CAMPAIGN REPORT

'Kristallnacht' Commemoration

9 November 2009
International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism
**‘Active Commemoration in 49 European Countries’**

In the frame of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, hundreds of organisations from Azerbaijan to Cyprus, from Belarus to Ireland got active to commemorate the 9 November ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom. Under the slogan ‘Hatred Kills - Protect your Environment from Right-Wing Extremism’ a wide variety of activities took place in 49 different European countries. The campaign succeeded in raising consciousness of the history of racism and fascism and in making the public aware of the dangers and consequences of prejudice, hatred, ignorance and intolerance in our contemporary world.

Coordinated by the international secretariat of UNITED, the participating NGOs organised football games, concerts, marches and torchlight processions, to name only some activities.

Thousands of antifascists all over the continent participated in manifestations, workshops, conferences, events with eye-witnesses and festivals. This year’s campaign was characterised by the use of new media. Using the Internet, activists reached a large audience in Hungary, Malta and Kosovo. With this powerful tool, activists in Kosovo made over 700 people aware of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, just by creating a facebook group. ‘Music against fascism’ was the motto for many activists in Germany, Slovakia, Poland and Spain. Together with local bands the events reached the youth in particular, because music is one of the most significant means of self-identification for young people.

UNITED material was widely spread all over Europe. Posters were hung in universities, offices, public places; postcards were distributed among students during workshops and sent to governments. The international UNITED secretariat motivated the activists, supporting them by providing information and publishing a press release.

This report is a collection of good practices that were organised all over Europe during the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism 2009. It aims to serve as inspiration and motivation for those who want to organise powerful activities to act against intolerance; with low budgets but brilliant ideas.

---

**Hatred Kills: Protect your Environment from Right-wing Extremism!**

Why do we need to take care about something that belongs to history books? Surely, it is better to concentrate on the future rather than the past? But how do we know the past is a closed chapter? Can we be sure the events of 9 November 1938 are totally irrelevant to the present and the future? The answer is: no. The seemingly distant past is not distant at all; throughout Europe, violence against minorities happens every day. The tragic lessons of history are not learnt by our societies, we need to make sure the past is not forgotten. Even more importantly, we must react against the rise of racism and intolerance here and now! Experience proves that Hatred Kills!

---

**9 November Pogrom: A Short History**

In Germany on 9 November 1938, the Nazis started a pogrom against the Jews. After the Nazis came to power in 1933, the Jews were subject to harsh laws against them; being forced to hand over their businesses to ‘Aryans’, only being allowed to enter in Jewish shops, not even being allowed to sit on a park bench etc. This was accompanied by a wave of random violence in streets and elsewhere. Nevertheless, until 9 November 1938, many of these attacks had the appearance of being unplanned by the leadership of the Nazi Party and the government of Germany. On November 6th, a young Jew living in Paris, Herschel Grynszpan, received a postcard from his father Zindel who had been deported, along with 18,000 other German Jews, on October 27th to the Polish frontier. The postcard described the terrible conditions that the deportees were living under. Herschel Grynszpans was so angered by what he read that he went to the German Embassy and shot the first German official he saw, Ernst vom Rath, who died of his injuries on 8 November. News of his death reached Germany the next day. Hitler and Goebbels were at that moment attending the NSDAP celebration on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Hitler putch on 9 November 1923. Goebbels directly took up the chance to hold a rabble-speech against Jews.

The pogrom started in Berlin on the 9 November 1938, organised unofficially by Hitler’s SA storm troops. In a telegram-letter to all SA and SS-groups, Reinhard Heydrich, leader of the SS, clearly ordered the violence to begin. Synagogues were set on fire. Jewish shops had their windows smashed all over the country, which gave the name ‘Kristallnacht’, the Night of Broken Glass in loose translation. Many Jews were physically attacked too. More than 7000 Jewish businesses across the country were destroyed, fires were lit in every Jewish area and the Nazis burned religious books. Around 200 synagogues were demolished. The violence lasted 24 hours and 91 Jews were killed. More than 30,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Many of them were killed in the following two months.
Against Fascism and Antisemitism

protect your environment from right-wing extremism

'The Kristallnacht'
The ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom is usually seen as the symbolic beginning of the Holocaust. In addition to approximately 6 million Jews who were the targets of a complete annihilation policy, there were an estimated 5.5 million enemies of the German state, criminals and asocials, people with mental disabilities, homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, trade unionists, political offenders such as communists and socialists and Roma and Sinti.
The Nazi propaganda called the event the Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht), with the intention to mock what happened. Other names have been used to refer to the event too, such as ‘Reichspogromnacht’. The expression ‘November pogrom’ is now more commonly used, especially in Germany.

Campaigning with UNITED

We, who work at the UNITED secretariat in Amsterdam, are often asked how a huge European-wide campaign such as the ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’ can be coordinated by a small secretariat with only a few staff members. The answer is quite simple: UNITED is not just an office, it is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. Hundreds of NGOs all over Europe organise special activities, making use of the strong network structure of more than 560 organisations in 49 countries, who are of course also supported by the secretariat staff.

Such European-wide campaigns have to be prepared very carefully, this takes time and so preparation starts more than 6 months in advance. One of the main principles within the UNITED network is that everyone is an expert in his or her working field and can learn from others.

