



Parliamentary Webinar

Taking a stand against systemic discrimination and institutional racism in Europe: parliamentary response

Date: Wednesday 1 July 2020

Time: 10:30 – 11:30 (CEST)

Following the Black Lives Matter protests in the United States, large, peaceful demonstrations have taken place in European capital cities including Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, London, Paris and Vienna to denounce racism and police violence. Discrimination and institutional racism are still rife in our Council of Europe member States. Upholding equality and human rights are at the core of the work and activities of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). We have a duty and moral obligation to uphold such rights and condemn systemic discrimination and institutional racism.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the impact of structural discrimination and made it more visible. People of African and Asian descent have been disproportionately affected by the disease, for reasons that deserve further investigation but appear to originate from differences in social and economic status, access to healthcare services, as well as cultural perceptions.

By addressing questions such as “What should national authorities, parliaments and European organisations do to strengthen and enforce legislation and policies against racism and discrimination?”, “What is the role of parliamentarians?”, “How to engage with human rights organisation, equality bodies and grassroots organisations to drive forward positive change?”, this parliamentary discussion aims to take stock of the situation, exchange good practices including on the intersectional approach, and put forward proposals to end discrimination and racism. The event will also contribute to the preparation of the PACE Equality and Non-Discrimination Committee report on “Combating Afrophobia in Europe”.

Opening by Rik Daems, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Panelists:

- **Momodou Malcolm Jallow**, General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **E. Tendayi Achime**, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (tbc)
- **Domenica Ghidei Biidu**, Vice-chair, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (tbc)
- **Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana MEP, Co-President**, Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI), European Parliament
- **Ojeaku Nwabuzo**, Senior Research Officer, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

Moderator: Petra Stienen, First Vice-chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination