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1. Introduction

Europe will remember 2017 as a year of great wins and greater losses. Besides tensions in Catalonia-Spain and the finalization of Brexit, several reforms on the Dublin System have failed, France and the Netherlands voted against right-wing populists and Germany gave a fourth term to the *Willkommens Kulture*. Although the worst did not happen, nationalism and racism continued to be prevalent. Europe is trying to find a way to move forward, however, this is hard to accomplish short of a clear and inclusive vision, and even harder if some countries' national interest or simply the lust for authoritarian power is trying to pull all of us back.

In 2017, UNITED focused its activities on important and pressing issues such as radicalism and victim support, and besides having great achievements, encountered many difficulties as well. Together with partners around Europe, we organised three Europe-wide campaigns and two international conferences. Throughout the year, UNITED also sent delegations to a number of key international events, and maintained information systems that remain among the most extensive documentations of the European antiracist movement. We have also carried out intense lobbying in Hungary and at international platforms in order to contribute to improving the situation of civil society amid frequent and systematic hindrances imposed by the governments, for instance in the case of the new NGO bill in Hungary.

We continue to stand up for our values, for European values, in order to promote equality and tolerance for an inclusive Europe.

2. “STAY UNITED” CAMPAIGN

Europe-wide campaigning is one of the key pillars of UNITED’s work. Each year, the UNITED Secretariat coordinates a number of campaigns, where we invite network activists and other representatives from the European antiracist movement to get involved to take a stand against nationalism, racism and fascism and in support of migrants and refugees. By taking action together with a common message, grassroots organisations all over Europe can raise a strong and UNITED voice against discrimination and for an inclusive, diverse society.

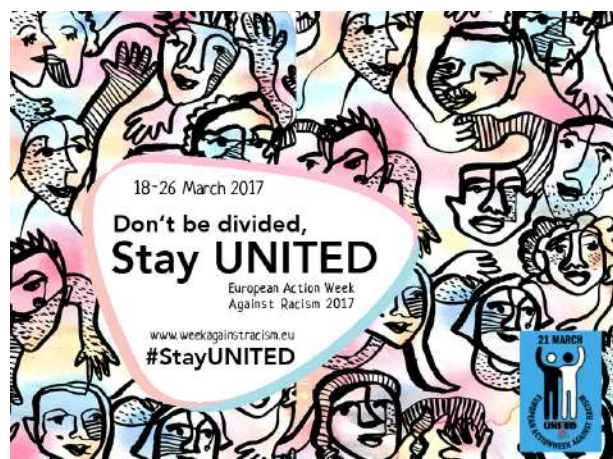
In 2017, the UNITED campaign against discrimination culminated in three highlights: the European Action Week Against Racism (around 21 March), International Refugee Day (20 June) and International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism (9 November).

In order to harmonise UNITED’s campaign highlights, as well as to give more opportunity for activists of the network and participants of the conference to shape UNITED’s campaign, an international Campaign Preparation Group (CPG) was set up with the mandate to design and coordinate our campaign in 2018.

2.1. “Don’t be divided, stay UNITED!” - European Action Week Against Racism

During the European Action Week Against Racism, “*Don’t be divided, Stay UNITED!*” (18-26 March) UNITED stimulated the network to organize activities to raise public awareness on anti-racism and the strength in diversity. During the campaign, more than 1800 events were organized by organisations all over Europe. Information on activities was collected and publicised via social media, and via the activity map at www.weekagainstracism.eu.

The events of 2017 appeared to show a Europe that is deeply divided. Divisions between rich and poor, young and old, minorities and majorities, have dominated headlines and have had major effects on political processes. Rather than trying to heal these divides and work together towards a more equal and just society, populist and right-wing forces have sought to increase these divisions and use them to their advantage. Divisive “us and them” rhetoric has threatened the foundation of our communities and the stability of our societies. As the European antiracist movement, in 2017, we have stood together and called on the people of Europe: Don’t be divided, Stay UNITED!



UNITED produced and disseminated information on how to use the best practices of the network. We set out three “Suggested Activities” that organisations could organise to mark the Action Week: Human Library, Street Action/Flashmob or Theatre of the Oppressed, while organisations were also free to organise any other kind of activity.

