

# UNITED

racism  
fascism  
nationalism

UNITED FOR  
INTERCULTURAL ACTION

# Annual Report 2020

UNITED for Intercultural Action

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

UNITED  
racism  
fascism  
nationalism

## DANGER OF WORDS

DEFINITIONS of concepts most used in anti-racist work

### Introduction:

"I am not a racist, because I have nothing against  
black people, if they assimilate and follow our  
rules. In fact, some of my friends are black."  
Maybe you have been confronted with this  
opinion or a similar one. Maybe you have tried to  
explain that what you mean by tolerance does not  
mean that everything is permitted. Maybe you  
have experienced confusion when speaking to  
someone from another part of Europe about  
and 'right'. In this information leaflet we  
start a discussion about certain terms  
often in our daily work. The definitions  
leaflet are ideas. They are not the  
only expression of an understanding.  
Language is constantly changing and  
terms and concepts, in time they  
come to mean something else.  
cooperation, but in fact this is  
our next door neighbour.  
what we are



# About us

## UNITED:

We believe that racism can only be combated by unity. Since 1993, more than 560 organisations from 46 European countries have stood together to support our anti-racist and anti-discrimination vision, and to speak out against the political backsliding in Europe.

## FOR:

We stand for unity and hope, while fascists spread division and fear. Our vision is one of peaceful co-existence and intercultural respect all over the world.

## INTERCULTURAL:

Diversity is a virtue, solidarity a duty! Strengthening existing intercultural relations between civil societies, minority groups and political and economical actors is our most important target.

## ACTION:

It is variety and creativity that makes UNITED campaigns unique. By linking local and national actions, we generate European-wide solidarity and publicity.

We show that there is an enormous amount of people that believe in an intercultural open society.

# In this report

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- Webinar: climate justice and peace (December 2020)
- European Regional Forum on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities"

**24** Thank you all!

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## 2020 in numbers

41,336 persons  
have visited the  
UNITED website

297,176 reached  
through UNITED  
Facebook page

33,900 reached  
through UNITED  
Twitter page



# A word from...

## BALINT JOSA, PROJECT COORDINATOR

Looking back on 2020 is a difficult job. With the pandemic and the consequential economic and societal fallout, it has certainly been a turning point in modern history. We experienced lockdowns and huge restrictions of freedom, as governmental power was unchecked and hard to monitor and counteract.

Still there were a lot of positive signs, like the growth of solidarity among some groups, acts of volunteering for each other, courageous political acts in Belorussia, and the turn of elections in the USA. Our topics on racism, asylum rights, and nationalism had major backlash and we are worried that in 2021 there is more to come.

However, conflict and crises are also a chance to learn and develop. UNITED has organised several online conferences on the topic of what can “we” do and has given the chance for these lessons to be learned.



**In 2021 we will fight for the same causes,  
inspire others to join us and instead of  
blaming others and turning on each other,  
we will stay human and Stay UNITED!**



# Campaigns

06

Action Week against  
Racism - March 21st



International Day  
against Fascism and  
Antisemitism -  
November 9th

08

11

The Fatal Policies  
of Fortress Europe



# Action Week against Racism

## 21 MARCH

In 2020, UNITED for Intercultural Action achieved a successful European Action Week against Racism. This year's slogan was UNITED for Humanity, with an accompanying hashtag #United4Humanity. Taking place from 16th to 29th March, we encouraged individuals, collectives, organisations and institutions all across Europe to find things that unite us, to celebrate diversity and to stand firm against racism and xenophobia. We counted this year as stocktaking - gathering information about events that had happened in recent years previous.



The plan originally meant to include events from 2020 as well. However, as the Action Week began on March 16th, colliding with the outbreak of not only COVID-19 but also the worldwide lockdowns, all events initially planned had to be immediately cancelled, and the world had not adapted to the online environment yet. Taking their information, we put together this interactive map, which does not include events from 2020, but takes stock of events from the last 2-3 years.

A few examples are highlighted on the next page.

CLICK THE

IMAGE TO

SEE THE

MAP!