Consequently, during UNITED conferences all different opinions and ideas are discussed in special Campaign Working Groups, to find common slogans, share experiences and discuss ideas for common action. At the secretariat, these ideas are translated into a campaign poster with background information. As soon as the posters are printed, communication is needed: emails and phone calls are made to hundreds of NGOs to motivate them to join the campaign and 40,000 free posters are distributed to NGOs all over the continent. To give an overview of what is planned all over Europe, UNITED publishes a List of Activities. Through this, many NGOs get inspired and can find partners to cooperate with. Furthermore, UNITED sends a media release to all important European press agencies. By joining the campaign, even the smallest NGO can profit from being part of a European-network since the media’s reactions to the press release are directed to local organisations.

On 9 November, organisations all over Europe organise diverse events, taking part in one common European campaign. After the events the UNITED secretariat collects information about all of the activities from the NGOs all over Europe. A European Report is compiled and sent to thousands of organisations throughout Europe, to be used by them to find new ideas, raise funds or conduct work in the media. That is why it is so important that those organisations, which participated in the campaign, provide UNITED with material about their activities. Not every organisation and not every country has been mentioned in this report, because we either did not get this information or received it too late.

On behalf of the whole network, we would like to thank the participating organisations for their collaboration, making such a successful campaign possible. Connecting so many motivated people and organisations, the name of the network truly stands for its principle: UNITED for Intercultural Action.
List of activities

**ALBANIA** • 09.11.2009 “Against Racism!” Distribution of UNITED material in Tirana, organised by Contemporary VISION for Development & Human Rights. 09.11.2009 “Students Raise Awareness Against Fascism and Antisemitism” Manifestation in Tirana Artificial Lake, organised by AEGEE. 09.11.2009 “Women against Racism and Intolerance” Seminar in Tirana, organised by Useful to Albanian Women. 25-26-27.11.09 “Against Women Discrimination” Training courses in several cities, organised by Studio D. • ARMENIA > 04.11.09-11.11.09 “Youth Against Fascism” Campaign all over Armenia, organised by FYCA. • AUSTRIA > 23.10.09-26.10.09 “Against Right-Wing Extremism” Workshop and seminar in Ulm, organised by Rote Falken Österreich. 05.11.2009 “Critical of the Nation” Lecture in Jena, organised by Cafe Critique. 08.11.2009 “At First Were the Synagogues on Fire” Witnesses narrate about `Kristallnacht’ in Wien, organised by B-Projekt & Verband Wiener Volksbildung. 09.11.2009 “Never Forget! Never again Fascism! Against the Right-wing Dazzler and Seducer!” Vgl, manifestation and film-screening in Wien, organised by Initiative Aspangbahnhof. 09.11.2009 “Against Racism!” Manifestation and speeches in Wels, organised by City of Wels, Wels Initiative gegen Faschismus. 09.11.2009-20.11.09 “Everyday-Racism - Youth Xenophobia” Travelling exhibition in Wiener-Neudorf, organised by MOJA. • AZERBAIJAN > 07.11.2009 “No Place for Hatred” Seminar in Baku, organised by YLIC. • BELARUS > 09.11.2009 “Fighting Against Fascism Together” & “Memory of 1500 Jews Killed by Fascist” Street actions in Minsk, organised by Belarusian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights & Young Front. • BELGIUM > 09.11.2009 “Breaking the Walls”
List of activities

AUSTRIA

Youth ≠ Xenophobia

The November pogroms in Austria – which was by that time only recently annexed by Nazi Germany – only started with a delay on 10 November, but therefore the violence was horrendous and took place with all its sadistic terror. Synagogues were burnt all over Austria and explosives were used, where the arson was not ‘sufficient’. During the course of the November pogroms in Austria 27 Jewish people were murdered, 6500 Jews were arrested and almost half of them directly deported to the concentration camp Dachau. This year a lot of different NGOs all over Austria got active in the name of the ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’.

At the train station Aspang in Vienna, which was the last departure for thousands of Jews that got deported into concentration and elimination camps, the antifascist initiative Aspangbahnhof held a big commemorative manifestation. Under the title ‘Never forget! Never again fascism! Against the right-wing dazzler and seducers!’ the initiative made the public aware about the macabre history of the train station. Rote Falken Österreich organised a seminar for around 30 young participants in order to empower youth. In this seminar young people spent a whole weekend together, gaining knowledge and discussing the various forms of right-wing extremism. With an interesting mix of film screenings, workshops and role-plays the young people learnt about the current situation of right-wing extremism in Austria and what can be done about it.

A special focus was set on the relationship between music and right-wing extremism, keeping in mind that nowadays neo-nazis often try to trap the youth via this popular medium already on schoolyards.

The travelling exhibition ‘Everyday Racism – Youth Xenophobia’ presented by MOJA (mobile youthwork) was mainly developed by the creativity of young people themselves. With the themes exclusion – xenophobia – re-enacting – moral courage the exhibitions tackles contemporary problems in the Austrian society and focuses on the involvement of youth. The project itself was the idea of young people who visited the former concentration camp Mauthausen with MOJA and decided to get active. In spite of the impression they got from the excursion to the former concentration camp, they wanted to set up a project to contrast today’s phenomenon of exclusion. During one year young people visually documented traces of exclusion and xenophobia in their local environment. Out of these photos, including some quite provocative pieces, the travelling exhibition was set up by MOJA - always taking into account the critical and constructive remarks of the youth. The impressive exhibition invites its audience to look deeper and to question generalizations and stereotypes, as well as motivating them to resist exclusion and stimulate moral courage.

