



FEDERATION OF YOUNG
EUROPEAN GREENS

GENERAL

27-29 AUG

2020

ASSEMBLY

Brussels, BE / Online

RESOLUTION ON BLACK LIVES MATTER
AND ANTI-RACISM

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Motion Text

A wave of protest has flashed across Europe. In the wake of extensive protests in the United States against police brutality and discrimination specifically against black individuals and communities, the Black Lives Matter movement has also proved to be relevant in European countries.

Those protests have again laid bare the racist problems still prevailing in our societies. In our societies racism is not incidental, but systemic, institutionalised and widespread. We stand in solidarity with those who revolt against this discrimination and we condemn the use of violence against those peacefully demonstrating and are standing side by side with the protestants.

Not being racist is not enough, we must be anti-racist. It is our duty to critically reflect racism in every area of society, not only the visible form of racism but also the structural racism our society faces. We must at all times include the perspective of racialised people and communities on issues. Racism has to be viewed before an institutionalized background, as a form of systematic disadvantage. Therefore it is best fought by guaranteeing equal opportunities and equal participation.

As a European Youth Network it is our responsibility to focus on racist issues present specifically within our reach. Those who are endorsing systemic racism must be held accountable. At the same time the privileged must guard themselves not to elevate themselves on a higher level, whether consciously or not.

Especially we must take a critical look back into European history of colonialism, where racism first became institutionalized. We must remind ourselves and Europe that we have been taught history from an Eurocentric point of view. We still find postcolonial structures in European policies and in everyday life.

European countries have committed grave crimes against humanity and even where they have been stopped the former economic exploitation still remains. It is also intimately connected with the global capitalist economy. To this day Europe practices neo-colonialism in some parts of the world. We must take our stance to force the EU into international cooperation on an eye-to-eye-level. In particular economic relations must become equal.

One of our tasks is to keep asking ourselves, why FYEG is still mostly homogeneously white. We must keep working on becoming a more inclusive organization. We strive towards giving people of all colours and ethnicities a voice. We are convinced that everyone, regardless of their background, can participate in the fight for a green and inclusive European future. Therefore, we need to work on a strategy to get more diverse. Europe belongs to all of us.

Black Lives Matter has sparked protest on the topic of racism all around the world. But racism is not only a problem in the United States but also here in Europe. Until today nothing has changed: Europe has a huge racial problem that needs to be tackled. The rising (far-)right wing is gaining popularity by stigmatizing racialised people and communities to divide those who have an interest at the end of capitalism. We must counter it with increased awareness and solidarity.

Racism is a problem that cannot be forgotten, it has to be on the agenda each and every day. Now it is our task to not let anti-racism disappear from the European agenda. Racism has always been part of Europe and sadly will be, if we do not struggle to eradicate it. As Young Europeans it is our obligation to sustain a culture of remembrance and open discourse. We can never be silent on issues that concern the future of Europe.

We would like to live in a world in which people are judged by their character and behaviour and not by their skin colour. Thus we must acknowledge the struggle of racialised people and communities and support measures fighting racism. The EU must constantly review its policies in order to ensure equal opportunities and avoid discrimination.

Therefore we demand:

- That FYEG deals intensively with the discrimination of BIPOC, also within its own structures, and develops concrete measures to take action against it
- To ensure that the next generation will be educated on this subject, curriculums should be designed to contain white privilege, racism, neo-colonialism, black history, colonial history, and other ethnic minorities.
- Education on institutionalized and systematic racism and workplace trainings, on how to dismantle it
- Trainings given to teachers on racism in all schools
- Obligatory trainings for police to tackle racial profiling
- Awareness trainings and campaigns against discrimination in political and government institutions
- Adopting and ratifying the Council of Europe framework convention on national minorities by every European states
- Investigations into the mechanisms of systematic racism across Europe
- European efforts to grant everyone equal access to housing, education, health care etc, and judicial action in cases where this is denied
- Professional mental help for people suffering under discrimination