

# Be loud against fascism



## UNITED We are Stronger!

Since the early 1990s, UNITED for Intercultural Action has coordinated and inspired annual pan-European antifascist activities on 9 November. The aim is two-fold; firstly, we commemorate victims of the “Kristallnacht” pogrom and, more broadly, victims of the Holocaust and of fascism throughout history. Secondly, we want to warn societies about the danger of nationalism, racism, antisemitism, right-wing extremism and neo-fascism today. We want to mobilise different groups and individuals to build a common front against hate ideologies and violence.

**The only common ground that can unite a diverse. Antifascist movement is the common problem we see. Fighting it together or one by one is important enough. The key point in the question is “diverse” but it is also “antifascist”. Those two things are enough to start working. These two points are also what gives strength to the movement and brings new ideas and people in.** Irene, “No Border Project” Social Action Centre (UA)

## Take part in the UNITED Campaign!

- Make sure your event is included in the European List of Activities! Inform UNITED about your planned activities including the contact details of your organisation.
- Make use of this poster! Order (max. 100 posters) for free from the secretariat.
- Get inspired by our information leaflet “Get Active – The “How to organise an activity?” Guide”.

## Some practical advice

- Use the resources you already have within your organisation.
- Think about the message you want to communicate, what outcome do you expect?
- Look for partners and alliances – if appropriate – outside the NGO movement (schools, religious community groups).
- Try to involve as many people as possible during the preparation stage itself (volunteers, partners etc.)
- Divide tasks clearly in your (campaign) team.

## How UNITED can help you

- UNITED will produce a special list of all activities which will take place in Europe, this can help you to make contacts and generate ideas. It will be updated regularly on: [www.unitedagainstracism.org](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org) under “campaigns”.
- Call UNITED if you cannot find a partner for your activities. We might know of other NGOs in your region or city who are planning an activity.
- Keep in mind that you can order campaign material at the UNITED secretariat for free.

A media release will be sent to the UNITED network organisations and to all important European press agencies, newspapers, etc. Journalists who want to know more about specific activities are referred to the organisations involved in local actions. UNITED produces a European report after 9 November, including as many of the activities that took place as possible.

## How you can help UNITED

- Tell us about your activities and send us your invitations, leaflets and posters before and after the campaign!
- Help us make the report complete and send us newspaper articles, reports, photos, etc. directly after the event.
- Provide us with more media contacts!

## What is UNITED?

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. More than 550 organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds, from 48 European countries, work together in common activities, such as European-wide campaigns. Like-minded organisations have the opportunity to meet each other at conferences and elaborate specific projects. UNITED is and will remain independent from all political parties, organisations and states, but seeks an active co-operation with other anti-racist initiatives in Europe. Information is received from more than 2000 organisations and mailings go out to about 2300 groups in Europe. Let us know if you want to get involved! Add your UNITED to your mailing list!

(1) *Kristallnacht, Crystal Night, Night of Broken Glass, November pogroms – the debate on the use of an appropriate terminology to describe what happened on 9 November 1938 is very intense and involves scientists, politicians and representatives of both governmental and non-governmental organisations. In the UNITED publications, the term “Kristallnacht” pogrom is used, referring both to the internationally known German term put in quotation marks and the explicit labeling as a pogrom, clearly pointing out the crimes committed by the nazis.*

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, the European Voluntary Service - and Leonardo Programme and Austrian Holocaust Memorial Service. 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-ODHR, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, World Council of Churches, Olof Palmes Minnefond, 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, Rechtstextismus 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, Vuurwerk internet, Instituto Português da Juventude, National Integration Office Sweden, Service Nationale de la Jeunesse Luxembourg, UNU - Norwegian Youth Council, Europes 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, Rotschild Foundation, Local Municipality of Budapest, Open Society Institute, Youth Board of Cyprus, Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future, Open Society Foundation - Bratislava, Final Frontiers internet, Dijkman Offset and others.

