UNITED Conference

Living our Lives without Discrimination and Racism:
Anti-discrimination in Youth Culture and Sports
October 27-31, 2004, in Oslo, Norway

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INTRODUCTION, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE
A football stadium or a disco can be a mirror of society.
The struggle against racism and discrimination includes combating everyday racism and everyday discriminatory practices. They are often embedded in culture and lifestyle: the way we live our lives. In contemporary societies lifestyles are influenced and formed through popular culture and youth culture. Youth culture has become a powerful vehicle for transmitting ideas and attitudes. The field of sports, and football in particular, seems extremely important in shaping identities.
Music, subcultures, new media all of them have a significant impact on the way people live their lives in our increasingly pluralist societies, both in Western and Eastern Europe.
Youth culture is often used to spread racism. Anti-racists and anti-fascists must be conscious of the challenges present in youth culture and sports. It is necessary to work on attractive alternatives against racist tendencies in those spheres. Moreover, youth culture and sports are excellent tools against social exclusion and for social integration and participation of minority and migrant youth, including young refugees and asylum-seekers.
But is it sufficient to concentrate our efforts on the cultural politics of lifestyle? Can we use it to fight for changes in discriminatory structures and institutions, too?
A Palestinian-born human rights activist from Bulgaria was denied a visa to participate in the UNITED Conference. That incident clearly illustrated the reality of discrimination in Europe today.
The aim of this Conference of UNITED for Intercultural Action was to provide a forum for the important debate on racism and anti-racism in youth culture and sports in Europe today. New practical ideas have been exchanged and developed and joint campaigns have been planned.

ICE-BREAKING
This conference started with a very simple but conscience-awakening exercise.
Mindful of the fact there were more than 90 participants from 38 different European countries, it was not that easy to discern what distance some people had covered to make it to the conference. It was not easy to know who was from which country and what type of discussion to stimulate when together. The world of today and most especially young people, seem to be carving out their own very cultures and social hibernation spheres to the extent of forgetting who their closest neighbours/nations are. Thus, this simulated play simply involved forming a human map of Europe by participants. The leader - Milena Tetanovic (Norwegian People's Aid) - indicated the cardinal
points on the floor, followed by calling the names of two countries who took certain positions on the floor. After that the participants were asked to take positions of their countries using the first two as benchmarks. It was just marvellous, seeing how people struggled to figure out where their countries were located on the globe and secondly knowing where some of the participants were from. This and other thought-provoking exercises instantly created free room for discussion and knowing each other better before the daily activities started.

3 DANGER OF WORDS - CONCEPTS USED IN ANTIRACIST/ANTIFASCIST WORK

Words can sound so simple as they can be complex. These very words can portray completely varying meanings in different contexts as we shift from one location to another or one institution to another. Words can be as dangerous and conflicting just as they can be a force for unity and socio-cultural and political cohesion.

In recognition of the dynamic and volatile meaning of certain words over time, it was thought wise to frame a list of eight words commonly used in antiracist/antifascist work by way of introduction to further discussions during the conference. These eight words were brainstormed in several groups with the aim to prepare the minds of the participants to be acquainted with contextual differences in terminology that would frequently be used in the conference. It was astonishing to find out that despite the almost daily usage of certain words by the participants, meanings were always tied to different cultural or political historical or present contexts.

To sum up all these discussions, the following broad consensus was the outcome:

- **Discrimination** - Passive or active attitudes that exclude and pressurise a group of persons or individual because of their differences.
- **Nationalism** - It is an ideology that some people bear which portrays their particular nations to be greater than and superior to others.
- **National identity** - Common aspects within people from a specific country or nation.
- **Culture** - It is everything that has been created by human beings living as a group in space and time.
- **Youth culture** - Process of change and expression of youth in the society.
- **Migration** - It is a process of movement of people from one place to another for some reasons at a particular time with the aim of settling for the time being.

More information: UNITED Information leaflet #13 "The Danger of Words:Definitions of Concepts Most Frequently Used in Anti-racist Work" available free of charge from the UNITED secretariat.

4 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Migration and cultures: The causes and cultural implications of migration
By Khalid Salimi, "Samora" magazine - Norway and Emmanuel Ngaikpu, Mount Cameroon - Belgium

The aim of the panel debate was to throw light on certain key themes that were to be discussed during the conference. It is a fact that many people are discriminated against because of their cultures or because of migrating to new places. Migration and cultures seem to be easy terms when used in daily language, but when used in the practical sense and when the consequences of that practicability begin to emerge, the society begins to revolt against the unknown and the strange.

According to Emmanuel Ngaikpu, migration can be considered one of the earliest aspects of human culture. The presenter concluded that, when migration is viewed as human culture, it therefore means the legitimisation of the very essence of the existence of man. Furthermore, apart from other types of migration, the presenter depicted two major types of migration in space: horizontal and vertical. Whereby the vertical implied the movement from the South to the North,
and the horizontal - within the North. More positive connotations are often assigned to the horizontal and negative to the vertical. Northern countries are in a state of banalising the vertical movement in favour of the horizontal.

