

Agenda

The right to health of people of African descent *Part 2 of the racism, discrimination and health series*

Date and Time:

- Wednesday **26 June**, 9:30-17:00
- Thursday **27 June**, 9:30-17:00

Format: Hybrid

Location: UN House, Boulevard du Régent 37, 1000 Bruxelles

On-site capacity: 50

Moderation: Jacqueline Bowman, Adipositas Pact, Co-Founder, Engagement and Projects Lead

Narrative

Racism and discrimination are fundamental determinants of health, profoundly affecting physical and mental well-being. They are far-reaching systemic issues, creating environments where marginalised communities face continuous social and economic challenges. Addressing these determinants is crucial for achieving health equity and ensuring that all individuals have the opportunity to realise their Right to Health as defined in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

A pivotal policy instrument to help realise this is the EU Anti-racism Action Plan (EU ARAP). With the current cycle ending and that of the next 5 years being shaped, we have an opportunity to directly contribute to the further development of measures to tackle racial inequality, enhance legal protections, and promote social cohesion. The EU ARAP addresses various forms of discrimination to differing degrees. Experiences on anti-Black racism and the specific challenges faced by People of African Descent (PAD) are often overlooked within such overarching programmes, so it is vital that the needs of people experiencing this type of racism are given the attention required.

This two-day **DisQo Stakeholder Network** conference, organised by **EPHA** and **OHCHR** in cooperation with **Artikel 1 Midden Nederland** and **De Hofnar Present B.V.**, brings together leading experts and stakeholders to address the pervasive issues of racism, discrimination, and their profound impacts on health, with a specific focus on People of African Descent. Through insightful case studies, panel discussions, and interactive sessions, participants explore the intersection of these critical areas, share best practices, and develop actionable strategies to promote health equity. Join us in advancing the dialogue and fostering collaborative efforts to combat racism and improve health outcomes for all.

*The identified solutions and recommendations from this event will be collected and summarised in a **consultation report** that will be presented to the European Commission's Coordinator on combating racism, to feed into the **EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2026-2030**. There will also be an opportunity for **written input**.*

In case of further questions or comments regarding the event, feel free to reach out to EPHA at tomas.dejong@epha.org or lisa.becker@epha.org, or to OHCHR at mila.paspalanova@un.org

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday 26 June, 9:30-17:00

9:30-10.00	Registration & coffee
<p>10:00-11:00</p> <p>Elena Kountouri Tapiero <i>Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Acting Regional Representative for Europe</i></p> <p>Isabel de la Mata <i>European Commission, DG SANTE, Principal Advisor for Health and Crisis management</i></p> <p>Rabin S. Baldewsingh <i>Dutch National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism</i></p> <p>Milka Sokolović <i>European Public Health Alliance, Director General</i></p> <p>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato <i>Adipositas Pact, Co-Founder, Engagement and Projects Lead</i></p>	<p>Introduction and opening statements</p> <p>We welcome you to the continuation of a crucial dialogue on racism, discrimination, and health, beginning with a welcoming word from one of the two hosting organisations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).</p> <p>This is followed with opening statements from distinguished guests from the European Commission and the Dutch Government.</p> <p>Then the second of the co-hosting organisations, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), provides the final opening statement before handing over to the moderator.</p> <p>With the event opened, Jaqueline Bowman-Busato, sets the scene for the day with a personal testimony on how she got into the work on racism, discrimination and health, and how that journey brought her to the DisQo Stakeholder Network.</p>
<p>11:00-11:30</p> <p>Vanessa Kabuta <i>European Commission, DG JUST, Unit D2 Non-discrimination, Policy Coordinator</i></p>	<p>EU Anti-racism Action Plan and health</p> <p>Today's discussion about racism and discrimination takes place in the context of the EU Anti-racism Action Plan. Vanessa Kabuta of the European Commission expands on this policy instrument's components, focusing specifically on its health-related aspects and challenges.</p>
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
<p>11:45-12:15</p> <p>Rabin S. Baldewsingh <i>Dutch National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism</i></p>	<p>Dutch National Coordinator against Discrimination and Racism</p> <p>Action on the national level is crucial to drive change on the ground. Rabin S. Baldewsingh – the Dutch National Coordinator Against Discrimination and Racism – plays a key role in the Dutch anti-racism action plan, and elaborates on considerations around discrimination, racism and health in the Netherlands.</p>
<p>12:15-12:30</p> <p>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato</p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Jacqueline wraps up the first half of the day with key considerations from the opening sessions.</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break
<p>13:30-13:40</p> <p><i>Musical energiser provided by Otion, Master of Sceneries</i></p>	<p>Post-break energiser and warm-up session</p> <p>We resume with a musical scenery to energise you for the discussion.</p>
<p>13:40-14:40</p> <p>Moderated by Rozina Spinnoy <i>BIDS Belgium, Founder and Director</i></p>	<p>Racism, discrimination, mental health, and trauma</p> <p>The first panel discussion focuses on the effects of racism on mental health and trauma, highlighting how racism against People of African</p>

