

Nicosia Event for European Week Against Racism

The European Commission will mark the importance of European Action Week Against Racism with a “Strength in Diversity” inter-cultural event that will take place on Thursday, 31 March 2016 at Bedestan, Nicosia from 15:00 to 18:00. Local speakers will talk about the importance of tackling racism and other forms of discrimination.

The European Commission rejects and condemns all forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia because they are incompatible with the values and principles upon which the EU is founded. The event in Nicosia aims to bring together various ethnic groups in order to celebrate the cultural diversity within the Turkish Cypriot community.

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. The event will finish with cultural performances and a reception.

Background:

The EU has introduced and initiated a **broad set of measures to combat different forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia**.

These measures include various pieces of legislation:

- the Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia - **penalising public incitement to violence or hatred** on the basis of race, colour, religion, descent or national or ethnic origin;
- the Race Equality Directive - **prohibiting discrimination** on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in several walks of life;
- the Employment Equality Directive - **prohibiting discrimination** for instance on the ground of religion in employment;
- the Audiovisual Media Services Directive - **banning incitement to hatred in audiovisual media services** and the promotion of discrimination in audiovisual commercial communications;
- the legislation - **prohibiting discrimination at border controls**.

The EU Aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot community funds a number of projects in support of diversity and the protection of human rights. Some of these projects include “Education for a Culture of Peace” implemented by POST RI with Association for Historical Dialogue & Research; “Human Rights for All” implemented by Refugee Rights Association with KISA; and “Youthopia – Empowering Youth to Protect and Promote Human Rights” implemented by MAGEM and Youth Power.

In October 2015, the European Commission organised a Colloquium on combatting anti-Muslim and antisemitism hatred, which is an issue about all societies as a whole. This Colloquium, which brought more than 300 participants from across the EU to address these phenomena, underlines Europe's will to foster an open, pluralistic and inclusive society, which is based on fundamental rights.

Sources: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/racism-xenophobia/index_en.htm & <http://weekagainstracism.eu/>.

Interested individuals can get more *information on this event on the EU Infopoint Facebook page* [f/abbilgi](https://www.facebook.com/abbilgi) or by contacting the EU Infopoint: info@abbilgi.eu, 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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EU Infopoint is funded by the European Union.