# Highlights

## Students against Racism National Conference

Universities are often at the sharp end of this racism. The government's Prevent agenda unfairly targets Muslim students, the rights of EU students and staff are being used as a bargaining chip in Brexit, and our curriculums don't reflect the diverse student body. This conference, jointly hosted by Stand Up to Racism and Muslim Engagement and Development, aims to bring together students and staff from across the country to discuss how we can build a movement on our campuses to challenge racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism.



## Nerve Center - Intercultural & Anti-racism Foyle Film Festival



The festival offers primary, post-primary schools, colleges, universities, community groups and the general public a programme of international films, documentaries, presentations, workshops, and outreach screenings, exploring the themes and issues involved. Please visit <http://www.foylefilmfestival.org> for the complete program.

## Special Vinyl Record Release

The "Never again" Association has released a special vinyl record to commemorate Marcin Kornak, the late founder and chairman of "Never again", one of the stalwarts of the Polish anti-racism movement. The special EP entitled "I Know My Path is Right" includes tracks dedicated to the memory of Marcin Kornak by two Polish rock bands closely associated with "Never again": Qulturka and Skowyt. Their songs address the issues of bigotry and violence: <https://youtu.be/gpaewF3bgVA>





# International Day against Facism and Antisemitism

## 9 NOVEMBER

2020 has been a particularly difficult year for all of us, globally. We were thrown into entirely unknown circumstances, our lives disrupted, and the world has grappled with how to deal with this unprecedented crisis.

Not only were the fundamental freedoms of many curbed, but it was the minority communities – those already in the most vulnerable positions – who suffered the most. From discrimination in healthcare, to restricted mobility, to loss of employment, and increase in hate speech, it was the racial and ethnic minority communities who were hit hardest.

And, at a point when Europe could have united to counter it, we saw the opposite – we saw leaders using the crisis to their own gain. We saw instances of leaders imposing emergency measures not in the interest of public health, but in the interest of exerting control.

Now more than ever, we need to remember this day and all it stands for. The 9th of November is the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism, a day mandated to remember the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom in Germany, 1938. On this night, 82 years ago, SA Storm Troopers and civilians destroyed more than 8,000 Jewish homes and shops, set synagogues on fire, imprisoned, injured and killed Jews all across the Nazi Germany.

But this day did not occur from a vacuum. This day was a culmination of a steady, systematic development of what once began as prejudice, and enveloped into a genocide. It was the unchecked hate speech, the untrammelled propaganda, and imposition of discriminatory laws, and the steady deprivation of rights. It was the unbridled intolerance that resulted in one of the most horrific moments in our collective history – the Holocaust.



# International Day against Facism and Antisemitism

## 9 NOVEMBER



We may have moved past this terrible time, and may only talk about it in commemoration. However, this does not mean that the racism, facism, and antisemitism, homophobia, or Islamophobia is anywhere near being over.

Today, racist, fascist and Neo-Nazi movements are on the rise all over Europe. Neo-Nazis hunt and assault migrants, Muslims, Jews, Roma, LGBTQ-activists, people living with disabilities and other minorities, using rallies as a cover-up for their hate-crimes.

Neo-Nazis and fascists are not only taking action on the streets: in most countries of Europe, far-right movements also have a parliamentary arm, sometimes even as part of the government. While disguising themselves as democratic parties, they use public money and governmental power to create an authoritarian rollback, intensifying the divide between the majority and minority communities around Europe.

This has not changed in 2020. The pandemic has only intensified it. We must take note, and fight back with renewed energy.

That is why, UNITED is back with its year-long campaign. Our official logo for this year is shown on the right.

Those who join this international campaign have taken part during the past in a variety of initiatives, ranging from involving their city government, hosting a picnic, organizing an antiracism walk, to movie screenings and art viewings, to simply liking a Facebook page. Each of these activities is an important reminder, at a time where we need it more than ever, that love is always stronger than hate.

You can read more about the campaign [on our website](#).

