

Nicosia, 9 April 2018

European Action Week Against Racism – “Diversity Festival”

The European Commission will support a “Diversity Festival” on Wednesday, 10 April 2018 at the Kumarcılar Hanı Square, Nicosia from 15:00 to 17:00 as part of European Action Week Against Racism. The event aims to bring together various cultural groups in order to celebrate cultural diversity within the Turkish Cypriot community. MAGEM, Akova Women’s Association, French Cultural Association, Refugee Rights Association, German Cultural Association, Russian Speakers Association, Civic Space, SOS Children’s Village, and the Palestinian, Pakistani, Afghan and Ukrainian students groups will provide an opportunity for visitors to taste various international food and experience music and dance performances.

People across the EU continue to be targeted by racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance just because of their race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, social status or other characteristics. The EU rejects and condemns all forms of racism and intolerance, as they are incompatible with the values and principles upon which the EU is founded.

A broad set of rules exist at the EU level which contribute better tackling different forms and manifestations of racism and intolerance, in particular the Framework Decision on combating certain forms of expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

The event also supports the annual campaign of European Action Week Against Racism where people and groups across Europe actively engage for tolerance, equal rights and celebrating the diversity of Europe. The campaign is run by UNITED for Intercultural Action: The European Network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees.

As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community many projects addressing discrimination and human rights have been supported. This includes Youthopia: Empowering young Cypriots to promote and protect their rights by MAGEM, the Cypriot Intangible Cultural Heritage project by the Nicosia Folklore Association, Human Rights for All by Refugee Rights Association, and Unspoken: Creating Dialogue on LGBTI Rights in the Turkish Cypriot Community by Cyprus Community Media Centre Co. and Queer Cyprus.

Background:

Relevant pieces of EU legislation to combat racism, xenophobia and other kinds of intolerance include:

- legislation in the area of [non-discrimination](#), in particular the Directive prohibiting discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin in several walks of life, and the [Employment Equality Directive](#) prohibiting discrimination on several grounds in the field of employment
- the [Audiovisual Media Services Directive](#), banning incitement to hatred in audiovisual media services and the promotion of discrimination in audiovisual commercial communications
- legislation prohibiting discrimination during border controls

Building on the existing legal framework, the EU has introduced and initiated a broad range of measures to better prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

Sources: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/justice-and-fundamental-rights/discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-racism-and-xenophobia_en

Media Contact: Selen Mesutoğlu Altan, selen.altan@abbilgi.eu or 0533 840 8583



EU Infopoint is funded by the European Union.