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**If we need to end the growth of fascism we need to be visible and show how many are we. If we want change we need to take responsibility for it and seek it. Change does not happen by watching television, change happens on the streets and in the institutions; change is never brought by one, but change can be brought by all.**  
Stefan, Centre for Intercultural Dialogue (MK)

We all believe in equality, diversity and antidiscrimination and hold antifascist values – but what do we do about it? Maybe we would not vote for fascist parties, we stay away from fascists on the street, or shake our heads at fascist graffiti. It is not enough to hold a view, we need to express it, showing loud and clear that fascism is at odds with our values and cannot be tolerated in society. To be loud against fascism means not only using your voice, but adding your voice to the others. Our individual voices may speak in different tones and languages, using different vocabulary and structure, but when combined and heard together they create an inescapable sound so strong you cannot help but sit up and take notice. For the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism 2011 on 9 November, we need to get vocal, pick up our instruments and create an antifascist chorus that echoes across Europe.  
Be loud for your communities – Be loud against your enemies – Be Loud Against Fascism

**Democracy means to fight for what I believe is important and not negotiable – the fundamental equality and dignity of all people. Democracy also means to fight against what I believe is unbearable – prejudice, humiliation and hate towards people who are perceived as “different”. Such extreme-right thinking is still very vivid all over Europe. To oppose this, we must unite and peacefully show that there is no place for intolerance, racism and antisemitism in Europe today. That is why I support the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaign.**  
Maria, Netzwerk für Demokratie und Courage (D)



This leaflet therefore collects voices from within our movement, opening up about their views on the significance of antifascism and the concepts central to it. Whilst some are long-standing antifascist activists, others work in fields at the other end of the broad UNITED spectrum. Perspectives, opinions and experiences may differ but all are agreed on the absolute necessity of antifascism and the value of our individual contributions to the antifascist movement. No matter where we stand, we must all face the same direction.

**At every stage we should fight for the maximum unity, understanding that being united, it will be far less likely that we will be defeated. To create that unity, antiracists must learn to become antifascists and anti-fascists must learn the necessity of antiracism and antisemitism. At the same time, we need always to measure the threat rationally and soberly without exaggeration, which only generates fear and paralyses the will to resist.**  
Graeme, Searchlight Magazine (UK)

**Loud on the Street on 9 November**  
Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something  
Hands of organisations and informal groups of all kinds have taken an active part in the campaign over the years. It is time for you, too! The campaign is pluralist and open: there is place and space for all. Its strength is in having a European movement taking part in a common action, collectively using one theme and slogan. We use different approaches and methods but we have one shared vision of a society without hatred and discrimination, based on human rights. This poster is a tool to support your campaign activities; you can organise diverse events, such as public discussions, meetings with eye-witnesses, demonstrations, commemoration, conferences, posters and media action, cultural events and much more. For more inspiration and practical ideas, you can read the reports under “campaigns”: [www.unitedagainstracism.org](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org) look at previous campaigns.  
We should get out on the streets on 9 November not only for hate speech, no one can be cool with fascist graffiti on the walls and no one can tolerate fascist political campaign materials in their neighbourhood. We have to keep our environment clean in this sense too. Do it today, tomorrow can be late.  
Marcell, Music Against Racism (H)



**Resistance**  
In my view, to be an antifascist is both a moral obligation and a permanent commitment to democracy shaped by core principles based in human rights and human dignity. To be an antifascist means to be active against hatred, motivate yourself and motivate others to keep on working for democracy: to have a clear vision about how important the individual contribution for that cause is.  
Volenti, Movement Against Intolerance (E)

**Never Again!**  
Antifascism takes many different forms, or voices. How we choose to embody antifascism comes from personal experience and political standpoints. What does being an antifascist mean to you?  
In Europe today, that means solidarity with Muslims, Roma, Black people and Jews, with migrant workers, refugees, with the other vulnerable communities the neo-nazis attack. We do not want to see young people indoctrinated into a culture of hate. Who else can resist but us – the ordinary decent citizens of Europe?  
Liz, Institute of Race Relations (UK)

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**Why this campaign?**  
Looking to the right-wing tendencies in modern Europe, we must be aware that history can be repeated and the Holocaust happened with the silent acceptance and support of the broad majority. Nowadays, right-wing extremism is a rising force on the continent. Hate crimes are being committed in regular reality, extreme right-wing parties are elected in local and national parliaments and xenophobic propaganda is becoming legitimate in societies.  
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9 November 1938 marked the beginning of the “Kristallnacht” pogrom” and it is seen today as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust, the policy of systematic killing murdering millions of people. It reminds us that such terrible things did not start with deportations and concentration camps, but developed step by step. Nazi propaganda and hate speech against Jews and laws depriving Jewish citizens of their rights – as happened with the “Nuremberg Laws” which, among other things, stripped German Jews of their citizenship – were the first steps which eventually culminated in violence and pogroms.  
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