Through large international coalitions such as the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR), Interkultureller Rat Germany, Stiftung für die Internationale Wochen gegen Rassismus, the CoE Intercultural Cities Project & CLRAE, mayors and (political) representatives were also called upon in a targeted call to support our campaign message and take a clear stand against discrimination.

During the Action Week in March, we were pleased with the reaction of city governments, with cities including Vienna, Nicosia and Bilbao submitting photos and statements for our online campaign, and other major capitals such as Stockholm and Oslo organising activities to mark the Action Week in March, and we look forward to building on these important strategic relationships and fostering more cooperation between civil society and local administrations.



2.2. International Refugee Day / Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe campaign



On the 20th June 2017, the International Refugee Day, a milestone update of the List of Refugee Deaths that UNITED has been documenting on since 1993 was announced and published on www.unitedagainstrefugeedeaths.eu.

The updated List of Refugee Deaths contains 33,305 documented refugee deaths that were caused by the policies of Fortress Europe

In 2017, UNITED's 'List of Deaths' appeared many times in mainstream media all over the world, which constitutes one of the biggest outreach in the history of UNITED. This year, the Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe campaign was prominent throughout the whole year, generating great mainstream media interest especially on 20 June and 9 November (see under 2.3.).

Already at the end of 2016, we entered into cooperation with the prestigious [Museum of Modern Arts](#) (MoMA) in New York who included our List of Deaths within a 2-month exhibition "Insecurities: Tracing Displacement and Shelter" in the beginning of 2017. The List of Death was also displayed in [Bonn](#), [Hollywood](#) and [Milan](#) this year, and was printed in 100,000 copies in Der Tagesspiegel newspaper in Berlin in November. The List of Refugee Deaths appeared in many prestigious newspapers and radios in 2017, including El País, Radio France International, Huffington Post, and the National Public Radio in the USA, just to mention the major media.

In 2017, among others, the list also inspired a [film project](#) in Vienna, and was used in a protest against migration policies before an EU summit on migration in Brussels, in December 2017.

UNITED has been monitoring refugee deaths for 25 years and the network has used the List as an advocacy tool several times. The regularly updated List attracts more and more attention in Europe and even outside Europe every year, which constitutes a great result that is due to the continuity and stability of UNITED's activities.



2.3. International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism

For this year's International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaign, UNITED focused on spreading the message to take a firm stand and actively reject any narratives and actions that are causing harm to others. Inspired by the message that singer Woody Guthrie placed on his guitar in 1941, "This Machine Kills Fascists", which inspired many subsequent artists, we aimed to spread the message that fascism and Antisemitism can be "killed" with the joint effort of civil society.



The campaign focus on reversing rising populist narratives and thus the spread of discrimination and bias-motivated violence resonated well with our conference in November on the topic of hate violence only one week after the campaign.

On 9 November, many activities all over Europe were organised under the slogan "Let's say it louder: NEVER AGAIN!" to commemorate the night of the Kristallnacht pogrom. Apart from stimulating NGOs and schools to organise events, UNITED also provided visibility for these events and shared informational material through social media channels.

Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe campaign on 9 November



To mark the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, the Tagesspiegel newspaper in Berlin published a 48-page supplement including the updated List of Refugee Deaths translated to German, which was distributed as an insert to 100,000 newspapers, and large posters were placed on nearly 50 billboards all over the city. This was a successful link between our campaigns around Migration and Holocaust, simultaneously raising awareness of fatal policies of the present

and the past. In Berlin, billboards were also placed at various locations in the city, attempts to wake up readers' conscience about the deadly results of the 'Fortress Europe'. The 'List of Deaths' containing over 33,000 documented refugee deaths stood as a testament to the people who have died in their attempt of entering the 'Fortress' or as a result of Europe's immigration policies. The Maxim Gorki Theater in Berlin also organized an event in relation to the publishing of 'The List'.

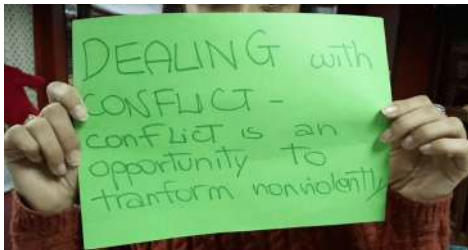
3. Conferences

3.1. Rewind Radicalism: Building up strategies against extremism

The UNITED conference “Rewind Radicalism: Building up strategies against extremism” was organised in Melnik, near Prague, CZ, from 7-12 April. Activists from 33 countries met to discuss the key issues surrounding radicalization and extremism in Europe and develop new strategies for countering such tendencies in European societies.