Khalid Salimi sees migration as a simple phenomenon. In actual fact more people have moved from Europe to the Americas than into Europe from elsewhere. Whenever people move, it is always for a particular reason. No one single human being would move for the sake of migrating. Movement should be a basic human right! He maintained that culture has to be diverse, it should be like water in a river that flows, but still hold onto the ground. He stressed that all laws were human and thus, still changeable. Nation states decide who should be a citizen and who not. They are all absurd laws that can be changed because they are all not eternal.

5 THEMATIC WORKSHOP
Thematic working groups gave the participants an opportunity to discuss in-depth various topics within the conference subject field. Starting with introductory exchanges of opinions, the working group sessions went on to sharing good practices and developing common strategies. Each of the groups was greatly enhanced by the fact that it included participants from various countries with a fair geographical distribution, with both West and East strongly represented.

5.1 Cultural activities in the fight against racism
Moderators: Alan Aguilar and Mari Linlokken - Anti-Racist Centre, Norway

The aim of the working group was an introduction to the topic "cultural activities in the fight against racism". The group involved participants from many countries who presented their work and achievements. Everyone got a chance to know each other, and their work, better. In line with the participants' expectations the group members shared practices and got ideas they can apply to their own work, together with making a network of contacts. Also a more general discussion started on the question if art and cultural activities can be used against racism. Does it really have any effect or is it just propaganda, in the sense that the "receivers" are already sharing your views? In this discussion also different forms of "art" were analysed as tools of expression, like sports and literature/poems. It was also emphasised in the discussion on music that it is important to focus on the content, not only the form. It is a danger that cultural activities become something like an "exotic token". This led the participants to identify problems concerning this issue, which were subsequently discussed in depth.

5.2 Sports against racism
Moderators: Trygve Augestad and Henrik Stabell - Norwegian People's Aid

The working group was based on active participation of all its members. During the first session they tried to identify the main problems that exist in sports with racism. In order to achieve this goal the session was divided in two parts: First of all an attempt was made to list different forms of racism in sports, mainly on the basis of personal experience of participants. Then it was asked to imagine what could happen in this field within the next five years, expressing one positive expectation, and a negative one.

The second session consisted of descriptions of projects already run and experienced by some of the participants within their own organisation. Subsequently information was received on good practices coming from Norway (NPA), Portugal (A race against racism), Finland, Italy, and Great Britain (Show Racism The Red Card). Finally, the elements identified as dangerous during the first session: · the things we would like to happen within 5 years, but not likely to happen · things we would not like to happen but unfortunately likely to happen

Participants were divided into 2 persons per group to focus on those two categories. Each group had to prepare an action plan in order to prevent such dangers from becoming reality. Some examples of the projects: sensitisation of youth through actions within schools and stadiums in
5.3 Youth policy and youth participation
Moderator: Hagop Sarkarian - Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi

Youth policy and youth participation working group’s first meeting was with participants from Albania, Cyprus, Azerbaijan, Germany, Luxembourg, Romania, Sweden, Croatia and Finland. The main point of the discussion was youth policy as a term and the meaning(s) of the term. Primarily, youth policy involves legal framework, national and international documents and reflections. Also, it contains the "four-legs" concept: political, social, educational and economical aspects. One of the most important aspects in the youth policy is participation of young people in decision-making processes and access to these levels. The participants exchanged their experience concerning the problem of passiveness and apathy. There are different factors that have influence on passiveness among youth: security, economic and political issues. Other focal points that are included in youth policy are: right to vote, NGO activism, voluntary activities, self-expression of youth.

One of the conclusions was that government should be responsible for youth policy in a sense of creating circumstances and mechanisms for the expression of young people such as National Programme for Youth and the implementation of the program. Young people need to be the driving forces that will constantly and continuously influence youth related issues. That has to be done through systematic and strategic programs to be instituted by government(s) on local and national level. These programs must involve a high level of participation of youth. The presumption is that young people must be more active if they want to enhance their status.

5.4 Anti-fascism and the involvement of youth
Moderator: Rafal Pankowski - UNITED for Intercultural Action and 'Never Again' Association, Poland

The main problems which are faced by the anti-fascist movement in Europe were discussed during the session: fascism as a social and political phenomenon, hidden forms of fascism and its new displays. Members of the working group exchanged their opinions using examples of several countries.

The first national report was about Moldova. The appearance of fascism in Moldova has a strong political basis, and there are two sources of fascism in Moldova. The first one is the right-radical movement under the name of the Christian-Democratic Peoples Party (9 per cent of seats in Moldovan parliament) that justifies the regime of the wartime Romanian dictator Antonescu (an ally of Hitler). The ideas of the Christian-Democratic Peoples Party are propagated by chauvinistic newspapers "Tara" and "Flux". The next source of fascist propaganda in Moldova is the influence of Russian pro-fascist groups such as RNU (Russian National Unity) and 'National-Bolsheviks'. Fascism and right-extremism in Russia could be ranked in 3 categories: Parliamentary groups (Liberal-Democratic party and Communist party), Nationalists (such as Russian National Unity) and Nazi-skinheads. There were about 10,000 skinhead Nazis in Russia before parliamentary elections in 1999, by the next election campaign the number had increased to 40,000. It was mentioned that cities with a population of about one million, would possibly be harbouring several thousand nazis. Special focus was made on fascism on the stadiums. It is often directed against football players and fans. Nazi fans use special symbols which refer to fascist ideologies. "Never Again" Association noted the activities of these organizations in the field, and looked for means of combating it. In Poland this racial hatred also focuses on persons who do not match the model of "Real Pole", promoted by fascist and racist organizations. "Never Again" Association realizes projects like "Let's kick racism out of stadiums". In the framework of this campaign the monitoring results of racist incidents in Polish stadiums are published in anti-racist magazines such as "Stadium". During the working group the same problem in other states was discussed. But unfortunately, strong movements against fascism on stadiums do not exist in many countries.

