



PRESS RELEASE

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It's time to address the social exclusion faced by ethnic minorities

At the start of the 8th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion, and ahead of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) urges EU governments to put effective policies in place to address the specific social exclusion and poverty faced by ethnic minorities.

Ethnic minority communities are amongst the groups most vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion across Europe and are often amongst those 'furthest' from the labour market, due to the additional barriers of discrimination and racism which they face. Gaps in data collection cannot hide the reality: ethnic minorities tend to have higher unemployment rates, lower occupational attainment and wages than the majority population.

In order to address this situation, disaggregated data on the social exclusion of ethnic and religious minorities must be collected. Data is key to developing precise and targeted policies to address the specific needs of ethnic and religious minorities within social inclusion policies and to monitor the impact of such policies on these groups. Barriers faced by ethnic minority communities in accessing the labour market, such as lack of language skills or legal status, must also be identified.

ENAR President Mohammed Aziz said: "Finding solutions to the social exclusion of ethnic minorities is all the more important in a context of economic crisis and increasing inequalities. If we want to achieve a society in which everyone participates equally, we need to ensure that discrimination and racism stop being factors in the labour market exclusion of ethnic minorities."

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states and represents more than 600 NGOs spread around the European Union. ENAR aims to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals, and to link local/regional/national and European initiatives.

For further information, contact:

Georgina Siklossy, Communication and Press Officer

Phone: +32 (02) 229.35.70 - Email: georgina@enar-eu.org - Website: www.enar-eu.org