

UNITED for Intercultural Action

European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees



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European-wide Action Week against Racism

"A Europe of diversity, dialogue and peace!"

21 March marks the highlight of the biggest anti-racism campaign in Europe with activities in over 39 countries. "While discussing very intensively about the Iraque issue we should not forget what is happening next door."

During the European-wide Action Week against Racism, centered around **21 March, the UN Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination**, hundreds of non-governmental organisations together raise awareness about racism and promote a Europe of intercultural dialogue.

Think globally – act locally

A spokesperson of UNITED, the biggest pan-European network against racism, states: "Especially in times, when cooperation of governments is weakened and unilaterism dominates international relations, it is crucial that NGOs act united across borders. We believe that international cooperation can only be based on equal rights, mutual respect and listening to each other. The policy of the United States regarding the war in Iraque will not only have disastrous consequences for the people of Iraque but also destroys the idea of an international community ensuring peace and human rights. As it turns to international politics we fear that the present situation, with some countries deciding on the fate of the international community, will weaken human rights. The movement against racism demands the European community to actively struggle for human rights – on the global, European, national and even local leve !"

Combating racism in Europe "Look Deeper - fundamentally we are all the same"

Not only around the world, also in Europe human rights and minority rights are regularly violated. Refugees, Roma, religious and ethnic minorities – they all face discrimination and racism: at the labour markets, regarding political and social rights, in the streets. NGOs from 39 countries organise activities during the **European-wide Action Week against Racism** (15-23 March) to stress that fundamentally we are all the same – regardless our color of skin, our ethnicity or our religion.

In the framework of UNITED's unique campaign UNESCO arranges two days of action in Paris. Among others young people will write a "Declaration Against Racism", there will be art against discrimination and a panel discussion with mayors, who in 1998 launched the Charter for Human Rights. An activist from the UNITED network says: "It is very inspiring to know that activities take place all over Europe ranging from removing of racist graffitties in Lisbon to lectures in universities all over Romania, including the 'Global Days' in Denmark as well as a whole week of actions at the Nansen Dialogue Centre in Sarajevo. This is how intercultural action works. The Action Week represents the diversity and unity of Europe."

Additional information:

The UNITED Campaign

UNITED for Intercultural Action is a network against racism consisting of 560 organisations all over Europe. Activities on the local level in the framework of the campaign around 21 March are carried out by organisations from 39 countries. The campaign is co-ordinated by the International Secretariat of UNITED. A full list of activities is accessible on www.unitedagainstracism.org ('campaigns'/ 'European-wide Action Week Against Racism'). Do not hesitate to contact the UNITED office for further information. We will be happy to supply you with contact information of an organisation near you that is involved in the campaign.