgement by certain Member States of the need to restore cultural works and artefacts to their places of origin; encourages the development of EU guidelines on restitution and calls for Member States to continue or to initiate processes for the restitution of cultural works and artefacts in a more consistent and timely manner;

Education

12. Underlines the lasting negative impact of European colonialism on today’s society, including in the development of educational curricula;

13. Calls on the Member States to foster the development of diverse educational curricula to ensure that authors, historians, scientists and artists among other figures from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds are included in key materials;

14. Calls for the history of all racial and ethnic communities living in Europe to be included in all history curricula in order to encourage a broader perspective on world history centred on the interactions between different continents before and after European colonisation;

15. Deplores the practice of segregation in schools; calls on all Member States to introduce policies to prevent children from minority groups from being placed in separate schools or classes, whether intentionally or not;

16. Calls on the Member States to ensure that teaching staff from minority groups are recruited at all levels and are protected from racial discrimination in the school system;

17. Recognises the importance of role models in educational attainment; encourages the creation of a pan-European platform of individuals and collectives of people from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds who can share their experiences with learners;

Media

18. Underlines the importance of representation and diversity in the development of inclusive societies; calls on the relevant stakeholders to address diversity and representation within their organisations; regrets the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in the media;

19. Welcomes the Commission’s commitment to launching a communication campaign to foster diversity in the audiovisual sector; calls for this campaign to be centred on the
diversity and history of racialised communities and on how achieving racial justice can contribute to a more democratic Europe;

20. Welcomes the practice established by certain international audiovisual providers to add disclaimers about harmful and racist content ahead of media broadcasts; encourages the development of such practices within the European audiovisual sphere;

21. Notes that some Member States have audiovisual regulatory bodies with the power to issue sanctions following programmes that show discriminatory or racist content; encourages the Member States to empower their regulatory agencies in this sense; calls for the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services to be given a greater role in coordinating the national agencies and collecting and sharing data;

**Sport**

22. Recalls the acknowledgement of sport as a driver of social inclusion, equality and the promotion of EU values in the Erasmus+ regulation; laments the fact that the most recent regulation does not make the same explicit reference to racism as the previous programme;

23. Calls on the Commission to open a specific call for funding for grassroots sports initiatives focused on inclusion and the fight against racism; calls on the Commission, furthermore, to systematically monitor the number and type of sports projects whose main focus is the fight against racism, and the amount of funding allocated to them;

24. Urges the Commission to develop an EU code of ethics in sport in order to combat racism in sporting organisations and foster inclusion and respect at all levels of sport; invites sporting organisations at all levels to subscribe to such an EU code and to incorporate it within their statutes; encourages organisations to raise awareness of such a code and its content among their members and their families, and the wider public;

25. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background

Racism and discriminations based on racial and ethnic origin are still widespread all around the European Union and beyond. Such discrimination is not merely the result of individual behaviour and prejudices, but is rather embedded in our society at a deeper structural level. According to the 2019 Eurobarometer, over half of Europeans believe that racial discrimination is widespread in their country, with “Being Roma” (61% of respondents), “Ethnic origin” (59%) and “Skin colour” (59%) being the top three grounds of discrimination identified by citizens in the EU. According to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)’s Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU MIDIS II), 45% of people of North African descent, 41% of Roma and 39% of people of Sub-Saharan African descent faced discrimination based on their ethnic or immigration background. 30% of Roma and 29% of North African background also report being victim of hate-motivated harassment.

The year 2020 saw an increased awareness of the persistence of racism in our societies following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, USA. A wave of demonstrations ensued led by the Black Lives Matter movement, prompting action at EU level, including the adoption of an EU Parliament resolution and the production of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan. Renewed attention has been given not only to issues such as police brutality and racial profiling, but also to the history of racism and its cultural legacy in Europe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also revealed the extent to which racial discrimination is systematic in multiple ways. Firstly, and most evidently, the spread of the virus in the spring of 2020 triggered a wave of racist and xenophobic violence and attacks, particularly towards the Asian community; racist statements blaming immigrants, refugees and foreigners were even endorsed and promoted by certain political leaders around the world. Secondly, data from around the world has proven how the COVID-19 had a major disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities.

The EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025

Following the moment of reckoning driven by the 2020 protests, the EU institutions were prompted to reflect on the place that racism occupies in the EU and its Member States. The need for an active pursuit of racial justice and an active fight against all forms of discriminations became obvious. It was clear that more needed to be done to foster a society built on pluralism, tolerance and non-discrimination, and for the Union live up to its own motto, “United in Diversity”, as elaborated by the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, in her speech to the European Parliament on 17th June 2020.

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8 [https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2251](https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2251)
On 18th September 2020, the European Commission published its communication “A Union of equality: EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025”\(^\text{12}\). Concretely, the Action Plan calls for better enforcement of EU law, closer coordination, including through the appointment of a Coordinator for Anti-racism, the adoption of national action plans against racism and racial discrimination, more efforts in preventing discriminatory attitudes by law enforcement authorities, and increased diversity of staff in the EU institutions.

Other measures mentioned in the Action Plan include a call for improved collection of data on and disaggregated by ethnic or racial origin, and on raising awareness and addressing racial and ethnic stereotypes through media, education, culture and sports. This is the context of this Own Initiative Report, to follow up on the European Commission Action Plan, and offer the CULT committee’s perspective on how to combat stereotypes, develop inclusive education, raise awareness of the history and legacy of racism in Europe, and tackle the under representation of racial and ethnic minorities in the media and in cultural and creative sectors.

### The role of culture, education, media and sports in the fight against racism

At a time when structural racism has become clear as one of the main challenges for the EU, it is more important than ever to mainstream anti-racism across all of the Union’s policies, including culture, education, sports and media policy. These domains touch on the lives of everyone in the EU and have the unique capacity to reach out to every single one of us, providing context and meaning to our day-to-day interactions with each other. Education, cultural and sporting experiences, and the information we receive through the media are vectors that shape and inspire societal and behavioural changes. We wish to encourage the development of policy that facilitates and compliments these behavioural changes. Equally, these are all fields where representation of diversity matters greatly, particularly in order to encourage individuals of different ethnic or racial backgrounds, and notably young people, in the pursuit of their own personal goals.

Overall, the report seeks to encourage the European Commission and the Member States to follow the good practice established by their gender equality strategies and efforts to mainstream gender equality across policy fields. Equally, this report highlights the need for the mainstreaming of racial justice in all EU cultural, educational, sports and media policies.

Until now, the CULT Committee had approached the issue of racism from different perspectives but never produced an all-encompassing report on the issue. The ambition of this present report is to remedy to this situation and promote a horizontal approach to the fight against racism in all the domains of competence of the CULT Committee.

The Background analysis’ commissioned by the European Parliament’s Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies\(^\text{13}\) assesses the suitability of the EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025, within the policy competences of the EU, to combat racism in the field of culture, education, media and sports, and maps out the state of the art of the existing instruments and programmes to tackle racism within these areas.

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Most notably, the study concludes that the three Union programmes within the competence of the CULT Committee, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, and European Solidarity Corps, generally lack specific objectives related to the fight against racism and discrimination, and mostly cover these priorities as horizontal principles. Consequently, no specific indicators are defined to measure the programmes’ contribution to the fight against racism, with some minor exception in the field of sports under Erasmus+. The emphasis being placed on the monitoring and evaluation of the specific theme of racism is therefore insufficient, and this derives both from the lack of specific objectives to measure, as well as from the reticence of Member States to generally collect and disaggregate data based on racial and ethnic origins.

Accurate and comparable data and indicators are key for decision-makers to design, monitor and evaluate policies in every field. Data on equality and discrimination are not an exception. It is no surprise therefore that civil society organisations and experts call for the collection of data on diversity and equality in the Member States. This report responds to this call by welcoming the Guidance note on the collection and use of equality data based on racial or ethnic origin14, issued in September 2021 by the European Commission’s High Level Group on Non-discrimination, Equality and Diversity, and calls for Member States to step up their engagement in this sense.

The report also calls not only for more efforts in facilitating racial and ethnic diversity and on fighting stereotypes and discriminations in the fields of culture, education, media and sports, but also for a wider conversation and reflection to be started about the history and legacy of racism in Europe and its structural and systemic nature.

The report does not have the pretension to be exhaustive, but rather intends to be a first step towards the full realisation of a fair, inclusive and just society. It could even be envisaged for this type of report to introduce a regular follow-up from the CULT Committee to the initiatives of the European Commission to tackle racism and discrimination in the field of culture, education, sports and media.

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