The conference focused on the issue of radicalisation in Europe and the apparent growth in recent years of (violent) extremism threatening social cohesion. The conference aimed to help participants understand what radicalisation is and where and how it starts, get input on the theoretical aspect from experts in the field, find out how radicalization affects our society by listening to personal testimonies, work in groups on education, media, advocacy, campaigning or community work, and initiate joint actions for NGOs as well as produce future working materials, paving the way for future cooperation.



Day 1 and 2 involved introductory activities to get to know each other and get familiar with the topic. A debate was organised on the topic “Is Europe Radicalising?”, which was followed by an open space for participants to share

their thoughts on the issue and feedback on the debate. Personal testimonies followed in the afternoon on participants’ personal experiences of radicalism. The day was closed with the information market/ speed-networking activity.

Day 3 focused on understanding the theoretical background to radicalisation through a panel discussion and then parallel working groups. UNITED campaign activities were presented in the afternoon, introducing how participants could get involved in the campaigns themselves. The day concluded with Political Cafes, informal discussions organised by the participants, with topics including the impact of hate speech and the use of violence by left-wing radicals.

Over Day 4 and 5, participants worked in groups to come up with strategies for tackling extremism from different perspectives, working with Media, Advocacy, Education, Community Organising and Campaigning. Panel discussions and presentations were also held, looking at the situation of radicalism in different European countries. An afternoon in Prague was also organised where participants met local NGOs and got the opportunity to take part in thematic tours of the city, looking at Prague’s Jewish heritage and recent history of migration.

3.2. Make Every Voice Heard! The Power Of Victim Perspectives In Fighting Hate

In cooperation with our partner, the German Association of Support services for victims of right-wing, racist and Antisemitic violence (VBRG), we organised the conference entitled "Make every voice heard! The Power of Victim Perspectives in fighting Hate Crime ", which took place in Storkow (near Berlin), Germany, from 19th to 24th November 2017. Over 100 activists representing a great variety of organisations participated at the conference.



Focusing on the topic of hate violence in Europe and support services offered to victims, the participants learned about how hate violence affects individuals, groups and society, learned about victims' needs, and exchanged best practices on how to implement victim-centered approaches in their work and what support can be offered for victims of biased-motivated violence.

On Day 1, participants got acquainted and through informal methods became aware of the balance and diversity within the group.

Day 2 was dedicated to develop a similar understanding among participants of conference's aim, contents and concepts through formal and informal methods. A perspective on the current situation in Europe and Germany was given in a plenary lecture, and the rationale behind the need for a victim-centered approach was discussed. In-depth workshops followed in which the group defined the main issues involved when talking about hate crimes, then personal testimonies were presented by participants who themselves were victims of hate violence. The day finished with an Infomarket of all the participating NGOs and invited local authorities and organisations, where representatives had the opportunity to engage in networking.

Day 3 focused on identifying the needs of victims and what support organisations can offer them. The perspective of victims and dangers of secondary victimisation were discussed, then the day finished with parallel political cafés run by participants who shared their own expertise on relevant current topics.

Day 4 focused on sharing best practices in supporting victims of hate crimes. Participants heard about a concrete example from Berlin, then parallel workshops explored good practices concerning victim support in rural areas, working with LGBT* victims, fatalities of hate violence, as well as self-care methods for supporters. The afternoon was



spent in Berlin, where participants had the opportunity to visit topic-related sites through thematic tours.

Day 5 continued to focus on how to implement strategies in NGO activities, including reporting of hate crimes and cooperating with various actors like law enforcement bodies, government institutions and the media. The last afternoon was devoted to developing ideas for content and strategies of future UNITED campaigns, facilitated by members of the Campaign Preparatory Group (CPG). These workshops served as a fundamental basis for the CPG's work in designing the UNITED campaign for 2018, incorporating all the input gained from the participants of the conference into the strategy and design of the 2018 campaign.

In the two last sessions, participants could openly share contributions, followed by an evaluation session and the official closing of the conference.