In Cyprus, the conflict between the North and the South is still acute. Nevertheless there do exist some examples of successful co-operation between Turkish and Greek Cypriots on the level of civil
society. One of them is, for instance, the mutual preparation of the books on history for 5th year schoolchildren.

A presentation of the situation in Scandinavia, with a special focus on Norway, stressed the international aspects of anti-fascist work with examples of successful cooperation between Norwegian and Polish as well as Russian anti-fascists. The word international co-operation was crucial in all the discussions and debates in the working group. It was noticed that extreme right movements drastically develop and without international co-operation little would be done to curb the growth. Of utmost importance is also the fact that this co-operation must be practically realised: in common projects and on a daily basis.

5.5 **Minorities, migrants and identity**
Moderators: Emmanuel Ngaikpu - Mount Cameroon, Belgium and Natalia Sineaeva - Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Moldova

The aim of this working group was to explore certain problems migrants and minorities face in the light of the enlarged European Union. What are some of the good practices as well as possible solutions to these problems?
The session started with interesting and enlightening presentations of migrant and minority situations in Finland, Latvia and Moldova.

There was a deep discussion about the Roma situation in different countries. It was mentioned that the experience of "integration" had failed in many countries. Some countries such as Bulgaria and other Eastern European countries were adopting positive discrimination policies to integrate minorities in the society. The integration of minorities for example in Germany failed because it does not recognise itself as a country with minority problems.
The representative of the African Youth Norway Association, an organization working for the integration of African youngsters in Norwegian society, presented some successful projects. An example of a successful activity they had was the creation of a musical project, they gathered together 45 youngsters and encouraged them to do something positive.

Long, interesting and constructive discussions concerned the common strategies that could be developed in order to make organisations powerful in fighting against racism.
- First and foremost, institutional staff should be diversified along ethnical lines, because more chances have be given to both the minorities, the migrants and the asylum seekers, they should have the chance to act like active parts of one body. For example they could be offered jobs in the social or NGO sectors.
- Secondly, it is crucial to mobilize ethnic minorities, migrants and asylum seekers, in the sense that they should play an active role. Unity and cooperation are the key pillars in any action. Despite existing differences it is advisable to be strong and united. It must be ensured that voices must go through and be heard most especially in the institutional context.
- Thirdly, they should be informed about what is happening in other countries, to other minority groups around the world, the actions of similar associations in other countries.
- Fourth, it was thought necessary to educate people on tolerance. One suggestion was to institute tolerance classes in the schools. This would be crucial in getting closer to children as they still could have an open-minded attitude towards such issues.
The group concluded with the idea of creating a mailing list through which organizations would discuss how to mobilize these migrants and refugees as a tool for empowerment and participation. In this way concrete material in the form of an information leaflet could be prepared.

5.6 **Young refugees**
Moderators: Milena Tetanovic - Norwegian People's Aid and David Chikashua - Human Rights Information & Documentation Centre, Georgia

There were participants from eight different countries with different experiences and working in different situations some countries have more developed systems of providing aid to refugees such as Belgium and Denmark. Other countries such as Azerbaijan cannot even afford shelter and
other facilities for hundreds of thousands of refugees who remain in poor conditions. Some countries have mainly internally displaced people (IDPs) such as Serbia. One common uniting fact and spirit that reigned in the group was the dedication to help refugees, that means people who fled or were forced to flee their countries and now facing difficult situations elsewhere. The situation seems to be worsening for them as the idea of Fortress Europe grows and is becoming a reality.

The final expectations were: to share experience and ideas, to disseminate information, to meet other people working in the same area and make contacts with possible cooperation in the future, receive information about the situation in various European countries and from people coming from different backgrounds and share practical knowledge - how to organize campaigns and learn from others.

There are some topics that were perceived as real problems and it was thought an imperative to mention them in their specificities.

- refugees in conflict situations
- trafficking refugees
- education of young refugees and their integration.

During the presentation of different organizations, the participants were informed about interesting projects and campaigns and some best practices:

- UNITED: European refugee campaign - documenting all refugees who died when crossing borders to Europe, resulted in the list of about 5000 people who died (see www.unitedagainstracism.org, or contact info@unitedagainstracism.org).
- Human Rights Information and Documentation Center (Georgia) - psychological rehabilitation of children through arts.
- Universal Embassy (Belgium) - helps the undocumented people. This is an extremely difficult task because people do not have legal status and they face risks of being arrested or apprehended by state.
- HAC (Finland) - hip-hop music as a tool to forget about racism and facilitate culture.
- Danish Refugee Council - special project targeted at refugees who entered the country in their teens. They are implementing methods how to integrate them and peering system proves to be efficient.
- Consortium of Refugee Assisting Organizations (Czech Republic) - networking and cooperating is a way to strengthen organizations, to make them more visible and more effective.