Street action, organised by JEF; 22.11.09-27.11.09 “Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training” Training in Bruxelles, organised by CEJI. 20.11.2009 “Racism: There is a Way Out” City tour in Bruxelles, organised by Kerkerwerk Multicultural Samenleven. • BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA > 09.11.2009 “Human Rights Schools for Youth in the Western Balkans” Delivering postcards to governmental institutions in Sarajevo, organised by Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia & Herzegovina. 09.11.2009 “Hatred Killed!” Distribution of UNITED material in Nicosia & Limassol, organised by KISA. 09.11.2009 “Spread the Message” Spreading flyers and press release in Nicosia, organised by CMIRS. • CZECHIA > 10.11.2009 “Who is the Extremist Here?” Student debate in Prague, organised by Students against Racism & Duha. 09.11.2009 “Hatred Killed!” Distribution of UNITED campaign material in Prague, organised by International Exchange Foundation of the Czech Republic.

Creative ways to tackle fascism in Serbia, an example of a good practice.

Against the Newest Virus of Fascism

This year the whole world was busy with the newest virus of fascism, which has been contaminating societies European-wide. Many countries were infected and had to struggle against such epidemic that affects young people in particular. Appropriate care should be taken to prevent the danger of the new virus of fascism! Having discussions about fascism and discrimination while drinking a simple ‘antifascist tea’ can help!

That is what activists from My Initiative and Civil Resources Development Centre did in the frame of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism. Their tea ‘Against the new flu of fascism’ was served after the screening of a documentary film about extremist right-wing groups, with the title ‘Hot Blood’. The idea was very simple but also very effective: with basic materials, just some hot water, teabags, cups and paper with the crossed swastika you can make your tea ‘against fascism’. You have only to create the ‘antifascist label’ for the teabags and this medicine is ready to be used while discussing about how to tackle fascism.

Using alternative and ironic ways to attract an audience can be a powerful opening door to deeper discussion. It is a great idea for a refreshing and affordable activity that can be used by everybody to create public awareness.

Under the slogan ‘Against Racism’, speeches from politicians, prominent persons and NGO activists remembered the terror of 1938 in Austria.
**HUNGARY**

**Alternative Ways to Oppose Xenophobia**

The use of media in antidiscrimination work is a powerful tool to reach a large audience, especially young people. Alternative media represent a particular alliance for NGO activists especially because it provides a range of ideas and possibilities that are not usually available in the commercial press, thus it serves the needs of a particular group or community that is poorly represented in major commercial media outlets. For this reason the use of alternative media in antifascist campaigns is getting more and more popular.

The Europe Civic Education Foundation launched ‘Young Civic Radio-Europe’ in Budapest, involving the use of alternative media to combat xenophobia and discrimination. Kurt Lewin Foundation also organised a radio program dedicated to the ‘International Day against Fascism and Antisemitism’. The guest speakers were a political expert, the president of the Hungarian Antifascism Foundation and the deputy director of the Political Capital Institute. Foundation of Subjective Values organised a documentary film screening and an open forum in Budapest, the main theme of which was educating the general public by providing information on fascism and antisemitism.

**POLAND**

**Antiracism Days of Mutual Respect**

In spite of great efforts to stop racism in Poland by organisations such as Never Again Association and other civil rights’ and antiracism NGOs, 2009 resulted in a massive public discussion over the display of neonazi material. Allegro, Poland’s biggest internet auction site, has been accused of turning a blind eye to the rampant sale of racist and neonazi material on the internet. Several respected writers, artists, and humanitarian activists signed an open letter, initiated by Never Again, urging Allegro to halt its sales of racist material. Although the letter resulted in numerous press articles criticising Allegro, the company ignored it and the debate is still in progress. So, even though Allegro is still actively involved in spreading neonazi nonsense, this year 9 November campaign in Poland resulted in a great variety of successful activities of all possible topics and formats.

Wirydarz and Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights organised a discussion ‘Students Against Intolerance’ with experts and students at the Klub Czwartokowy. Young people discussed the roots of antisemitism and tolerance education. GAN Wroclaw, the Bente Kahan Foundation, the Wroclaw Center for Jewish Culture and Education, the Association of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland and the Edyta Stein Association joined the campaign with a series of activities ‘Antiracism Days of Mutual Respect’ in Wroclaw. Music, lectures by prominent people, spectacles, marches and screenings of movies were among some of the events.

Never Again conducted a bunch of interesting events, including ‘Music Against Racism’, antiracist concerts together with info-stands about antiracist youth culture and music; ‘Spread the Message’, hanging antifascist posters in the area of Brzeszcze and Oswiecim district; ‘Let’s Kick Racism Out of the Stadiums’, 2nd antiracist indoor football tournament in Legnica. One of the large-scale events conducted by Never Again in cooperation with Cultural Association of Jews in Poland became ‘The Jewish Day’. Art-exhibition, workshops, lectures and concert in Legnica created a unique atmosphere of pre-war Jewish culture.

**List of activities**

Alternative Media Working on an Intercultural Future

Radio Robin Hood is developing several projects since 1990 to provide open access for all social groups to the Finnish media. Definitely, this radio is ‘Making the Environment Aware’ by giving space to people with many different cultural backgrounds in their programmes. Their commitment to an intercultural future was evident once more on 9 November, when they organised a special radio-program reporting about the actual situation of racism in Europe and discussing antisemitism and Holocaust commemoration. Furthermore, the radio distributed the UNITED material in their training and internships in order to spread the antifascist message among the Finnish community.

Yes to solidarity - No to fascism

In Germany the 9th of November is an extremely historical day. Besides commemorating the 9 November pogrom, the 20 anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall was celebrated this year. Remembrance in the country that should know best what fascism and antisemitism could do to people is also an important current issue, especially if you look at the alarming situation in today’s society.