Apart from migrants, refugees, Roma people and various ethnicities who always attend our conferences in great number, this time the representation of LGBT* groups and people living with disability was higher than usual. The fact that representatives of many disadvantaged groups attended this conference shows the great necessity of an intersectional approach, especially when dealing with victims of hate violence. UNITED has been committed to maintaining an intersectional approach in its work for a long time, and this conference was a clear indicator of the high necessity of this process.



4. Other Activities

4.1. United Youth Against Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe – Study Session

In cooperation with the Youth Department of the Council of Europe , the Human Rights Education Youth Network (HREYN), and the European Youth Press (EYP), UNITED took part in a special project to counter hate and violent extremism among young people at risk of social exclusion. The aim of the project was to provide to youth trainers', youth activists' and young people competences to act against violent extremism and hate speech in Europe.

The project, which took place over the course of 2017, consisted of two Study Sessions (in April and September 2017) at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, and an intermediate phase between the two study sessions, when participants organized activities to engage young people at risk of social exclusion.



From 24-28 April 2017, young activists, youth workers and media makers from all over Europe gathered in Budapest for the study session “United Youth Against Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe”. 20 participants shared their knowledge and experience through the week, deepened their understanding of processes leading to violent extremism, and together designed future actions that were going to be implemented in the intermediate phase of the project.

From 10-15 September 2017, some of the participants from the 1st Study Session and new youngsters involved in the local and international projects gathered again for the 2nd Study Session of “United Youth Against Hate and Violent Extremism in Europe”. 30 young people attended this Study Session: there were participants that are youth workers, young activists, youngsters, refugees. Among many informational and inspirational sessions about the topic, e.g. “Psychological mechanisms of

radicalization: why is violent extremism appealing?”, participants shared actions and methodologies and presented and reflected on the activities implemented during the intermediate phase; as well as evaluated and gave feedback on these activities.



Several exciting and inspirational activities were designed and implemented locally by the participants of the two study sessions during the intermediate phase of the project. Examples of actions included Human Library, “Red Umbrella Action”, local workshops in schools and even project groups were set up with follow-up plans to continue working on countering hate and radicalisation.

5. Network Representation

During the year, UNITED network delegates took part in several international meetings and events. Stakeholders who were reached during these events enhanced our campaign activities and expanded the network. All contacts made through campaigning and event visits have been used to update the Addressbook Against Racism.



UNITED sent representatives to many international meetings to promote our campaigns, establish partnerships and advocate for the European antiracist movement. UNITED has been a member of the Steering Group of the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, the Working Group on Migration of the same Forum, and UNITED’s representative is the coordinator of the Working Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance of the Civic Solidarity Platform where he put efforts advocating against the “shrinking public space of activists” in the OSCE region.

UNITED has among others been represented at the Coordinators Meeting of the No Hate Speech Movement, OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference, and committee meetings of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and Service Civil International.

UNITED also continued to participate actively in the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech Movement campaign. UNITED representatives were key in establishing the campaign in 2012, and UNITED delegates continued to play an influential role at a number of campaign events in 2017, including the 5th Coordination meeting of the NHSM campaign in Bucharest in June. The No Hate Speech Movement also worked with UNITED on promotion of the European Action Week Against Racism and International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism campaigns (see 2.1 and 2.3).

UNITED was represented at a number of international events organized on the theme of preventing youth radicalization, this being one of our prominent topics in 2017, alongside many other events and conferences on urban security and European-Arab cooperation, for instance.



6. Information Systems

Throughout the year, UNITED continued to maintain information systems that remain among the most detailed sources of information about the European antiracist movement. This is centred around the UNITED database; kept on a server at a secure location in the Netherlands, the UNITED database includes details of over 8,000 organisations and activists all over Europe. It forms the basis of the UNITED Address Book Against Racism, a regularly-updated online address book that includes details of over 6,000 organisations active in the fight against nationalism, racism and fascism in Europe.

The database also forms the basis of our mailing list, which currently features over 12,000 contacts. This facilitates a regular E-News service, in which we update the network about our campaigns and events, as well as other important news updates from the European antiracist movement. In 2017, we sent monthly e-mail newsletter with news from UNITED, news from the network, and highlights from the UNITED website.