Conclusively it was learned from some group members that the situation of refugees is harder when they find themselves in another country in turmoil - such as social crises, high level of unemployment, poverty etc. This problem was identified mainly in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Nevertheless it was thought that it is especially difficult for refugees to be left without help. This was compounded by the fact that European governments are trying to keep them outside political agendas or only use them to achieve political favours.

It was concluded that culture and sport are tools to promoting tolerance within the younger generation. Stereotyping refugees in many countries as 'criminals' must be fought against and a stop put to it.

6 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

Nationalism, national identity & youth in Central & Eastern Europe. Nationalism as a source of xenophobia & conflicts

By Vladimir Malakhov, Moscow School of Social & Economic Sciences - Russia

In the beginning of the 1990s the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern block states (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, etc) faced a problem of growth of ethnic nationalism and xenophobia at different levels. Vladimir Malakhov shared with the participants Brubaker's theory applicable to East European countries that could be designed not as "nation-building" but "nationalizing states" states which have an ethnically diverse population but proceed from the ideal of nation as an ethnically homogeneous community. In other words, the nation is being seen as a community of people with the same origin, which leads to intolerance. Non-Croats in Croatia, non-Serbs in Serbia, non-Ukrainians in Ukraine, non-Estonians in Estonia are getting subjected to various procedures of social exclusion. As far as nation is being considered not a political community which allows a great deal of cultural diversity, but an ethno-cultural community, it implicates an intolerance to ethnic and cultural diversity; people of different origins are being seen
as potential enemies of the state. The politics of Russia nowadays is more symbolic politics than instrumental politics whereby everyday life is still controlled by institutions. Finally Vladimir reminded the audience not to forget that opposition to right-wing radicalism and radical nationalism should become not only a moral necessity but also the guidance to practical activities. We should not forget that it was exactly aggressive nationalism based on extreme patriotism in Germany that gave a way to the victory of fascism and persecution of two main ethnic minority groups in Germany for that time - Jews and Roma. As a result of that concentration camps appeared and millions of people were massacred because of their ethnic and political identity.

Vladimir Malakhov’s articles (in Russian & English):

7 POLITICAL CAFE ON GLOBALISATION
The aim of the political café was to create room whereby free thoughts could be exchanged on certain national/international issues in an informal setting. The chosen theme in this particular conference was on a vast term "globalisation". The heated discussion stemmed from the remark that genuine globalisation could not be feasible with the paternalistic nature of the world. It was claimed women’s position was still in jeopardy and many issues still had to be addressed in that respect. This remark sparked a huge and long debate which later on split participants into groups of feminists versus the rest who were against the idea. The definition of feminism was brainstormed and at the same the concreteness of the term being used as an activist terminology was challenged.

8 PRESENTATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS
One of the aims of the conference in Oslo was to share ideas and learn from each other about activities against racism as implemented by different organisations in different countries. Sharing the various views could lead to adopting unified strategies in the fight against racism and fascism. In order to achieve this aim, time was allocated for short summary presentations from each group. Other participants had the chance to share and ask questions on the discussions that had been going on in other groups. At the end most of the participants were elated with the discussions that went on in the other groups as that was one of the ways to feel the "steam" of the whole conference.

9 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
Football against racism in Europe
by Daniela Conti - Unione Italiana Sport Per Tutti and Football Against Racism in Europe - Italy
Sports can be a very vital tool in campaigning against racisms and discrimination. In the last years some organisations across Europe have fruitfully set up campaigns that succeeded in the attempt to kick racism out of sports and more specifically out of football where it is most visible. A series of successful anti-racist campaigns in football were carried out, among others, in Italy, England, France, Belgium and Poland. In Italy, successful campaigns included the organisation of summer football competitions that usually attracted a huge registration and participation by amateur football clubs as well as a large number of spectators. It was noticed that many of the racist activities in the football Italian league were in most cases against black players. The government has been taking some measures in this respect, but notwithstanding, more still has to be done. Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) uses several means to consolidate and reinforce the fight against racism in European football. In order to achieve this, local as well as international media have been contacted to assist in the sensitisation campaigns. Among others, FARE won the prestigious MTV "Free Your Mind" Award. FARE also tries to contact international star players to use their image in the fight against racism.
For more information see www.farenet.org

10 UNITED NETWORK CAMPAIGNS: LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVES
European campaigns in the framework of UNITED can help set the agenda on all levels. Campaigns have to be carried out on local, regional and European level to get the point across. By linking local and national actions, European-wide publicity can be generated. There is proof that there is an enormous amount of people that believe in an intercultural open society. It gives all participants a new energy to go on with their everyday struggle against racism and intolerance. You will get motivated and inspired by the ideas and enthusiasm of other people, learn from each other's experience and views, generate more publicity because of the scope and size of the activity, mobilise more people as you reach a combined audience, etc. It is the variety and creativity of many different simultaneous activities all over Europe that make the UNITED campaigns unique. There is a common date, and every year a theme emerges that gets special attention.