This year again the German National Party NPD found its way into the Parliament of Saxony and on the Remembrance Day the synagogue in Dresden was vandalized with swastikas, despite regular round-the-clock police surveillance. Therefore the commemoration events in the most active country campaign-wise have gained even more importance. Exhibitions, talks with eyewitnesses, anti-fascist city tours, and gatherings at former places of Jewish life, concerts and anti-fascist manifestations took place from the North to the South of Germany.

Under the title “Betrayal and Help” Action for Reconciliation Services for Peace organised a bike-tour in the city of Dresden. Biking through the city centre the whole group stopped at places where a guide explained about the relevance of the locations to the November pogrom. The focus was set on places where victims of the Nazi regime were betrayed by their neighbours and denounced to the police. During the tour, attention was given also to those points where Jews received help and were saved from the terrors of the genocide. In this way the participants of the action could see the places they pass by in their everyday life in a new light and learn about the history that lies behind them.

“Fight Against Right-wing Extremism - Argue and Act!” was the motto of a workshop which was held in the frame of the ‘19th Antiracist and Antifascist Council’ in Erfurt. In the tram, at work or while drinking a beer at night, one hears right-wing patter, subtle or direct discrimination often enough. Usually the best arguments come to one’s mind hours later and one feels guilty for not having a strong reaction right at that moment. This workshop showed active options to counteract discrimination. Besides principles to react, also verbal arguments were practised. Proper behavior in situations of right-wing violence and tips on how to assess the danger realistically were discussed.

Besides this workshop, 12 other ones with similar topics took place, such as ‘Actively against right-wing extremism in schools’ or ‘Right-wing at the working place’ during the whole day.

In many cities stumbling blocks remember victims of the Nazi regime. Pedestrians ‘stumble’ across the stones and thus develop historical understanding.

Germany is one of the most active countries commemorating the 9 November pogrom. This year activities took place all over the country.

List of activities

REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

I Am Antifascist!
The 10th anniversary of the Youth Forum of Bitola was timed to celebrate the 9 November. Music and sports is probably the most significant means of self-identification in the lives of adolescents and youngsters and, recognizing this, the NGO organised a rock and hip hop concert against racism gathering youngsters for healthy antifascist music rebellion. The organisation also spread info-material during a football match in Bitola showing that this sport has become a real intercultural game. The organisers printed 200 T-shirts with antifascist messages and invited children of different nationalities to wear them together with the players of the teams before the game kick-off.

‘Dealing with Fascism in Today’s Education: Challenges Recommendations’ was the title of a panel discussion in Macedonian-Albanian schools organised by the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue. This seminar aimed at raising awareness about the differences and similarities among European youth and creating a space for exchange of experiences. Themes such as nationalism in the Balkans and the interethnic conflict in 2001 were analysed as well as how to counteract fascism in schools.

RUSSIA

A Challenging Path to Tolerance
For the last few years neonazism in Russia has been developing extremely rapidly. Terrible news and appalling statistics of violence are slowly becoming increasingly common. Street fights, swastikas on buildings, regular skinhead attacks are often seen as part of youth subculture. Thus, it was shocking yet predictable that the street fighting between antifascists and neonazis would be brought to the next level of violence. As result, the 9 November campaign ‘International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism’ was followed by the murder of a 26-year-old radical antifascist, Ivan Khutorskoy, aka Vanya-Kostolom, shot at the threshold of his flat in Moscow. As for the campaign itself, there were quite a few organisations that participated this year.

In St. Petersburg many prominent civil rights’ organisations such as Russia Without Fascism, African Unity, Memorial, Soldiers’ Mothers, Yabloko and Solidarity, Vykhod (Coming Out) amongst others took place in a ‘March Against Hatred’. It was organised as a protest against the growth of national and religious intolerance and xenophobia in society.

In Moscow there was a tolerance conference organised by Center for Intercultural Cooperation. Its main themes were to point out the causes for the increasing xenophobia in Russia and antiracism education. Many university students and minority representatives took part, and in spite of the difficult content of the discussion, it turned out to be a success.

In Nizhniy Novgorod Community Centre of Jewish Culture Vosed Saro joined the campaign with three activities: ‘Oh, Sport! You are the Peace!’, a chess competition between various minority groups and ‘Intercultural Hours’, youth discussion on the topic of minority rights. Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM) coordinated an inter-regional week of actions ‘Crystal night – Never again’, which included youth and public events in different cities.

Activists in many regions held educational sessions for school children and students. In Voronezh the open lecture ‘Youth between Fascism and Indifference’ for students-pedagogues took place. In Kostomuksha and Medvezhiegorsk a series of lessons were held. Young people in

List of activities


Antiracist concerts, intercultural football match, human rights film festival...
Youth Forum of Bitola is an example of an active organisation.

Xenophobic acts in Russia are increasing rapidly but also the actions to counteract it. Conferences and commemorations took place during 9 November.
Tearing down the Wall of Fascism

Have you ever thought of stopping fascism just by tearing down a wall? This is what passers-by in the Serbian city of Lebane were confronted with. In the city centre My Initiative activists designed a very innovative action to create public awareness about the need to fight fascism by tearing down the wall of hate.

The so-called ‘Wall of Fascism’, made out of styrofoam, was placed in one of the major streets and featured typical fascist symbols. Citizens crumbled parts of the wall and threw them into special ‘antifascist’ waste bins decorated for this purpose with antifascist symbols. In this way participants could literally feel that the fascist ideology can be easily thrown away, just as the logo of the 9 November campaign indicates.

