



PES Presidency Declaration:
The PES stands strong against racism, xenophobia and discrimination
Adopted by the PES Presidency on 25 June 2020

We are deeply shocked by the killing of George Floyd and other women and men in the United States, and strongly condemn discriminatory and violent police practices in all countries. Our opportunities in life and our safety should never depend on our race, class, age, gender, nationality or migration status, religion, ability or disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Racism continues to plague our societies. The growth in racist hate speech and hate crimes, often carried out by nationalists and far-right extremists, is a cause of grave concern. Those that seek to divide our communities must not be allowed to succeed. The opportunity must be seized to examine the deep-rooted biases that are built into our societies as a whole. We cannot turn a blind eye to existing systems of discrimination and persistent racial inequalities in areas like housing, employment, healthcare, education or politics.

The PES fights for equality and inclusive societies. We, the European socialist, social democratic and labour parties, reaffirm democracy, freedom, respect for human rights, equality and solidarity as our central political values.

The death of George Floyd mobilised thousands and thousands of people to march on the streets of Europe. They are calling for an end to racism and to tackle structural inequality experienced by people of colour, migrants and minorities across Europe.

These anti-racism protests show once more how much we need to fight for a more inclusive and equal Europe which truly represents our increasingly vibrant, diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious and plural societies.

The EU motto "United in Diversity" represents our history and our aspirations. Europe has always been a continent of migrations, ethnic and cultural diversity and religious plurality. Minority populations from other European territories or from other continents are present in every member state. This is one of the roots of our societies' diversity and a source of richness. Throughout Europe, racism has killed and antisemitism has destroyed lives. Neither has disappeared.

We must never forget our continent's history of racism, colonialism, slavery and exploitation. Many European nations owe their prosperity and power to their colonial empires on every continent, which are also a matter of unhealed wounds. We are all part of society, together we can eliminate

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racial and ethnic discrimination. We must act against discriminatory ethnic profiling and xenophobia and better support victims of racism. We must combat and prevent racism in all areas of our societies, notably in law enforcement, in recruitment and in accessing public services.

In this sense, we will work tirelessly to unblock the Directive on anti-discrimination and we call for the Council to adopt it without further delay. There is no space in our societies for any type of discrimination. Adequate training about combating racism and xenophobia as well as stereotypical biases of those working in public administrations is essential. Likewise, all levels of public administrations should become more representative of the diversity of our societies. Respect for the rule of law and fundamental human rights must be upheld for all citizens, at all times, in all countries. The second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey “Being Black in the EU”, published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, reconfirms the urgent need for action.

We, the PES, support the EU Race Equality Directive and the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia. We fight for and promote inclusive societies which foster social cohesion, are strong against intolerance and discrimination and acknowledge the contributions of diverse communities which make our societies flourish.

We must change the narrative and show how much Europe depends on migration and the contribution of migrants and refugees. We must reach out to ethnic minority communities and include the voices of people of all origins. We all must have equal opportunities to participate and succeed in our European society.

We will fight social inequalities and their causes. Social justice is the foundational value of the social democratic movement. We will continue our fight to build a society based on wellbeing, strong social protection, quality jobs, accessible healthcare, and an education that empowers all people and actively promotes respect and diversity. We will never accept that anyone in our society should be victim of discrimination.

The PES supports the Black Lives Matter movement and we will be active at all levels in order to combat racism. Real justice can only thrive in a society that is open, tolerant and equal.

“We are far more united and have far more in common with each other than things that divide us.”
– Jo Cox, UK Labour Party MP