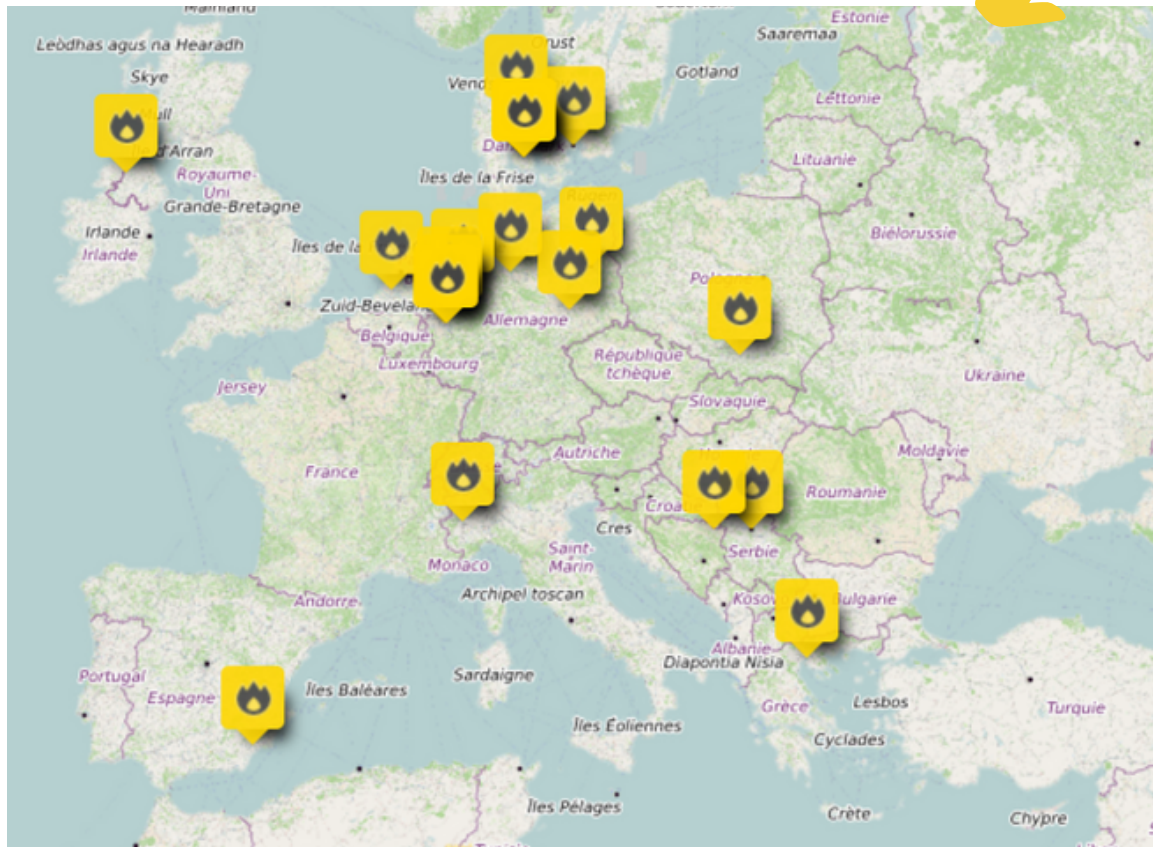


## International day against facism and antisemitism

**9 NOVEMBER**

We will feature your contributions on an interactive activity map, that will display not only on our campaign website, but also on our UNITED webpage. It will serve to showcase not only your work, but the scale and size of our network.

This map is an ongoing collaboration; to reflect the varied history of antifascism in Europe, we are taking entries around the year, as and when they occur. The map can be viewed by clicking on the image below.



**CLICK  
HERE TO  
VIEW THE  
MAP!**



# REFUGEE LIVES MATTER - 40 555 REFUGEE DEATHS AT THE EUROPEAN BORDERS

[illegible]

This year of 2020 marks the 19th anniversary of the World Refugee Day, marked on June 20. Dozens of organizations and churches from Switzerland, along with SOS MEDITERRANEE, and UNITED for Intercultural Action, are combining efforts to bring attention to more than 40 000 refugee deaths caused by the Fatal Policies of Fortress Europe, and launching the Call by Name campaign:

<https://www.beimnamennennen.ch>.