The action was followed by discussions about how to counteract fascism in Serbia and the distribution of My Initiative info-material.

As soon as the ‘Wall of Fascism’ was torn down, it was replaced by a board where citizens could write antifascist messages. By the end of the day over 70 messages were written. During the action, the citizens of Lebane were invited to participate in a party given at the Cultural Centre that evening. The action was able to reach a large audience and received good media coverage on a local TV station that streamed a segment of the My Initiative action.

List of activities

SPAIN

On 20 November, during the commemoration of the death of General Franco (the fascist dictator who ruled Spain with an iron-fist for 36 years), violence broke out in a neonazi rally. It was organised by ‘National Democracy Party’ (Partido Democracia Nacional) and attended by the MEP and British national Party leader, Nick Griffin. In the end, 28 antifascist activists were detained after they had been denied access to the event. However, the antifascist movement in Spain does not stop; a great number of organisations were called many times by the Coordinadora Antifascista of Madrid to keep up the struggle against intolerance. They organised a lot of events like antifascist concerts, film screenings, talks with Russian, German and Italian Holocaust survivors and marches. The purpose was to show their repulsion of the xenophobic acts and gather all together in the antifascist battle.

In addition, during 20 November (called 20N) thousands of people, the majority of whom were youngsters, supported antifascist manifestations all over the country in Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, León, Zaragoza, Castellón and more. The movement welcomes the sentence that condemns the neonazi who murdered the 16-years old Carlos Palomino to 26 years imprisonment for hate crime. Carlos was an activist, killed of a direct stab in the heart on his way to an antifascist demonstration. This sentence is very significant because for the first time in the history of judicial cases in Spain does not stop; a great number of organisations were called many times by the Coordinadora Antifascista of Madrid to keep up the struggle against intolerance. They organised a lot of events like antifascist concerts, film screenings, talks with Russian, German and Italian Holocaust survivors and marches. The purpose was to show their repulsion of the xenophobic acts and gather all together in the antifascist battle.

Also, the organisation SOS Racismo commemorated the 9 November with various round tables. Experts, survivors and researchers had a discussion about Holocaust, human rights and intercultural education to remind people that ‘This Happened’ and it can not happen again.
Always Disobedient!
The combination of two appalling events: the brutal attack of a French football fan by hooligans and the prohibition of the Gay Pride Parade by the police at the last minute in September have sent a shock-wave through Serbia. Activists from all over the country have decided to get active and protest against these happenings.

A huge non-violent protest in the centre of Belgrade was organised by Women in Black, QUEERIA - Center for Promoting Nonviolence and Equality and the Regional Centre for Minorities. The manifestation started in front of the Serbian Assembly where the activists of Women in Black, dressed in special black T-shirts with the motto ‘Always disobedient’, did a performance. Different slogans were shouted such as: ‘Holocaust denial is a crime!’ ‘Protect Human Rights defenders’ and ‘Denial of Srebrenica’s Genocide is a crime!’. Due to the prohibition of the Gay Pride Parade, the banners were tinged in rainbow-colours. There is a big problem of denial in Serbian society concerning recent history. Serbian government denies war crimes, and the general public still refuses to admit the crimes that were done in their name. That is why the Youth Group of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia decided not to break the silence and take some important steps. With the brilliant idea to make graffiti and stickers with the messages ‘Srebrenica—face it!’ ‘Vukovar—face it!’ and placing them all over the city of Belgrade they succeeded in reaching many people. In this way the NGO encouraged people to face their common past.

Youth Initiative for Human Rights’ (YIHR) activists commemorated the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism with the symbolic illumination of the monument dedicated to hanged patriots at Belgrade Terajie Square. During the one-hour event, pictures of the five citizens of Serbia who had been executed in Banjica prison camp in 1994 and then hanged on electric wires in downtown Belgrade were on display. A proclamation was read to citizens in which the YIHR demanded from state institutions to guarantee to never repeat past crimes and prevent a return to history. That evening dozens of YIHR activists were collecting signatures on postcards ‘Fascism in the Streets of Belgrade’. The demands from the proclamation were written on the back side of the postcards. Signed postcards shall be then sent to the Government, the Parliament, the Presidency of Serbia, Belgrade and Nis district courts and the Belgrade Mayor. ‘By refusing to sit silent’, ‘With our full strength’, were some of the responses given by Presevo citizens to the question ‘How to counteract fascism?’. The question and answers were written on a board situated downtown, built by My Initiative activists on 9 November. During the street action activists distributed flyers featuring crossed out swastika and the message ‘Let’s be humans’, written in Albanian and Serbian languages. Local TV stations reported about these activities.

Great Britain
Stop the BNP! Stop the Right-wing!
The fascist British National Party (BNP) is threatening to strengthen its presence in politics after the election of two of its members to the European parliament. It is the responsibility of the antifascist movement to highlight the true nature of the BNP - naziism combined with extreme nationalism, racial superiority and hatred towards minorities - and mobilise the anti-BNP vote for future elections. Searchlight Magazine’s ‘Hope not Hate’ campaign, is supported by trade unions and local anti-fascist groups

List of activities
Hatred 12.09.2009 “Students Against Intolerance” Discussion in Warsaw, organised by Wirydarz, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. 20.09.09-11.09.09 from Saronno organised educational visits to former concentration camps to keep the memory alive, never forget!

Against Fascism and Antisemitism

The Italian Gruppo della Memoria organised educational visits to former concentration camps to keep the memory alive, never forget!