11 ACTION PLANNING WORKING GROUPS

11.1 Anti-racism in the media
Moderator: Natalia Sineaeva - Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Moldova

The action planning group focused on the following aspects of the discussion: special media dedicated to minorities; problems of discrimination and antifascism; mainstream media. The group started with a presentation of antifascist media from Eastern Europe: 1) Moldavian magazine "The Collage" issued by Helsinki Citizens Assembly from Chisinau, written in English, Russian and Romanian languages and spreading for free, 2) "Nigdy Wiecej" ("Never Again") from Poland with big circulation all over the country, 3) "Antifascist motive" - Russian specialist magazine from S.Petersburg.

There were also some examples of work in mainstream media ("Panorama" newspaper, Sumy, Ukraine) and in the specialized press, where articles are aimed at the elimination of negative stereotypes. Another part of the work was the evaluation of standard mass-media in different countries and of the possibilities for cooperation with journalists. As a result it was concluded that that the situation in every country was different and depended on the social-political life, economical situation, motivation of the editor, quantity of minority groups in the region, etc. So, some projects that can be useful in one country cannot to be used in another one. Discussions dedicated to mainstream media included: Spreading information in society and through the press published by our own organizations; Education for journalists; Raising interest on specific themes for mass-media. Different tactics and strategies were developed: 1) To create a media section on the UNITED website (www.unitedagainstracism.org) with contributions from network organisations. 2) To create a database of antifascist mass-media. 3) To inform professionals from remote regions about the problems; 4) To prepare specific target materials for the media; 5) To sensitize the public on special publishing projects (for example a new book about Roma culture and history). 6) To educate human rights activists; 7) The idea to make antifascist media in tabloid format like English "Searchlight" magazine did before with enough success; 8) To create a list of publications of prominent people from the world/country who fight against discrimination or from minority group.

Education for journalists should contain: 1) training courses for journalists directed to minimize prejudice in the press, to avoid hate speech in publications and to educate them on tolerance; 2) competitions for journalists a proposal for mass-media to write articles/make TV or radio programs dedicated to antifascism, problems of discrimination, refugees and minorities. It could be regional, national and international. Previous experience of different competitions gave good results. Cooperation with mass media is an important part of the work of activists. Different tactics can be used like 'pressing' the editor, a proposal to write a good real-life story, becoming a friend to journalists or own work in media.
A strategic step could be to put posters or leaflets in public places (streets, institutions, cultural places) during a campaign period or irregularly, that will provoke interest of people and would generate chain reaction effects. Even if this campaign will be a shock for society it will help or lead to actions not only towards journalists and the public but also human rights activists and other specialists. Another important method is monitoring of the press (hate speech in publications; thematic articles about minorities, refugees, migrants and problem of xenophobia; how newspapers reflect on needs and problems of regions) with regular evaluation and reports. Participants of the action planning group would like to be included in a mailing list and new ideas/proposals will be discussed and developed.

11.2 Campaigning against racism
Moderator: Milena Tetanovic - Norwegian People's Aid

The action planning group against racism was one of the most important working groups of the conference. The discussion in this group focused on some important dates in the history of racism. Particular attention was paid to March 21st, which marks the International Day Against Racism. In that same week, the UNITED network carries out a week of activities against racism. To mark celebrations of this day with some stout and resounding campaign, the group decided to focus its reflection on three topics including: Racism in everyday life, Racism and youth cultures, Islamophobia.

To have a better understanding of the term Islamophobia a lot of brainstorming was done on that and certain slogans against it were derived: Do not feed the fear; Do not legitimise racism; No racism is legitimate; Islam=terrorism??, Do not use the media against Islam, Racism=terrorism, My religion is not a threat, Let me be myself, Teach Islam in schools, diversity is there to stay!, accept diversity it exists.

With respect to the idea of youth culture, the brainstorming resulted in singling out some words that are linked to youth culture and racism. Some of these words included: Heros, music, festivals, nightclubs, stereotypes, mentality, exclusion, pubs/schools, subcultures, racist groups. The slogans carved out to fight these vices included: Be cool, fight racism; Use pop stars, football players, heroes; You can have many more friends if you are not racist; Young, cool; and open minded; Don't put yourself in a cage.

11.3 Campaigning in support of refugees
Moderators: Emmanuel Ngaikpu - Mount Cameroon, Belgium and David Chikashua - Human Rights Information & Documentation Centre, Georgia

The issue of refugees was one of the pivotal points discussed during the conference. Refugees have been in the limelight both in many countries' national as well as international politics for the past decade. Several actors have sought better strategies of managing, receiving, and integrating refugees. These groups of migrants are the most vulnerable to all sorts or prejudices, hate and xenophobic behaviour. In this regard strong and stringent campaigning mechanisms and strategies have to be carved out to protect refugees and show solidarity to those in that destitute situation.

The workgroup started the campaigning session with the definition of certain terminologies that could be used in the efficient campaign in support of refugees. It was thought to categorise the campaigns to match the different categories of refugees. This point was hotly contested because some representatives thought that would not suit the needs of their various organisations. An agreement was finally reached to figure out certain general points that could be used in an efficient campaign.