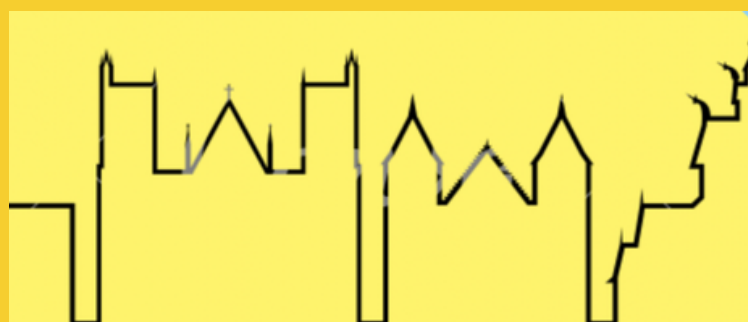


# Conferences

13

## Solidarity in Action Virtual UNITED Conference

30 September  
- 1 October



## Conference for Climate Justice and Peace 25-26 April

15



# Solidarity in Action

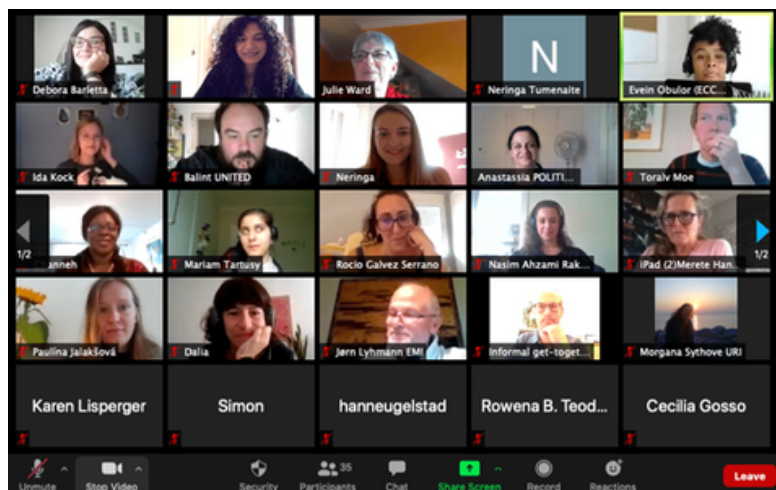
## Virtual UNITED Conference

30TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OCTOBER

From 30th September to the 1st of October, together with Oslo Municipality, UNITED was hosting a virtual conference, covering the topics of youth, women, refugees and minorities, NGOs, and intersectionality. The conference focused on one central question: what can we do about the ways in which young people, and in particular minorities, have been impacted by the COVID crisis? How to counteract the rising hate, scapegoatism, the differences in access to healthcare, and the fact that this crisis affects minority communities the most – the very communities struck already by systematic racism and oppression?

The pandemic has revealed the sheer mismatch of power and discrimination. This crisis has amplified the social reality that those already predisposed to risk – lack of access to healthcare, social discrimination and stigma – have been hit even harder.

A lot of people have faced discrimination in access to fundamental rights in addition to stigma, hate speech, physical violence.