SLOVAKIA

The Romanian organisation Generale Tanara Romania prepared workshops at schools. With educational material they raise awareness among young students.

Raising Voice and Feet Against Prejudices

The Roma community experiences, especially since the time of economic crisis, open racism and hatred in Slovakia. It is not only neo-nazis alone that threaten social cohesion; also a significant percentage of the Slovak population, different in age and their level of education, have a hostile attitude against the Roma minority. The NGO People Against Racism decided to counteract this rise of discrimination by organising two different events to empower civil society against prejudice. The first one was a concert in the city of Namestovo. Three locally known, young music bands performed for three hours and raised their voices against the danger of nationalism and fascism in Slovakia.

Throughout the UK and has been at the forefront of campaigns against the BNP. In the frame of the 9 November, they organised local action all over the country. British antifascist organisations made real progress in British society to defeat the BNP.

Other organisations raised awareness among students in schools and high schools. The Student Development of Loughborough College displayed “Hatred Kills!” material in classrooms the and organised speeches by Holocaust survivors. Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) also held an educational workshop followed by the screening of the SRtRC film and a session featuring three Derby County FC players. Over 100 young people enjoyed educational activities that encouraged them to take a stand against racism and for intercultural understanding.

ITALY

Different Colours - One Voice

The controversial initiative called ‘White Christmas’- launched in some northern towns of Italy – which consists of a ‘clean up’ operation to expel the so-called illegal immigrants - has been widely condemned since it started on 25 October 2009. Any immigrant found without a valid authorisation to stay risks deportation. ‘Operation White Christmas’ used a method reminiscent of the past when Benito Mussolini was in charge, however the leader of the anti immigration party Lega Nord insists on saying the operation is perfectly legal.

In this political landscape many events took place in the frame of the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism: EveryOne Group participated in the campaign with projects related to Nazi and Holocaust remembrance. They highlighted the fact that incomprehensible hate against a certain group of people is not a particular case in history as Primo Levi used to warn. “It happened and it could happen again” is the name of this collection of projects including photos, art exhibitions, movie and documentary screening proposed by many organisations against racism and discrimination.

Gruppo della Memoria from Saronno organised educational visits to memorial sites at former concentration camps in Mauthausen, Gusen and Hartheim to keep the memory of what occurred alive. Rotary Club of Salerno held a meeting between high schools students and a survivor of Bikenau concentration camp: Shlomo Venezia. Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) made young people aware about this climate of hostility through educational seminars and a great distribution of UNITED material in primary, secondary and high schools in Roma.

List of activities

> 02.11.09-09.11.09 “Annual Trip to Poland” Visit of concentration camps in Poland, organised by Nederlands Auschwitz Comité. 08.11.2009 “Remembrance of Kristallnacht”

Raps & a speech in Eindhoven, organised by Stichting Kleurrijkje Stad. 09.11.2009 “Kristallnacht Commemoration” Annual gathering in Amsterdam, organised by Nederland Bekent Klear. 09.11.2009 “What War Did To Us” Lecture with eye-witnesses in the former concentration camp Westerbork, organised by Herinneringscentrum Kamp Westerbork. 09.11.2009 “The Rose that Never Blows” Lecture with eye-witnesses in the former concentration camp Westerbork, organised by Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) also held an educational workshop followed by the screening of the SRtRC film and a session featuring three Derby County FC players. Over 100 young people enjoyed educational activities that encouraged them to take a stand against racism and for intercultural understanding.
Furthermore the NGO held a football tournament, with three different teams competing; the People Against Racism team, a local team and the allstars team of the league all participated in the event. What made it special was that the prominent players of the football league played along with members of the organisation in the People Against Racism team.

THE NETHERLANDS

The Rose that Never Blossomed

After the occupation of the Netherlands by the Nazis in 1940, the cruel practice of persecuting and deporting thousands of Dutch Jews and Roma began in this country too. Sadly, many Dutch young people are not aware of the horrors of the Second World War. Research conducted by the Stichting Kleurrijke Stad, showed that only 18% of all young people interviewed knew what happened during the 9 November pogrom. As a follow up of this research, the young volunteers of the NGO organised an ‘open forum’ in a local cafe to inform about the ‘Kristallnacht’ commemoration. With a mixture of rap, poetry, music, and discussions young people received information about the persecution and deportation of thousands of Dutch Jews and Roma.

In 2006, sixty-two years after her death, the diary of Rose Jakobs was finally published. ‘The Rose that Never Blossomed‘ is the title of the 132 page long diary Rose wrote during the Second World War in the Netherlands. She had to flee with her family from the nazi-Germany to the Netherlands and hide for years. Rose was tragically killed by a bomb shortly after being liberated by American soldiers; she was only 19 years old. The book was selected as a central theme during this year’s commemoration act in the Verzetsmuseum Zuid-Holland in Gouda.

For the 18th time Nederland Bekent Kleur organised a gathering in Amsterdam to remember the 9 November pogrom. In the former Jewish neighbourhood of the city, in the presence of over hundred people, four speeches were held. Various speakers such as a rabbi, a representative of the local community, the director of Amnesty International in the Netherlands and a representative of the Young Iman linked the past with the present and showed courage in working for a country with the common goal to eliminate discrimination. The event had a big impact in the media, a Dutch newspaper published an article about it and the event was broadcasted on television.

‘What the war did to us’ – this is what several eye-witnesses were speaking about at this years commemoration lecture in the former Dutch concentration camp Kamp Westerbork.