One of them is to intensify the information and dissemination flow about maltreatment of refugees or those in detention. Educating local people on refugee issues with more emphasis on why and how people become refugees. In this aspect of education, it was stressed that the youth should be the target group because most of them are so innocent and indifferent about the refugee issues until when intoxicated by their parents how bad refugees are. It was proposed that as campaign for the 20 June, the International Refugee Day, school kids could formulate a simulated play in the
forest about fleeing from war to an unknown environment. In the unknown and strange environment, there are about five homes spread about 1km away. From the five homes only one is the good one that is willing to offer refuge. The conditions in the terrain are rough and the house owners are rude. After long hours of searching, one person is finally offered shelter while the rest are thrown in the cold and darkness of the forest. This is just to show, in a simulated manner, what refugees go through when seeking asylum in some cases.

11.4 Sport against racism
Moderator: Daniela Conti - Unione Italiana Sport Per Tutti and Football Against Racism in Europe, Italy

The working group on the campaign for sports against racism did come out with some serious and thought evoking conclusions for the fight against racism in sport. It was concluded that to have a concerted and action-oriented campaign, the media had to be sensitised on the issue of racism. It was decided to get the local journalist on board planning for actions. The aim was to initiate positive attitudes to representatives of minority groups and improve networking with the media. It was advised to work with sports commentators to avoid nationalistic feelings and tendencies in their commentaries and to teach them how to make "oppositions" to objects and not to people. Strengthening the dissemination of information about good practices through the Internet on good anti-discrimination practices should be a priority. Students of journalism should be targeted while the use of testimonials should be encouraged- media should publish photos of events e.g. players in anti-racist-shirts, constant press releases to other media sources should be issued. Price tickets should be reduced for representatives of minority groups and more lobbying should be carried out to include non-EU athletes into sporting clubs and groups.
Some of the slogan proposals included: Together in creating cultural diversity in sports, we are with you. Diversity scores goals. Sport is a common language. I have the balls to fight against discrimination. Sports for all. Unity through sports. Sports is older than racism/fascism.

11.5 Campaigning against fascism
Moderator: Rafal Pankowski - UNITED for Intercultural Action and 'Never Again' Association, Poland

Participants reflected on the fact that in many ways the heart of the European anti-fascist movement today seems to be beating in Central and Eastern Europe, as reflected in the countries represented. They discussed the difficulties and benefits in using the terms "fascism" and "anti-fascism" in campaigning in different countries. Discussing the situation in Russia they agreed that antisemitism remains one of the main problems faced by anti-fascists in numerous countries. The acceptance of nationalist and extreme nationalist ideas in mainstream society and media was mentioned as a major problem too. Therefore an internationally-prepared list of extremist-fascist organisations would be useful for domestic work of national and local antifascist organisations in their work with the media. Such a list compiled under the auspices of UNITED in the framework of the annual 9 November (‘Kristallnacht’ commemoration) campaign would assist antifascists in preventing extreme nationalist politicians from entering mainstream political discourses. Furthermore, participants exchanged experiences in organising anti-fascist activities such as painting over neonazi graffiti which resulted in giving each other concrete inspiration (eg. experiences from the campaign of the Polish Anti-Nazi Group in Krakow can be used in Romania). Some ideas for future UNITED campaign posters were mentioned too with an emphasis on the need for a poster design that is easily understandable, youth-oriented and using bright colours to attract attention.

11.6 Campaigning for youth
Moderator: Hagop Sarkarian - Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi

People from different youth and youth supporting organisation gathered in the "Campaigning for
Youth” group to discuss about a possibility of forming a campaign for youth dedicated to those who have become an easy target by racist, nationalist, nazi and fascist movements. Every participant gave a small introduction about his or her country’s youth situations - they differ in their geographical and political aspects. The participants made a suggestion having a certain remark on the date for promoting youth as an agenda. Some suggested that the International Youth Day, 12 August, is a perfect day for organizing different campaigns regarding the situations that the youth confronts in each country. At the end of the session the participants agreed to make an email list to keep up the updates of youth activities and youth events and to share the experiences among them, learning about the challenges that arise in their different countries.

12 OPEN FORUM
Moderator: David Chikashua - Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre, Georgia

The Open Forum is a tradition in the agenda of the UNITED conferences. It is a moment when participants are given the opportunity to share their views or information about some special projects they undertake.

Birgit Misfjord (Norwegian People’s Aid) presented the inhumane aspects of Norwegian asylum policy resulting in the recent deprivation of a shelter for a group of African refugees. This had led to a hunger strike conducted by the refugees in the Oslo cathedral that coincided with the Conference. The Conference participants were moved by those events so in a gesture of solidarity the refugees were invited to visit the Conference and present their struggle in front of the Conference plenary (see point 15 of this report).

Florencio Chicote (Antidiskrimierungsnetzwerk, Germany) raised the question of so-called "New Antisemitism". It is sometimes being used as a term easily discriminating the whole Muslim community without distinguishing between the extremists and the mainstream Muslims.

Alexei Kozlov (Foundation for Social and Environmental Justice, Russia) presented the difficult situation of the Russian anti-fascist movement in the current political context of the Russian Federation, including the murder of Nikolai Girenko, a prominent anti-racist killed by neonazis in S.Petersburg in June 2004. Alexei called for the establishment of an Antifascist Solidarity Foundation, assisting anti-fascists who operate under the pressure of threats.

