

## European Action Week Against Racism Panel “United in Diversity”

The European Commission will mark the importance of diversity during the European Action Week Against Racism with a panel titled “United in Diversity” on Monday, 13 March 2017 at Bedestan, Nicosia from 14:30 to 17:00.

The aim of the event is to improve awareness about diversity, and increase knowledge about the relevant EU policy. EU speaker Prof. Rainer Hiltunen will present EU’s policy on diversity and actions to combat racism, best practices from EU member states. The head of the Employment Department Mr. Yusuf Önderol will share information about the local implementations and recommendations, Neslihan Güzey and Doros Polykarpou from Refugee Rights Association and KISA will do a presentation on their EU funded Human Rights for All Project. In addition, Oğuz Ufuk Haksever will present the impressions of youth on diversity.

The event also supports the annual campaign of European Action Week Against Racism where 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 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 in partnership with the Association for Historical Dialogue and 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.

### Background:

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 EU has introduced and initiated a **broad set of measures to combat different forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia**. The EU acts on behalf of EU citizens to prevent them being discriminated against on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and sex. EU fight against discrimination

The European Commission takes action to:

- improve knowledge of discrimination by raising awareness among the population of their rights and obligations and also of the benefits of diversity;
- support intermediary actors such as NGOs, social partners and equality bodies to improve their capacity to combat discrimination;
- support the development of equality policies at national level and encourage the exchange of good practices between EU countries;
- achieve real change in the area of anti-discrimination through anti-discrimination training activities;
- push for business-oriented diversity management as part of a strategic response to a more diversified society, customer base, market structure and workforce.

In addition to the two Directives (Racial Equality Directive and Employment Framework Directive), the European Commission adopted in July 2008 a Communication which presents a comprehensive approach to stepping up action against discrimination and to promoting equal opportunities and a Commission Decision creating a non-discrimination governmental experts group.

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](mailto:info@abbilgi.eu), 228 2577 and 11A Hasene Ilgaz Street, Köşklüçiftlik Nicosia.

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