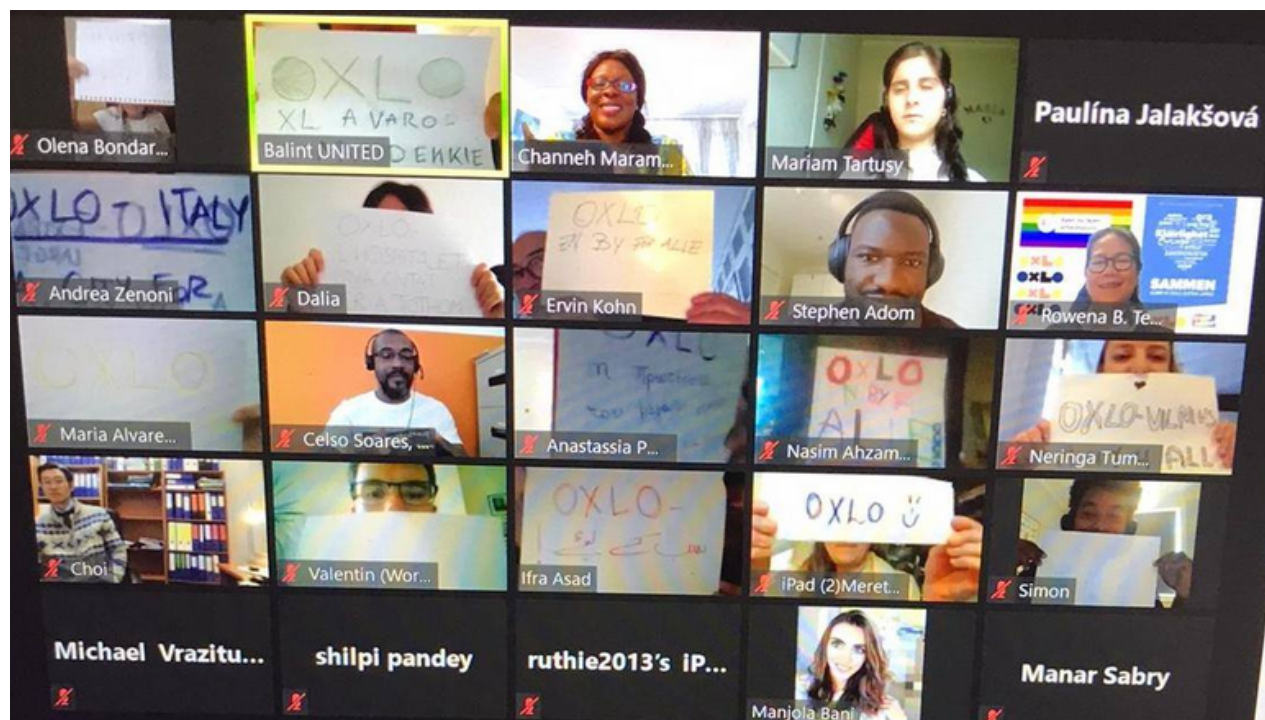




## Solidarity in Action - Virtual UNITED Conference

**30TH SEPTEMBER - 1ST OKTOBER**

This conference included 2 days of workshops and interesting keynote speeches, panels and other interactive forms of learning and networking. The first day workshops was collecting field experiences and good practices, and second day activities were focusing on the solutions and preventive measures on discrimination and hate.



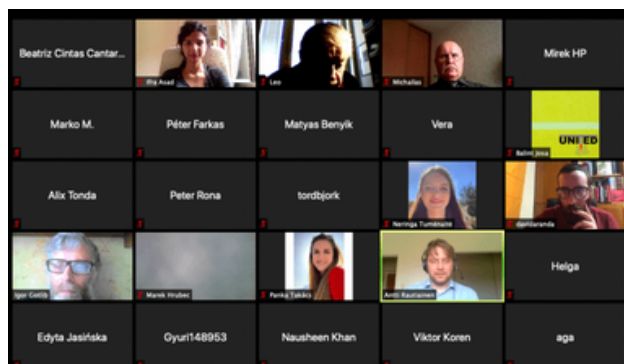
**CLICK HERE FOR  
THE REPORT!**

# Conference for Climate Justice and Peace

25 - 26TH APRIL

On 25-26 April of 2020, UNITED for Intercultural Action, in conjunction with supporting organizations, held the European/Prague Spring conference – All-European mobilizing Conference for climate justice and peace.

The aims of the European/Prague Spring conference are to emphasize and build on the important connections between social and environmental movements.



The experts of the conference were seeking for social and environmental (ecological) alternatives and looking for answers to the multidimensional crisis looming large above all our heads.

This conference aimed to stand up to this global trend: to mobilize human and financial resources for better involvement of Central and Eastern European (CEE) activists in the World Social Forum.

Through Zoom, we discussed how environmental, PEACE and social movements and their activities can address the COVID-19 outbreak and what is their position in global efforts directed to the pandemic crisis.



**CLICK HERE FOR THE REPORT!**

# Other activities

**17** Webinar: Climate Justice and Peace

European Regional Forum on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities" - with United Nations, co-hosted by UNITED

**18**

**20** Belarus: UNITED calls the government to respect the rights of all citizens to peaceful demonstrations

Joint statement: French Minister threatening to close down anti-racist civil society organisation

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UNITED at Erasmus Global Partnership MENA Forum in Morocco

**23**



# Webinar: Climate Justice and Peace

**5-6TH DECEMBER**

5-6th December 2020, on the 10th anniversary of the Prague Spring 2 network, we held an online conference with the following topics raised:

- How is it possible to organize a campaign in all parts of Europe for an eco-social transformation and disarmament and a Nuke Free Europe and Climate Justice?
- How can communities strengthen each other across borders finding ways to build trust and resilience through local food production and stronger solidarity economies?
- How can we dismantle authoritarian, military, trade and financial international regimes that support the continuation of racist colonial and neocolonial oppression and where and what can be the contribution of our organizations like trade unions, peasant and Human Rights organizations to peace and democracy?