Imre Simon (Mobilitas, Hungary) presented Ante Diem 2004, a successful youth exchange program against antisemitism and racism. His presentation was enhanced by interesting photos illustrating the project activities.

In addition to the above mentioned Open Forum presentations Amadou Kasse (JAPPO, the Netherlands) acquainted many participants with an idea for another impressive initiative. JAPPO, the Senegalese Association in the Netherlands, will undertake a giant project in the next years. It is an education project called Timbuktu Educational Network which places its priority on two compelling activities. To build sustainable schools in the African continent and to create the most enhancing and suitable work conditions for teachers. To achieve its goals, the project aims to organise "The millennium solidarity marathon relay" in support of education for half a million school-age children in Africa. The participation will be open to everyone. Springing southwards from Norway, this marathon will crisscross the European continent to the Spanish town of Tarifa. From there on the European runners will be flown to Ksar es Srhir or Tangiers in Morocco. Here, the batons would be passed to the African counterparts who would complete the run to the Cape of Good Hope.

13 REPORTS FROM ACTION PLANNING WORKING GROUPS
As the conference gradually drew to its final quarter, continuous sharing of ideas remained very important. The participants wondered what they were going to take back home as marketable strategies to tackle the problems of racism/fascism, youth, migrants and refugees. Doubts filled the air as to what angle of methods were chosen by other groups to start a new chapter in their efforts to install peace, justice, solidarity and a pluralistic world free of xenophobia and other
This deadlock was broken when the various campaigning groups or what is commonly called action planning groups presented the results of their discussions. It can be said from every judgement, that this was the most awaited moment of truth, when real action and result-oriented strategies were revealed. Many participants' ears were on high alert to cull the least they could in order to apply them on the field or in their various organisations. It was all a matter of sharing strategies. Nothing else is hoped for than that these strategies be put into concrete action and expected results obtained. The success would not only be that of the various singular organisations, but that of the UNITED family of organisations and their struggle against racism, fascism and in the support for migrants, refugees and youth.

14 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION
Rock against racism
By Red Saunders - Anti-Nazi League, Great Britain

Since the 1960s music has always been a driving force in passing antiracist messages or to stage campaigns against racism and xenophobia. The 1960s and '70s witnessed many major social upheavals and the rise of the Nazi National Front in Great Britain.

Red Saunders, a performer and photographer, was a veteran of the cultural struggles in the 1960s. He was one of the architects of Rock Against Racism in 1976. With the creation of the Anti-Nazi League, the fight against racism took a sturdy stand. Their slogan was based on the fact that they were always ready to challenge the Nazis so long as they existed.

Red used his professional photographs taken in the '70s to portray what the struggle against racism entailed. It was a courageous act to regroup men of conscience to publicly stand up against racism. Racism in those days targeted mostly blacks who were insulted with degrading words. Segregation was high and the social welfare of blacks was highly limited. Nazism raged fear amongst the English and Irish who seemed very passive about the whole social malaise against blacks. This was the era of the rise of many reggae, soul, jazz and funk black musicians. Their performances were loved by their own supporters and attracted more audience. Punk music took a very dominant space in the society as well. At the time, RAR had a fanzine, a magazine which happened to have been the most revolutionary paper in Britain at the time. It included interviews with Johnny Rotten, the Clash and Aswad, it raised the issue of Ireland and always argued against the despair that dominated punk music.

Today the Nazis in the British National Party still see all popular music as jungle music worth being cleansed off public places, but that cannot be said openly. At the moment the RAR movement has been capped with a new adage known as Love Music Hate Racism. This movement, though less active than RAR, still keeps on with the very norms of the foundations that it was built upon.

Racism of nowadays has greatly evolved from open racism to hidden forms practised at all social and institutional levels of society. This hidden form of racism makes it more difficult for anti-racist movements to carry out tailored strategies to challenge them.

15 AD HOC DISCUSSION AT THE CONFERENCE
The disgrace of Norwegian asylum policy and the protest of refugees in Oslo

Norway is following in the footsteps of other European countries in the construction of Fortress Europe. The current government has slowly, but steadily through various measures lowered the number of people even applying for asylum. In this same process of preventing people from coming the government has a policy to make the lives of the asylum seekers more and more difficult. Now the last measure taken is to deny those applicants with a final refusal to stay, means to survive. They are thrown out of the refugee centers and the government expects them to go back to their home countries. The problem is that several of these countries are not willing to receive those that are expelled from another country one of them is Ethiopia. They are denied money for food, shelter and also a work permit. This came into force on June 1, but now that winter is getting closer it is of course a worse situation. It has probably already led to a young man committing suicide. He saw no possibility to return to his home country and he did not
manage to even find food.
During the Conference week there was a group of 12 Ethiopians on hunger strike in the Oslo Cathedral. The hunger strike received a lot of media attention and a demonstration of solidarity outside the church. A letter of solidarity from the UNITED Conference participants was signed and handed to the leaders of the refugee protest group who visited the Conference on the last day to present their struggle.

