



European Network Against Racism  
Réseau européen contre le racisme

## PRESS RELEASE

### **International Holocaust Remembrance Day: the fight against right-wing extremism in Europe must continue**

**Brussels, 27 January 2012 – Today, on International Holocaust Day, the world commemorates the victims of the Holocaust. On this occasion, the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) calls on all European countries to follow the example of the German government by creating a central database of dangerous neo-Nazis.**

The German government's commitment to take the fight against right-wing extremism seriously can be commended, although it comes years too late. This move is all the more important in the current climate of growing intolerance against ethnic and religious minorities and repeated incidents of racist violence across Europe. The 'never forget' promise made after the Holocaust continues to have a particular relevance today.

However, the creation of a database alone is not sufficient – it should be accompanied by effective action by state and police authorities to effectively prevent racist violence. For instance, in the case of the murders of immigrants committed by a group of right-wing extremists in Germany between 2000 and 2007, officials knew of the neo-Nazi affiliation of some perpetrators, but failed to act on the links.

The European Network Against Racism therefore calls on European politicians and decision makers to effectively address the rise and appeal of the far-right, which they have neglected, or worse, from whom they have borrowed ideas to gain votes. They also need to change the tone of the current public debate into a positive one, highlighting the benefits of diversity in European societies.

ENAR President Chibo Onyeji said: "The Holocaust showed the world what can happen if racism and prejudice are allowed to thrive. Recent events - from the tragic killings by far-right extremist Anders Breivik in Norway in July, to violent anti-Roma protests in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic in September and to the discovery of a series of murders committed by a neo-Nazi organisation in Germany since 2000 - confirm that these lessons still need to be learned."

**For further information, contact:**

Georgina Siklossy, Communication and Press Officer

Tel: +32 (0)2 229 35 70 - E-mail: [georgina@enar-eu.org](mailto:georgina@enar-eu.org) - Website: [www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)

**Notes to the editor:**

1. The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of more than 700 NGOs working to combat racism in all EU member states. ENAR aims to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote equality of treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals.
2. In October 2005, 27 January was designated International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the United Nations. The UN resolution calls on member states to honour the memory of Holocaust victims and encourages the development of educational programmes about Holocaust history to help prevent future acts of genocide.