



PRESS RELEASE

Black people in Europe are still treated as second class human beings

Brussels, 23 August 2012 – Slavery was abolished some 150 years ago, but racism against Black Europeans and people of African descent in Europe is still ingrained in European society today, resulting in everyday discrimination and prejudice in all walks of life.

Mamadou is a civil engineer living in Belgium. He spends his days and nights on the roads, but driving in his taxi instead of planning their construction.

Ghufira is a qualified nurse living in Poland, who works full-time in the city hospital. Despite her degree, her job is to clean the hospital rooms, not to provide care to the patients.

Ken is a Black British citizen and is at least six times more likely to be stopped and searched by the police than a White person.

These represent some of the many situations experienced by people of African descent in Europe as a result of structural discrimination and racism, which is pervasive in employment, housing, healthcare, education, access to goods and services, the criminal justice system, and in the media – as shown in the European Network Against Racism's (ENAR) Fact Sheet on Black Europeans and people of African descent in Europe, released today on the occasion of the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.

Black Europeans and people of African descent face a specific form of systematic discrimination, first instigated with the slave trade and continuing to this day. The majority population continues to view and treat black people as inferior because of their skin colour. In this context, it is urgent to address this ingrained racism and ensure that people of African descent in Europe are finally treated on equal terms to the rest of the population.

Chibo Onyeji, ENAR Chair, said: "It is unacceptable that an estimated 7,000,000 individuals of African descent living in Europe are treated as second class human beings every day because of their skin colour. European and national decision makers need to take immediate steps to end this situation of systematic discrimination against Black people in Europe."

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Notes to the editor:

1. Read ENAR's [Fact sheet](#) 'Black Europeans and People of African Descent in Europe'
2. The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition was designated by [UNESCO](#) to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples.
3. The European Network Against Racism aisbl (ENAR) is a network of NGOs working to combat racism in all EU Member States. ENAR combats racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and promotes equal treatment between EU citizens and third country nationals.