

ABOUT US

Equinox exists for – and is led by – racialised people.

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice is a people of colour-led initiative working to advance rights and justice for all people in Europe. We work in solidarity with a coalition of racial and social justice leaders and organisations to influence European Union law and policy.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We make concrete changes to laws and policies that impact our lives

We hold policy makers accountable for the way they engage on racial justice. We promote changes in the approach of institutions on issues that impact our communities, including: Climate justice; gender rights and justice; migration, and law enforcement and security.

RACIALISATION

The political process that creates, maintains and gives meaning to concepts of race. It is a process of categorising, othering, and marginalising through a myriad of systems, tools and social practices.

REPORTS

Towards Racial Justice - How the EU can create lasting change for racialised people

EU policy must use an intersectional lens to address the multiple struggles racialised women, people with disabilities, migrants and LGBTIQ and other marginalised communities face. We recommend:

- 1. Political commitment to racial justice**
- 2. Cohesive legislation and policy on structural and institutional racism**
- 3. A new relationship with civil society**

Towards Gender Justice - Rethinking EU Gender Equality Policy From an Intersectional Perspective

To advance gender justice, Equinox calls for racial justice mainstreaming and a review of the EU's approach to gender and LGBTIQ+ equality. We examine three key areas:

- 1. Surface level engagement with the concept of intersectionality;**
- 2. A binary foundation that limits the scope of gender policy;**
- 3. Institutional barriers to meaningful civil society and community engagement.**

Towards Climate Justice - Rethinking the European Green Deal from a racial justice perspective

Applying a racial perspective to the European Green Deal, Equinox uncovers three main areas for consolidation:

- 1. No baseline of historical responsibility and global dependency**
- 2. Failure to acknowledge specific harms and impact experienced by racialised communities**
- 3. Lack of meaningful engagement with civil society representing racialised people in Europe and globally.**

SPEAKING POINTS

Opportunities and accelerators for change

- **Stronger commitment to racial justice from the Commission especially the political leadership.**
- **Appointment of the first EU Commissioner for Equality.**
- **Creation of a Task Force on Equality.**
- **Correlation between protests/civil society work and fast change. Anti-Racism Action Plan (ARAP) and Coordinator on Anti-Racism were the only new additions to the European Commission work plan in 2020.**
- **Adoption of the ARAP and creation of the Coordinator on Anti-Racism. Commission has also created a new position of a Coordinator on Youth who will cover on racial justice issues.**
- **Commitment to new legislation including extending Race Equality Directive to cover law enforcement.**
- **Creation of National Action Plan on Anti-Racism Sub-Group which includes all Member States. Commitment to all Member States having NAPARs by end 2022.**
- **Creation of a European Commission Rule of Law Working Group which will present annual reports on rule of law in all Member States.**
- **A maturity in language and terminology on racial justice.**
- **Increased funding and for the first-time specific funding lines on anti-Muslim hatred.**
- **Racialised people are leading the conversation on racial justice at the European Union (EU) level. New organisations such as Equinox and Union of Justice are supporting and complementing ENAR's work.**

SPEAKING POINTS

Concerns

- **Political backlash.** Member States are interfering more at the EU level with the larger more powerful Member States such as France leading the push back. Very big discussion on intersectionality with France fighting against language on intersectionality.
- **Current EU internal organisational structure on racial justice is not fit for purpose.**
- **Role and mandate of Coordinator on Anti-Racism are still unclear.** Coordinator is a mid-level servant who reports to a Head of Unit.
- **European Commission is still focused on individual manifestation of racism rather than structural, institutional or structural racism.**
- **Lack of racial justice mainstreaming especially in the fields of Gender, AI proposal, Green Deal, migration etc.**
- **Continued omission or lack of political will for certain groups such as Muslims and Black people.**
- **Framing and language.** Racial justice is still framed in a negative way. New strategy on anti-Semitism has positive language and needs to be replicated for other groups.
- **Lack of consultation with civil society and political leadership delegating dialogue to civil servants.**
- **Lack of public support for civil society groups and anti-racist activists which can be shown by the cases of CCIF and Alliance Citoyenne.**
- **Limited freedom for civil society as current funding model is flawed.** Most civil society organisations are funded by the EU which makes it difficult for them to criticise and wary of losing funding. There needs to be a diversification of funding with organisations reliant on the Commission and/or OSF/OSIFE.