SWEDEN

A Country in Action

Sweden is one of the best examples of a country actively supporting peaceful alternatives. A variety of events- more than 30- took place in different cities. People could take part in antifascist concerts, support different manifestations, attend informative seminars or participate in creative workshops. In the streets of Heilsingborg young people congregated in a manifestation, organised by the Young Left of Sweden. The march aimed to spread the message ‘Reject Xenophobia and Racism’. Participants could also join an antifascist concert held in Falun ‘Let’s Celebrate Diversity.

In Sweden young people are very active organising events during the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism.

List of activities

in Brzeszcze. 08.11.2009 “Let’s Kick Racism Out of the Stadiums” Anti-racist football tournament in Krzeszowice, organised by NA. 09.11.2009 “The Jewish Day” Art-exhibition, workshops lessons, lectures and music concert in Legnica, organised by Cultural Association of Jews in Poland & NA. • PORTUGAL > 09.11.2009 “Hatred Kills” Distribution of UNITED material in Granja do Ulmeiro, organised by Youth Action for Peace. • ROMANIA > 09.11.2009 “Movies about ‘Kristallnacht’” Movie night and discussions in Cluj, organised by Youth Action for Peace Romania. 09.11.2009 “Fighting Against Hatred” Round table in Timisoara, organised by Young Generation Romania. • RUSSIA > 02.11.2009 “Dissemination if Ideas of Tolerance Within Youth” Conference in Moscow, organised by Center for Interethic Cooperation. 04.11.2009 “March Against Hatred” March in St. Petersburg, organised by Russia Without Fascism, African Unity, Memorial, Soldiers’ Mothers, Yabloko & Solidarity, Wykod and others. 11.10.09-22.12.09 “Kristallnacht-never again” Social Marathon From Simhat Torah to Hanukkah- Women Change the World” Round tables, conferences and competitions in Ukraine and Russia, organised by International Jewish Women’s Organization ‘Project Kesher’ & All Ukrainian Interethic Women’s Confederation. 09.11.2009 “Youth Between Fascism & Indifference” & “Cinema Without Hate” Open lectures, memory lessons, role games and film screenings in Voronezh, Kostomuksha, Medvezhievsorg, Petrozavodsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Moscow, Kazan, Saratov... organised by Youth Human Rights Movement (YHRM). 09.11.2009...
FRANCE

Even if the nazi regime has been relegated to the dustbins of history, there are still parties and movements that define themselves as such. Fascism is no longer a grotesque puppet used to frighten people: its ideas are now being integrated into the work of states.

Monday 9 November 2009 the Francophone Anarchist Federation organised a big march with speeches and music throughout the city and the vice president of the French government such as the clearing of the ‘Jungle’ migrant camp in Calais on 22 September 2009.

In Reims a ceremony was organised in the square of the Gestapo Victims: the mayor of the city and the vice president of the International League Against Racism and Antisemitism commemorated the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom in a human chain against any kind of intolerance. Memorial de la Shoah proposed a cycle of conferences, movie screenings and lectures about this important day highlighting, above all, the countries’ indifference in opposing Hitler’s regime.

List of activities

Against Fascism and Antisemitism

Centrum Mot Racism, English International Association of Land/ Malmö, Afrikansvensk Diaspora and ABF Malmö organised a seminar where people could discuss the history of fascism in Europe and how minorities suffer from discrimination today. At the end of the day, ABF Malmö organised a big march with speeches and music throughout the main streets of the city. By succeeding in mixing joyful and informative activity they could attract an enormous variety of participants. It is important not to forget that together with the persecution of the Jewish, other minorities such as Roma, homosexuals and political dissidents were also the targets of the nazi regime. The debate ‘Scapegoats of Society’, organised in Stockholm focused on commemoration of all the victims of the Second World War. This discussion was the inspiration behind artwork called ‘On the Rainbow Barricades in Eastern Europe’, the workshop concluded with the creation of a photographic exhibition on the topic of minority victims of the nazi regime. This exhibition is now travelling all over Europe.

Good Practice

70 km of Remembrance
A Purple Line for Eternal Memory

From 13 to 16 October thousands of pupils, members of civil society, NGOs and individuals drew a 70 km long line called ‘Path of Remembrance’, to commemorate the killing of over 10.000 disabled people during the Nazi-regime. The purple line connects the place of the former gas chambers in Grafeneck with the bureaucratic desks of the Department of Interior in Stuttgart, where the mass murder was planned.

Grafeneck was one of Nazi Germany’s killing centres during the so called ‘Euthanasia program’. Today it is a memorial place dedicated to the victims of the Nazi Regime. It was the first place in Nazi Germany where people were killed in huge numbers in gas chambers; at least 10.000 mentally and physically disabled people were systematically murdered. For being a planned murder, it is shocking that the ‘Euthanasia program’ is so poorly commemorated.

The 10 cm wide purple line was painted for 70km with the help of many people. Furthermore, several projects were being conducted through the path. In this way everyone: little children, students, grown ups and elderly people could participate and have the opportunity to gain information about the ‘Euthanasia program’ of the Nazi-Regime. As example, the pupils in Bad Urach used the opportunity to raise funds for the centre of the disabled. They wanted to underline the fact that during the nazi-regime disabled people who were able to knit had a bigger chance to survive. On the marketplace they knitted a meter-long scarf with the help of pedestrians. For every stitch they received some money, so that in the end they could donate 1550 Euro to a home for the disabled.

Moreover, in the villages along the path different activities took place: exhibitions, lectures, church services, concerts, installations in remembrance of the victims, etc. This project was made possible thanks to the involvement of 17 activits-groups, 70 schools, 20 municipalities, two counties and with the support of local authorities.

"Международный день против фашизма и антисемитизма"
**LITHUANIA**

**Spread the Message!**

Only 4 months since its establishment, the National Institute of Social Integration (NISI) is already famous all over Lithuania thanks to its commitments in the All Different All Equal campaign. In the frame of this campaign and around the symbolic date of 9 November, they organised a street performance called ‘Social Responsibility Graffiti’ in one of the most crowded train stations, located in Pabrade. The action aimed to clean one of the walls nearby the station, smeared in paint with a racist statement (‘Lithuania for Lithuanians’) and draw over graffiti with the logo of the campaign. This action shows that it is a matter of civil courage and our shared responsibility to show that any expressions of racist hate can never be tolerated. Besides, the NISI held a forum theatre inside the train station inviting all passengers to take part in interactive games. This was an interesting and innovative way to reach out to many people, the railway workers were also involved. The Lithuanian Youth Council coordinated some youth organisations in several programs.

**List of activities**

- Discussion in Nili, organised by My Initiative & Civil Resources Development Centre. 09.11.2009 “Fight Discrimination!” & “All Together Against Racism” Protest in Beograd, organised by Regional Centre for Minorities, Women in Black and QUEERIA Centre. 09.11.2009 “Together Against the Evil” Education in primary and secondary schools informing them about the 9 November and the Youth Group. During classes in all grades, the letter was read.
- To raise awareness at schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina is very important and essential for the future of children.
- The use of graffiti as a tool to counteract hate symbols was an efficient activity during the campaign week in Lithuania.
- The Annual Rainbow Festival is one of the most crowded intercultural and antifascist events in Cyprus.
towns of Lithuania to spread the message that ‘Hatred Kills!’. One of them, the Young Christian Democrats, invited school children and citizens from Druskininkai to gather around the Monument for the Victims of fascism and antisemitism. People lighted candles as a symbol of commemoration for the victims of the ‘Kristallnacht’ pogrom.

Finally, the Lithuanian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR) celebrated the third edition of the human rights film festival ‘Ad Hoc: Inconvenient Films’ in three important cities: Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda. This year the festival received large appreciation from the audience. 6.5 thousand movie-goers visited the weeklong film screenings in Vilnius and nearly all the session halls were packed out. Free screenings of the festival in Vilnius were accompanied by additional activities such as discussions with directors and foreign guests or debates about human rights at universities.

CROATIA

Croatia Vs Fascism: Revaluating History Lessons

In Pula, the Local Government of the Istra County and the town itself hosted a press conference where the president of the association HOMO, presented the program for the 9 November commemoration. Under the slogan ‘Young People Against Fascism’ they organised a visit at the Memorial site for the victims of nazi-fascism. The visit was attended by war veterans, representatives of the town of Pula and of the Istrian County as well as NGOs and citizens. Beyond that, HOMO organised an ‘open lesson of history’ in the economic high school of Pula. These lessons were created together with the principal of the school and the history teacher and will now appear in the teaching program of all high schools in the town.

DENMARK

Remember the Past – Act for a Better Future

The constant shift of Denmark towards the right-wing has once again become obvious during the European Parliamentary Elections 2009. In return for their support of the present liberal/conservative government, the right-wing populist Danish People’s Party has required a severe policy towards migrants and potential refugees. Such tendencies are scary not only because of their immediate effect on the policy of the country, but also because of their constant progression.

It is understandable that this year 9 November campaign was supported by quite a few annual manifestations and walks with torches in various places—Haderslev, Aalborg, Koge which were organised by Social Democracy, Socialist Peoples’ Party (SF), the Unity List (Socialist Party), Anti-Racist Network and Church Asylum. The commemoration of the ‘Krystalnatten’ occurred alongside these manifestations opposing neonazism since, unfortunately, this is not just a tragic notion belonging to the past. Another NGO, SOS mod Racisme, an active participant of 9 November campaign for many years, conducted a few events including music activities, speeches and a Never Again march in Kopenhagen. The aim of the organisation was combating various forms of discrimination and xenophobia and the revaluation of sad lessons of the past including the Holocaust.

List of activities

- **SWITZERLAND** > 06-07.11.09 “Learning From History” Annual visit of the former concentration camp Mauthausen, organised by Infoladen Kasama & Infoladen Reitschule. 09.11.2009 “The Third Richard” Movie screening in Basel, organised by Bildungskommission der Israelitischen Gemeinde Basel, Christlich-Jüdische Arbeitsgemeinschaft & others. • **TURKEY** > 09.11.2009 “From the Jewish Point of View” Speech of a Jewish poet and journalist in Istanbul, organised by Durde!. • **UKRAINE** > 09.11.2009 “Kristallnacht! Movie Night” Screening of Russian documentary “Crystal Night Jewish Pogrom of 1938” with debate and distribution of UNITED material, organised by Ukrainian Union of Jewish Students. 09.11.2009 “Raise the Voice Against Racism” Concert in Artemovsk, organised by SVIT Ukraine.

UNITED is supported by more than 552 organisations from all European countries, many prominent individuals, private supporters and long-term volunteers from Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedenstätten, the European Voluntary Service Programme and Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.


This campaign has been part funded by the Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation) and the European Commission (Youth in Action Programme). The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of UNITED and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the sponsors. UNITED’s publications can be freely re-used, translated and re-distributed, provided the source - www.unitedagainstracism.org - is mentioned and a copy is send to the UNITED secretariat.