

Non-discrimination terminology in the media

28 September 2020 | 13:00 – 17:00

Virtual Media Training

Join EURACTIV and the Migration Policy Group for a free virtual media training workshop to discuss the role of the media in raising awareness of racial or ethnic discrimination.

Over the years, the European Union has put in place legislation to tackle discrimination, such as the Racial Equality Directive. While the Directive was adopted two decades ago, various problems still persist in the national implementation of European non-discrimination law. There is a lack of awareness of victim's rights, existence and work of specialised bodies and redress mechanisms, and sometimes an unclear understanding of how racism manifests itself.

One important way to promote awareness is to increase and improve the media coverage on discrimination in general and racial or ethnic discrimination in particular. This can be done by enhancing journalists' capacities regarding the rights of citizens and appropriate terminology for reporting on discrimination issue. This media training addresses these needs by clarifying the relevant legal concepts and discussing the role of the media in tackling racial discrimination.

Over the course of the afternoon, legal experts will provide you with the necessary tools to approach this sensitive topic with confidence in the media. An Independent Report drafted by MPG on the Racial Equality Directive will be used as a foundation for the training.

Topics will include:

- The meaning of racial and ethnic origin
- First glance into the EU legal framework on ethnic/racial discrimination
- Terminology and concepts: reporting on sensitive issues
- Good practices on judicial interpretation
- Redress mechanisms for victims of discrimination
- How can the press deal with the topic?

The training will be held on zoom as an interactive event. If there are any specific issues and/or professional dilemmas that you would like us to address, please kindly share these with us by 26 September 2020 by sending an email to lfarkas@migpolgroup.com. We will do our best to accommodate your needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Josephine Hannay

josephine.hannay@euractiv.com

+32 (0)2 788 36 97

CHAIR

Isabelle Chopin, Director, Migration Policy Group

LEGAL TRAINER

Lilla Farkas, Associate Staff, Migration Policy Group, and Ground coordinator on Racial and Ethnic Discrimination, European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination

PROGRAMME

13:00 – 13:30: Introduction

13:30 – 13:45: Presentation of Independent Report

13:45 – 14:30: Session 1 - *The meaning of racial or ethnic origin and the prevalent forms of racism in Europe*

14:30-14:45: Break

14:45 – 15:15: Session 2 - *Racial or ethnic discrimination under EU law*

15:15 – 16:00: - Session 3 - *Racial or ethnic discrimination under EU law II*

16:00 – 16:45: Session 4 - *Remedying racial or ethnic discrimination in the EU and the role of the press + case study*

16:45 – 17:00: Closing remarks and Q&A

REGISTRATION

To confirm your participation, please register [here](#).

A virtual training organised by EURACTIV with the support of



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Detailed Schedule:

13:00 – 13:30: Introduction

- Tour de table: short introduction of participants: your name, affiliation, professional interest. Please share an example when you reported about racial incidents or an example of good/bad media practice you are aware of.

13:30 – 13:45: Presentation of the Independent Report

13:45 – 14:30: Session 1

- The meaning of racial or ethnic origin, the prevalent forms of racism in Europe (xenophobia, Afrophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, Romaphobia, etc.) and basic facts about racial or ethnic minorities
- Presentation
- Q & A

14:30-14:45: Break

14:45 – 15:15: Session 2

- Racial or ethnic discrimination under EU law: key concepts and examples (direct discrimination, harassment, and instruction to discriminate)
- Presentation
- Q & A

15:15: 16:00: Session 3

- Racial or ethnic discrimination under EU law II: key concepts and examples (indirect discrimination and the reversal of the burden of proof, sanctions, ethnic statistics and situation testing)
- Presentation
- Q & A

16:00 – 16:45: Session 4

- Remediating racial or ethnic discrimination in the EU and the role of the press (NGOs, trade unions, equality bodies, national and/or international courts)
- Presentation
- Q & A
- Discussion on how hate speech against racial or ethnic minorities could be reported in the press (case study provided prior to the event)

16:45 – 17:00: Closing remarks and Q&A

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josephine.hannay@euractiv.com

+32 (0)2 788 36 97





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MEDIA TRAINING: Non-Discrimination Terminology in the Media

Case study to be discussed during the training

A far-right MEP said in the European Parliament (EP) that Black women must earn less than men because they are less capable and intelligent. Both a group of women MEPs and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup called for severe sanctions against him.

The president of the EP, issued a statement during a parliament plenary session apologising to anyone who felt aggrieved by the MEP's statement. He pledged to impose unprecedented penalties in response. The MEP will lose his daily subsistence allowance for 30 days, a total of €9,180 intended to cover his expenses while he attends parliament. He will also be suspended from all parliamentary work for 10 days and banned from representing the parliament for a year.

The EP president also launched an inquiry after a bitter exchange in the chamber this month in which the MEP made statements denying the Holocaust. EP rules require MEPs "not [to] resort to defamatory, racist or xenophobic language or behaviour in parliamentary debates".

In less than a week after the statement, about 935,000 people had signed a petition calling on the parliament to suspend the MEP, who is well-known for his sexist and racist views. He is a member of the Eurosceptic and arch-conservative Congress of the New Right, a party he founded. An MEP since 2014, he sits as an independent and is not aligned to any of the big political groups.

He has previously been punished for racist remarks. In 2016 he lost 10 days of attendance allowances and was suspended for five days for describing Europe's influx of migrants as "human garbage". In October 2015 he was suspended for 10 days for making a Nazi salute in the European Parliament.

MINDSET

Moving the Ideas of Non-Discrimination: Supporting an Equality Transformation