Peace is a multidimensional phenomenon and, if we say today that peace is in a big crisis, we also mean economic, ecological, social, cultural crisis, which above all has led us in an unaccountable crisis of democracy.

Organized by: Prague Spring 2 – European network against right-wing extremism and populism – together with UNITED for Intercultural Action, Transform!europe, Activist for Peace, Sweden, Alliance for Labour and Solidarity (Spojenectví práce a solidarity – SpaS), Czechia, International Young Naturefriends (IYNF), Young European Environmentalists (YEE), Organizers for the Left (A Szervezők A Baloldalért – SzAB) and ATTAC Hungary.



  
**CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION!**

# European Regional Forum on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities"

**WITH UNITED NATIONS, CO-HOSTED BY UNITED  
21-22ND SEPTEMBER**

We at UNITED are very honored to share one of our exceptional achievements in the year 2020. UNITED had the opportunity to co-host the first European regional forum on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities" which took place on 21-22nd September 2020.

The regional forum was organized to provide regional insights on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities" in the thematic work of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues for his upcoming report to the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2021. The forum also provided insights for the work and recommendations of the 13th Session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, which took place in Geneva, on 19-20th November 2020.



# European Regional Forum on "Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities"

**21-22ND SEPTEMBER**

The regional forum included the following five objectives:

- To raise awareness about and to promote understanding of the forms of online hate speech;
- Identify legal, institutional and policy challenges concerning the dissemination of online hate speech, particularly against minorities;
- Explore and identify appropriate responses to the dissemination of hate speech against minorities on social media platforms;
- Strengthen the participation of persons belonging to minorities and their representatives in the development of laws and policies, as well as global discussions on online hate speech and the promotion of human rights and ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity;
- Strengthen partnerships among various stakeholders and to build their capacity to address hate speech against minorities.

We are very pleased that the forum was highly successful with up to 165 participants representing states, international organizations, civil society, academia, and minority groups comprising various stakeholders in this field.

## European Regional Forum on Hate Speech, Social Media and Minorities



For more details please [the website of Minority Forum](#) or [UNITED's website](#).

# Belarus: UNITED calls the government to respect the rights of all citizens to peaceful demonstrations

On the 17th of August, UNITED for Intercultural Action released the following statement to express its solidarity with the Belarusian civil society in the face of the government's repression:

"We are deeply concerned about the violent mass repression against peaceful demonstrators, nongovernmental organizations, journalists and political opponents in Belarus. The reports we have received from grassroots activists and journalists echo the recent statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who expressed concern that over 6000 people have been detained, including bystanders, as well as minors, suggesting "a trend of massive arrests in clear violation of international human rights standards."

Reports UNITED have received from grassroots activists and journalists from Belarus express even graver concerns over the actions of the police. Two peaceful protestors were murdered by riot police in Minsk and another peaceful protestor tortured to death in Homiel, whereas the torture of those detained is widespread: hundreds of people have been badly injured with non-lethal traumatic police weapons, including rubber bullets and stun grenades. This degree of violence has been unprecedented for modern Belarus.

We call on the Belarusian authorities to respect the rights of all citizens to peaceful demonstrations and end the detention and arrests. Anyone detained for peacefully protesting, as well as prisoners of conscience should be immediately released and people's grievances heard."



Image: Andrei Bortnikau (Shutterstock)

**CLICK HERE  
TO READ THE  
STATEMENT  
ON OUR  
WEBSITE**



# Joint statement: French Minister threatening to close down anti-racist civil society organisation

In October, UNITED joined European Network against Racism - ENAR and 70 other civil society organisations and academics, which expressed solidarity with CCIF (Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en France), following the statements made by the French Interior Minister to dissolve the organisation.

An excerpt from the statement:

"The undersigned organisations are extremely concerned by the call by Gérald Darmanin, French Minister of the Interior, to dissolve the Collective Against Islamophobia in France (CCIF), an anti-racist organisation member of the European Network Against Racism. We express our strong support to the organisation which has been fighting against racism and discrimination targeting Muslims for the last 20 years, and call on international solidarity against this manifestation of structural racism targeting civil society.

On 16 October, Samuel Paty, a teacher in Conflans, France, was murdered after showing his students caricatures of Prophet Muhammad. We strongly condemn this act and express our solidarity to the victim's family. This horrendous act was followed by a concerted attack against the CCIF and other organisations, accused of opposing the 'Republican order' and being 'radical islamists'.

The CCIF's mission is to fight racism and racial discrimination, and specifically Islamophobia, in France. It provides crucial legal support and advice to victims of discrimination and conducts important research to uncover the reality of anti-Muslim racism in France. Its professionalism and expertise have been recognised by European and international institutions, including by equality bodies and human rights NGOs."



**CLICK HERE  
TO READ THE  
FULL  
STATEMENT**

# Joint Statement: Call for Ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabach

On the 13th of October, UNITED for Intercultural Action released a joint statement to call for a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabach. The statement was co-issued by UNITED for Intercultural Action, No Hate Speech Network, Prague Spring 2, Youth Center "Perspektiva", IMPRESS, Alliance for Labour and Solidarity, Activists for Peace, Human Rights Association, APICE and YAN.

An excerpt from the statement:

"We, UNITED for Intercultural Action, No Hate Speech Network, Prague Spring 2, Youth Center "Perspektiva", IMPRESS, Alliance for Labour and Solidarity, Activists for Peace, Human Rights Association, APICE and YAN express deep and grave concerns over the escalating violence between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

We welcome the ceasefire agreement negotiated in Moscow following trilateral talks between the foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia on October 10, as proposed by the Co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Russia, France and the United States). We denounce the violation of the ceasefire, which shows the severeness of the conflict, and call for enhanced diplomatic efforts to create lasting peace in the region.

We also draw attention to the concern expressed by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly's Monitoring Committee, which has deplored the inflammatory rhetoric by the Turkish government as well as its direct involvement in the conflict."



**CLICK HERE  
TO READ THE  
FULL  
STATEMENT**

# UNITED at Erasmus Global Partnership MENA Forum in Morocco

Supporting UNITED's engagement on issues of human rights and migration, and increasing engagement with the NGO sector in MENA, UNITED delegates joined Erasmus Global Partnerships MENA Forum and Policy Dialogue, hosted in Rabat, Morocco on February 29-March 2, 2020.

The Forum gathered 60 young leaders and entrepreneurs from MENA and Europe to take part in capacity building training on Global Citizenship Education and Entrepreneurships, exchange knowledge and build inter-disciplinary and cross-border partnerships.

The Policy Dialogue engaged a diverse group of policy and decision makers - including the European Union, Union for the Mediterranean and the African Union - and served as a platform to discuss the needs of Civic Society Organisations, Entrepreneurs from MENA and Europe, and present Policy Recommendations and project proposals. UNITED's Director Balint Josa supported the activities as a trainer.

As a result of the Forum, 25 Youth Organizations co-drafted and signed Joint Policy Report & Recommendations – “Fostering EU-MENA Cooperation through Youth Empowerment and Innovation to advance Sustainable Development”. Read it [here](#).





# Thank you all!



## Thank you,

all staff members, volunteers, interns, Network members, NGOs, associations, organisations, and friends who have helped to make this year a success, despite all 2020 challenges.

## An important note

2020 was a hard year for everyone in terms of plans' realization. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we had to carry out our activities in an online space. Despite everything, we did our best to maintain the quality of our programs, ensure the relevancy of activities and keep up our own path.

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- 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
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- Home Office UK
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- the Matra Programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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- National Integration Office Sweden
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- Senior Citizens
- Women & Youth – Demokratie Leben!
- 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
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- Final Frontiers Internet
- Dijkman Print
- The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum
- OBEY Clothing
- Federal Ministry for Family Affairs



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