Throughout the year, we continually provided updates and reports on our activities via posts on our website (www.unitedagainstracism.org), as well as our Facebook pages. UNITED updates 5 Facebook pages, which gained a combined growth of 12% on all social media sites, with a 30% growth on the main Facebook site. As a result of our strengthened online presence, we increased our reachout, especially among youth, reaching 400,000 people on our social media sites in 2017.

7. We Are UNITED

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants, refugees and minorities. Together with over 560 supporter organisations all around Europe, ranging from local grassroots associations to national and international NGOs, UNITED coordinates campaigns, organises conferences, takes part in projects, produces publications and undertakes advocacy work to protest against discrimination and promote our shared vision for a diverse and inclusive society.

Through the UNITED Network, NG(Y)Os can widen their partnerships, work on common actions and share information and expertise. Conferences developing the UNITED program are designed to empower and inter-connect grassroots (youth) organisations by providing a platform for sustainable networking and expertise exchange. In these conferences, non-formal learning methodologies are used to empower, train and develop young representatives' skills – and thus their organisations' capacities – and increase the effectiveness and quality of their work. The acquired skills can be then used in future anti-discrimination work.

All of our activities are strongly interrelated. Network conferences build upon contacts and contents collected during the campaigns, future campaign ideas and needs are collected from conference participants, and campaign strategies are evaluated at these conferences and further developed in planning meetings. Continuous update of our database serves our basic networking tools: the online European Addressbook Against Racism and Calendar facilitate cooperation within and outside the UNITED structure.

Young activists are involved in ever-changing roles, as volunteers, facilitators, organizers and experts, and experience gained in one activity is used in follow up actions. Special focus is given to involve young activists in each process in order to increase their capacities and skills for the short-term organisation of follow-up activities as well as for their long-term careers. Members of the conference preparation team (IPG) for future Network conferences are selected from young high potential participants from expert organisations taking part in earlier UNITED events.

The principle of non-formal education is essential to UNITED and permeates all of our activities. Our activities help to empower young people through non-formal education at the UNITED conferences, when young (I)NGYO representatives from all over Europe come together to debate key topics, share their best practices, learn new skills and acquire new knowledge that they can then implement in their own local, regional and national contexts. All of our activities promote intercultural learning, respect for diversity, and the values of solidarity, equal opportunities and human rights among young people in Europe.

8. Supported by

UNITED is supported by

Since 1992, financial support was received from various sponsors such as: European Commission (General Budget/Socrates/Grundtvig/Youth in Action/Erasmus+/DG Employment Social Affairs/TACIS IBPP), Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation/European Youth Centres), OSCE-ODIHR, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, World Council of Churches, Olof Palmes MinnesFond, Cultural Council Sweden, Ministry of Education Slovenia, Green Group-, Socialist Group-, and GUE/NGL Group in the European Parliament, European Cultural Foundation, Stiftung West-Östliche Begegnung, Aktionsbündnis Gegen Gewalt, Rechtstextremismus und Fremdenfeindlichkeit Brandenburg, Home Office UK, Ministry of Interior-BZK NL, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs CH, the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Instituto Português da Juventude, National Integration Office Sweden, Service Nationale de la Jeunesse Luxembourg, LNU – Norwegian Youth Council, Europees Platform Grundtvig, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Federal Social Insurance Office (Dep. for Youth Affairs) CH, Swiss Coordination Office of Youth for Europe, Federal Service for Combating Racism (Fund for Projects Against Racism) CH, Migros Kulturprozent CH, Comunidad de Madrid, Ministry of Youth and Sport of

Azerbaijan, The Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs, Rothschild Foundation, Local Municipality of Budapest, Youth Board of Cyprus, Jewish Humanitarian Fund, Foundation Remembrance Responsibility and Future, Minority Rights Group Europe, OSCE – Mission to Skopje, Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, Provincie Noord-Brabant, Open Society Foundations, Children and Youth Development Fund Georgia, Final Frontiers Internet, Dijkman Print, the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum, OBEY Clothing, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women & Youth – Demokratie Leben! and others.

UNITED publications can be freely re-used, translated and re-distributed, provided source (www.unitedagainstracism.org) is mentioned and a copy is sent to the UNITED Secretariat.

Contact

UNITED for Intercultural Action

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

Postbus 413 - NL 1000 AK Amsterdam
phone +31-20-6834778 - fax +31-20-6834582
info@unitedagainstracism.org - www.unitedagainstracism.org

