



**EUROPEAN NETWORK AGAINST RACISM**

The voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe

## **ENAR demands to address racist police violence and structural racism**

As a network, [ENAR](#) works for an equal and inclusive Europe, we would like to raise our serious concerns and demands regarding police brutality against people of colour in Europe as well as institutional and structural racism, following the killing of George Floyd in the United States and ensuing solidarity protests in Europe and across the world.

In Europe, we have documented several cases of police brutality against people from racialised groups in the context of COVID-19. According to the data collected, three people from Arab descent have died in interactions with the police. ENAR has noted a significant number of incidents of [police brutality and violence, racial profiling](#), arbitrary checks and fines during COVID-19 confinement period.

EU bodies themselves, such as the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, have found that one quarter of all persons of African descent surveyed were stopped by the police in the five years before the survey, and among these, [41% characterised the most recent stop as racial profiling](#). In France, young men perceived as black or Arab are [20 times more likely](#) to be controlled by police than others. In the UK, [data shows](#) that the proportion of black and ethnic minority deaths in custody as a result of use of force or restraint by the police, is over two times greater than it is in other deaths in custody. Roma people across Europe also [experience](#) racial profiling and police violence.

For decades, ENAR and anti-racist organisations on the ground have been reporting what racialised communities experience at the hands of the police across the European Union: discriminatory stop and search, abuse, violence and even death. So far, however, there has been little visibility and no public response.

ENAR understands police violence as a key manifestation of structural racism stemming from institutions, whose practices are deeply rooted in historical ways of exploiting and abusing racialised groups (such as slavery and colonialism). Structural racism is based on deep-seated social hierarchies that are reflected in all societal institutions. Considering how law enforcement has been ideologically constructed and the increasing military power that it has been given, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, racism in this institution has obvious consequences of severe abuse and violence towards racialised groups and can be seen as one of the ultimate tools to serve white privilege.

The existence of police brutality and discriminatory policing in Europe has been denied, particularly by institutions and political leaders that are supposed to protect them all. Racialised communities across the EU are entitled to the recognition of the oppression they are subjected to on a daily basis. We demand that:

## 1. Leaders acknowledge and condemn police violence and deaths of racialised groups

Political leaders within the EU and in Member States must publicly acknowledge the existence of and publicly condemn discriminatory and violent police practices, in particular when it results in death.

## 2. Investment in communities and divestment from law enforcement

National governments should not use public funds that result in death of their citizens but instead invest in services that serve the community. They should initiate conversations with communities on how to better use public resources that create safety for all and how to address policing. They should ensure meaningful participation of ethnic and religious minorities and migrants, including women, in decision-making. The EU should also not fund practices that result in the torture and unlawful returns of migrants and other racialised groups.

## 3. Sanction racist behaviour in the police

There is an urgent need to ensure fair and effective policing practices for all communities. EU member state governments must adopt measures to combat and prevent racism in law enforcement. This includes severe sanctions in cases of police violence, ensuring fair and independent investigations and prohibiting racial profiling.

## 4. Inquiries into deaths in custody

Each Member State must ensure that each death in custody or following an interaction with the police receives an independent investigation. There have been numerous deaths in custody where the families are still seeking some form of redress and justice through independent inquires. There is an urgency for these inquires to take place and develop recommendations on how to ensure Member States uphold their human rights obligations.

## 5. National Action Plans Against Racism

There is a denial of long-standing existence of systems of oppression in European societies, of historical injustices including colonialism, and persistent racial inequalities in areas of housing, healthcare, employment and education, as well as repeated experiences of state violence and impunity. The existence of structural racism has led to over policing of certain communities. In order to address these different manifestations in a structural and comprehensive manner, the EU and Member States should adopt or improve National Action Plans Against Racism (as required by the UN) with clear and identified measures. This is key to be able to strategically address structural racism in a transversal and targeted manner. This could include positive action measures to increase racial diversity in institutions, review of anti-discrimination laws to prohibit racial profiling, accessible and independent complaint mechanisms, implicit bias trainings, amendments to school manuals, remembrance and reparations measures and more.

## 6. Equality data collection and data transparency

The EU and its Member States should also collect equality data disaggregated by race (including ethnicity and religion) that is voluntary, anonymous and ensures the protection of personal data, self-identification and consultation with relevant communities. This is key to reveal the extent of racial inequalities in Europe and to make visible where structural discrimination, racial profiling, disproportionate use of force and deaths following an interaction with the police are happening.

### Further information and resources

COVID Policy Briefing <https://indd.adobe.com/view/16e0ec05-6afb-4383-97fe-16359b9c8ca9>

Racist Crime and Institutional Racism – ENAR Shadow Report - [https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/shadowreport2018\\_final.pdf](https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/shadowreport2018_final.pdf)

Data Driven Profiling <https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/data-driven-profiling-web-final.pdf>

ENPAD-ENAR briefing [https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/enpad\\_enar\\_pad\\_policy\\_recommendations\\_for\\_the\\_ec.pdf](https://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/enpad_enar_pad_policy_recommendations_for_the_ec.pdf)

Ethnic profiling infographic <https://www.enar-eu.org/ENAR-releases-ethnic-profiling-infographic>

ENAR is developing a more detailed briefing with more information on the situation of policing racialised groups which will be available on the [ENAR website](#) in June 2020.