



THE RACIST IS THE OTHER

Prejudice lives in all of us and so we all have a part to play in erasing it from our environment.

21 March

This is the International Day for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, established by The General Assembly of the United Nations in 1966 following the brutal murder of 69 protestors in the South African township of Sharpeville in 1960. The massacre occurred while they had gathered to protest against the apartheid laws of the South African government, a regime systematically enforcing racial inequality and segregation. Today racist murders and violence are still commonplace and racial discrimination continues to creep into every corner of our societies.

Every year around 21 March, the UNITED Network coordinates the European-wide Action Week Against Racism and calls upon the international community to erase racism, discrimination and intolerance. We urge NGOs, independent and informal groups, schools, local councils and all manner of organisations and individuals to join forces and confront racism with direct action. Whether by organising activities, supporting others or spreading the message, we can tackle racism. Prejudice lives in all of us and so we all have a part to play in erasing it from our environment.

For more information: www.unitedagainstracism.org

United we stand - divided we fall

To eliminate individual, societal and institutional racism and the injustice they cause, each of us needs to reflect on our attitudes and behaviour, be conscious to the prejudices we carry with us, understand how we learned these and find ways of unlearning them

When trying to make sense of poverty, deprivation and lack of opportunity, we are urged by the media and by politicians to divide into smaller groups and point the finger at each other, which has developed a culture of blame. This not only deflects from the realities of economic policies and big business practices that drive inequality deep into our societies, it produces a toxic environment of mistrust, suspicion and hostility. We must unite to challenge these racist, populist myths and educate our communities, developing programmes, policies and activities that can change deeply held preconceptions.

For our societies, while discrimination has a negative impact on individuals and groups, there are so many benefits to be gained by respecting difference and welcoming diversity.

Inside this poster are some of the most common beliefs that fuel racism and xenophobia, they are the consequence of the current economic crisis, of rising anti-Muslim attitude and normalised forms of discrimination that linger around like a bad smell. You will hear them all around you, in the media, amongst your family and friends, colleagues and strangers on the bus - you might even catch yourself saying them. They might not think they are being racist, but for each of these beliefs we have provided an explanation of how these myths emerge, how they are supported by the mainstream and arguments that challenge them. You can use them to dispute what you hear around you, engaging people in a debate and helping them to think critically about the supposed 'facts' spread throughout society. Show them another perspective, alternative solutions and let them hear the other half of the story.



14-27 MARCH • EUROPEAN ACTION WEEK AGAINST RACISM