

**YOUR
VOTE
CAN
DIVIDE**

**YOUR
VOTE
CAN
UNITE**



YOU CHOOSE!

MAY 2014

EU ELECTIONS



YOU CHOOSE!

In May 2014 a new EU Parliament will be chosen.

The elections come amidst a crisis that strikes Europe hard. Across the continent people lose jobs, lose income, lose hope.

These are the circumstances some political parties and movements are taking advantage of. Seemingly easy solutions are promised by these parties, like: leave the EU, cancel international agreements that cost money, close the borders, etc.

Easy scapegoats are found to blame: migrants, minorities, refugees, Muslims, Jews. According to these parties, those are the groups to be blamed for anything that goes wrong in our societies.

The so-called solutions and scapegoats are used to gain power and influence, to win votes, and -in the end- to win seats in the European Parliament (EP).

Some of these parties previously refrained from cooperating with each other. The Dutch PVV, for example, did not want to be associated with the French Front National because of its far-right image. Now, with the EP elections in sight, PVV and Front National formed an alliance for the EP elections. What binds them is extreme nationalism, an anti-EU agenda, and anti-migration/ -migrant policy. Their goal is to win as much influence in the EP as possible. More far-right parties may join them. Together they cover the whole range of intolerance and hate: against migrants, Muslims, Jews, people of African Descent, gays and lesbians.

We believe in the freedom of expression. It is one of the fundamentals of our democracies. But we do not believe this fundamental freedom can be used to strip

Your vote can divide

MAY 2014

EU ELECTIONS

ENAR

European Network Against Racism



The European Network Against Racism (ENAR aisbl) is an EU-wide network of NGOs in all EU Member States, as well as Iceland.

ENAR stands up against racism and discrimination and advocates for equality and solidarity for all in Europe, regardless of skin colour, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, age, or sexual orientation. We believe in a vibrant European society that harnesses the full potential of the many diverse talents and capitalises on the value of our differences. We are the voice of the anti-racist civil society in European debates, and we aim to ensure that policy developments on equality and diversity are put into practice.

We urge the EU and its Member States to adopt a progressive and human rights-based approach to migration and integration, and to respect the principles of equal treatment and equal opportunity for third country nationals. We also take steps to advance the

social inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities, focusing on four communities: Roma, People of African descent, Jewish, and Muslim communities.

In addition, ENAR strives to counter and delegitimise populist and xenophobic discourses, and to combat hate crime and hate speech. We provide and emphasise positive discourses on diversity. Our Equal@Work initiative brings together employers, anti-racist civil society, and other relevant stakeholders to share best practices and solutions to increase ethnic and religious minorities' and migrants' participation in the labour market.

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By you.

others from their fundamental rights and freedoms, like the right to be treated equal or the freedom of religion. Nor do we believe, this freedom should be used to insult people because of their race, ethnicity, or religion. We oppose the spread of hate and racism dividing our societies.

We cannot accept that some parties treat some people as lesser participants in our society because of their race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or any other irrelevant characteristic that could be perceived as "different". And we do not believe in dividing different groups in society, which is precisely what these parties seek.

Instead, we believe in an inclusive European society in which everyone is able to enjoy full equality/ equality of outcomes and participate actively without barriers. By shaping an environment where everybody can contribute with his or her respective and diverse skills and talents, we can achieve a more vibrant, innovative, and successful Europe.

Once every five year you can make a choice for a new European Parliament. It is your democratic, fundamental right to vote.

Whatever your choice is, we think basic fundamental rights should be respected. We think that parties that do not respect these values do not deserve our votes, your vote.

It is up to you. You decide, you choose.

Your vote can make the difference.

your vote can unite.

MAY 2014

EU ELECTIONS

UNITED for Intercultural Action

European Network Against Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees



UNITED for Intercultural Action is the pan-European network against UNITED for Intercultural Action is the pan-European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. We believe that change comes

through networking from the bottom up. Since 1993, more than 550 organisations from 48 European countries have joined to make our society a better place - for all.

We stand for mutual support, common action and the belief in the virtue of diversity. Together we want to create a Europe of tolerance and solidarity, a Europe of respect and perspectives. Diversity is for us more than just living our lives next to each other. Intercultural understanding and cooperation is our goal.