16 EXTRA PARTS OF THE PROGRAMME
In addition to the main programme, the Conference participants enjoyed other activities and events prepared by the International Preparatory Group, by the Norwegian host organisations and, last but not least, by the participants themselves.
During the Video Evening the film on "The Clash of Civilisations" was presented, followed by a discussion. The video had been prepared by the Interchurch Peace Council (IKV, the Netherlands) and the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA).
The Conference Newspaper "UNITED Against Racism" provided the participants with fresh Conference news as well as reports from presentations and working groups. It was edited by a group of participants under the guidance of Natalia Sineaeva (Helsinki Citizens' Assembly- Moldova) and Caroline Noel (Universal Embassy, Belgium).
The Infomarket gave the participants a wonderful opportunity to exchange printed material documenting the work of their organisations. New contacts were made and inspirations exchanged. Several Norwegian NGOs and other institutions such as the Anti-Discrimination Office joined the Infomarket taking the opportunity to meet the Conference participants and present their work, too.
The Intercultural Snacks gave a unique chance to taste various traditional snacks and drinks brought by participants from their countries.
At the Intercultural Evening participants further exchanged their cultural contributions, such as songs and dances. It had been preceded by a fashion show prepared by the Oslo Anti-Racist Centre, mixing Vietnamese and European fashion design elements.
Those who wanted to practise their sport skills could do it by participating in the voluntary anti-racist football game.
A real highlight of the programme was the afternoon city tour of Oslo followed by a reception at the prestigious venue of the Oslo City Council. The participants were honoured by being able to walk in the room where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded annually. The evening was crowned by a dinner in the Habibi restaurant in Oslo, specialising in Middle Eastern cuisine.

17 REMARKS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS
After everyone had departed and arrived to their various destinations safely, comments and other forms of communication began to flow a few hours after. The memorable days in Oslo had left a great stamp in the minds of the participants. It was just unbelievable for some of the participants that the Youth Hostel in Oslo would only be remembered as a fact of the past and not the living experience faced during the 4 conference days. Here are some of the remarks that were received from the participants during the evaluation session, or culled from the daily UNITED Newspaper and from personal emails. Classifying reveals to an extent the actual feelings of the guests!

Excitement and motivation!: "thank you for the possibility you offered me. I really enjoyed the experience that gave me the opportunity to meet new people, share ideas and I think many of them will be future topics for FARE too. I also met many people form the East interested in participating in next Mondiali" Participant from Italy

An opening into the world!: "It is the first time I am attending a conference out of my country. It is such a wonderful experience meeting people from different cultures who share similar ideas about anti racism! Thank you UNITED!" Participant from Russia
Oath!: "As from now on I will become the knight of UNITED for the fight against racism. It is a special conference of its kind no one dares to miss" Participant from Croatia

Sharing and discovering!: "I appreciate a lot to have so many workshops and be able to share ideas and practices with many different people. There is a big diversity in the countries of origin and the background of the participants...." Italian participant

Cool IPGs: "the organisation is really fabulous and the members of the International Preparatory Group are quite cool and responsible" Participant from Holland

Beaten by reality!: "Oh my God! what a good conference in an expensive country" Belgian participant

Disappointed!: "good conference but no time to visit the city!", "good conference but light and bad beer!", "good conference but too heavy a program" Comments from anonymous participants

18 THANKS TO...
Thanks to Emmanuel Ngaikpu (Mount Cameroon, Belgium) for his contribution to this conference report.
The conference was prepared by an International Preparatory Group with representatives of the following organisations:
- Anti-Racist Centre (N)
- Finnish Youth Cooperation Allianssi (FIN)
- Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (MD)
- Human Rights Information and Documentation Centre (GE)
- International Culture and Youth Exchange (CH)
- Mount Cameroon (B)
- 'Never Again' Association (PL)
- Norwegian People's Aid (N)
- UNITED for Intercultural Action

Thank you to everybody who contributed to the successful conference, and in particular to our wonderful Norwegian hosts!

19 UNITED for Intercultural Action

UNITED for Intercultural Action
European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees

Racism, nationalism, fascism, discrimination, asylum policies... all of them have a European dimension even though they often look like pure national issues. Reports from all over Europe demonstrate the increasing dangers facing migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities. Often these dangers are increased by undemocratic intergovernmental decisions like the Schengen Treaty. Strangely enough, racist and fascist organisations have strong European links from Portugal to Russia, from Sweden to Italy. Fortress Europe needs to be fought at local, regional and European levels - it cannot be fought on one level alone.

Linked through UNITED, hundreds of organisations from a wide variety of backgrounds, from all European countries, work together on a voluntary basis. They base their cooperation on common actions and shared activities on a mutual respect.

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.

Through the UNITED network organisations meet each other, work on common actions and share information. Europe-wide action weeks, campaigns and such are planned and discussed on UNITED conferences. Like-minded organisations find each other on such conferences and work together on specific projects on specific topics. The workers in the secretariat are in constant contact with the network organisations, ensuring that information and proposals for action are transmitted rapidly. Information is received from more than 2300 organisations and mailings are sent out to about 2500 groups in Europe.

If you want to get involved... Discuss the ideas and aims of the UNITED network within your organisation. Let us know that you would like to join or receive information. And add us to your mailing list!

More information you can find at www.unitedagainstracism.org or write to info@unitedagainstracism.org

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