The UNITED network provides an exchange-platform for organisations to get connected and share expertise and information.

Understanding common problems in different contexts enables activists to develop creative actions on all levels: regional, national and international. Thus, UNITED brings together the expertise and creativity of hundreds of different organisations - from large, international organisations to small local groups - to strengthen the international pan-European anti-discrimination movement.

UNITED is and will remain independent from all political parties, organisations, and states. The network seeks an active co-operation with other anti-racist initiatives in Europe.

UNITED for Intercultural Action

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

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GOOD PRACTICE

Community Mobilisation Against Extremist Programmes and Candidates

North Carolina is a very conservative US Southern State, which had always supported the Republican Party. As a counter response, North Carolina, unsurprisingly, has a history of strong civil rights movements, notably the famous Greensboro civil rights actions.

For the first time in history, in 2007, North Carolina voted for the Democratic candidate Barak Obama, which came as a huge surprise to all analysts, and in particular to the Republican party establishment. Despite an important block of core supporters that has always allowed conservatives to impose their restrictive rules in North Carolina, the 2007 election revealed that there was indeed a scattered majority of people who were hoping for more progressive policies and attitudes.

This further reinvigorated a civil rights movement to shift gears and seek to forge a broad alliance that would bring again this majority together under a more structured agenda.

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) North Carolina chapter took a leading role in this effort over the last 7 years. They started their campaigning and community mobilising approach on a fairly simple level, by asking every

excluded community and discriminated group who are their adversaries. For African-Americans: the adversary are conservative Republicans; Feminists and pro-choice communities: conservative Republicans; LGBTQI communities: conservative Republicans; Muslim communities: conservative Republicans; Latinos and Hispanics: conservative Republicans; the definition of electoral districts: conservative Republicans; etc.

It appeared very clearly that, despite different expectations for every group, there was one common adversary preventing the aspirations of each and every group to take off. Identifying this common adversary served as a useful basis to start a dialogue between the different groups, and from there onwards to start developing a common agenda around work, education, social justice and opportunities for everybody.

This long and painful exercise of community building with the view to mobilise voters in a progressive direction has begun to bear fruits through an increased understanding between the different communities and greater sense of solidarity around common or community specific causes. This mobilisation has started to be translated into votes around common expectations.

*Greensboro civil rights actions: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greensboro,_North_Carolina#Civil_rights_movement
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: <http://naacpnc.org>*

Your vote can make the difference!

UNITED is SUPPORTED by

more than 550 organisations from 48 European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste, Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service and the EVS, Grundtvig and Leonardo Programmes of the European Union
Since 1992 financial support was received from various sponsors such as: European Commission (General Budget/Socrates/Grundtvig/Youth in Action Programme/DG Employment Social Affairs/ TACIS IBPP), Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation/European Youth Centres), OSCE-ODIHR, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, World Council of Churches, Olof Palmes Minnesfond, Cultural Council Sweden, Ministry of Education Slovenia, Green Group - Socialist Group - and GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament, European Cultural Foundation, Stiftung West-Östliche Begegnung, Aktionsbündnis Gegen Gewalt, Rechtstextremismus und Fremdenfeindlichkeit Brandenburg, Home Office UK, Ministry of Interior-BZK NL, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs CH, the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Instituto Português da Juventude, National Integration Office Sweden, Service Nationale de la Jeunesse Luxembourg, LNU - Norwegian Youth Council, Europees Platform Grundtvig, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Federal Social Insurance Office (Dep. for Youth Affairs) CH, Swiss Coordination Office of Youth for Europe, Federal Service for Combating Racism (Fund for Projects Against Racism) CH, Migros Kulturprozent CH, Comunidad de Madrid, Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan, The Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs, Rothschild Foundation, Local Municipality of Budapest, Youth Board of Cyprus, Jewish Humanitarian Fund, Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future, Minority Rights Group Europe, OSCE - Mission to Skopje, Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Provincie Noord-Brabant, Open Society Foundations, Final Frontiers Internet, Dijkman Print and others.



'Youth in Action' Programme



This campaign has been funded with support of the Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation), the Youth In Action Programme of the European Union, the Open Society Foundations and the Provincie Noord-Brabant.

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