<p>Marlize Andre <i>The Marissa Foundation, Co-Founder and Director</i></p> <p>Stéphanie Mbanzendore <i>Burundian Women for Peace</i></p> <p>Liz Kelly <i>Irish Maternity Support Network</i></p>	<p>Descent can lead to manifestations of mental ill-health. The session takes an intersectional approach, including perspectives such as migration, maternal health and the importance of personal narratives.</p> <p><i>This is followed by a questions and answers session.</i></p>
<p>14:40-14:55</p> <p>Marciano Daans <i>De Hofnar Present BV</i></p>	<p>The Right to Health and access to health insurance: a Dutch case study</p> <p>Health insurance is an important element in access to healthcare. By analysing examples of challenges in accessing health insurance for People of African Descent in the Netherlands, De Hofnar illustrates how such access can be improved to help implement the Right to Health.</p>
<p>14:55-15:10</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>15:10-15:55</p> <p>Moderated by Wouter Arrazola de Oñate <i>Belgian Lung and Tuberculosis Association, Public Health Director</i></p> <p>Loyal Liverpool (Online) <i>Science Journalist, Author of “Systemic: How Racism Is Making Us Ill”</i></p> <p>Tanja Gangarova <i>DeZIM-Institute Berlin, National Discrimination and Racism Monitor, Researcher</i></p> <p>Alana Helberg-Proctor <i>University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Associate Professor</i></p>	<p>Clinical Diagnosis: racial bias in healthcare</p> <p>The second panel discussion elaborates on culturally appropriate healthcare and the needs of specific communities. This includes a focus on the structural nature of racism and discrimination, which leads to issues such as a lack of trust in the healthcare system, misdiagnosis and disproportionate disease burdens faced by People of African Descent.</p> <p><i>This is followed by a questions and answers session.</i></p>
<p>15:55-16:50</p> <p>Moderated by:</p> <p>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato <i>and</i> Uri Berman <i>De Hofnar Present BV, Coordinator</i></p>	<p>Interactive session with the audience</p> <p>To develop a comprehensive approach to anti-racism and anti-discrimination in health, we turn to the expertise of the audience. Participants are encouraged to identify challenges and discuss practical solutions across sectors and levels of society to improve access to healthcare and reduce health inequities for People of African Descent. In a constructive conversation we explore how the discussed topics could feed into the EU Anti-racism action plan.</p>
<p>16:50-17:00</p> <p>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato</p>	<p>Discussion & conclusion</p> <p>Jacqueline concludes the first day with a summary of its key takeaways, structuring thoughts and ideas to prepare for the discussion of the second day.</p>

Day 2: Thursday 27 June, 9:30-17:00

9:30-10:00	Registration & coffee
10:00-10:15 <i>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato</i>	Introduction Day two is opened with a word of welcome from Jacqueline. The previous day is briefly recapped and linked to today's topic; equality data collection.
10:15-11:15 Mila Paspalanova <i>OHCHR, Anti-racial discrimination advisor</i>	OHCHR Indicators Framework The OHCHR has ample resources to inform methods for the collection of equality data of high standards. Mila Paspalanova presents how these resources can be accessed and used, focusing in particular on human rights indicators. To deepen our understanding, we explore complementarity, overlap and discrepancy for advancing equality statistics in the FRA Being Back in the EU Report. With a deeper understanding of equality data collection methods, we further explore how we can make data-informed policy approaches to racism, discrimination and health a reality.
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:15 Jerrold Marten <i>Discriminatie.nl Regio Amsterdam, Director</i> Jurriaan Souer <i>Shinto Labs, Chief Products</i> Paul Fockens <i>Maurin Consulting, CEO</i>	Towards quantitative equality data collection: Dutch G4 dashboard on discrimination To provide a concrete example of how data collection can be developed on the national level, Discriminatie.nl and Shinto Labs highlight the way in which the G4 municipalities in the Netherlands (Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam and Utrecht) finance a project to develop and implement an analytical and registration tool with an (almost) real-time dashboard on discrimination incidents. <i>This is followed by a questions and answers session.</i>
12:15-13:00 Muna Aikins <i>Afrozensus - EOTO, Each One Teach One e.V. Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Predoctoral Fellow</i>	German Afrozensus: a German case study Complementing the Dutch example, Muna Aikins covers experiences from the German Afrozensus 2020. This large survey on anti-Black racism and health provides insights based on direct input from affected populations. By discussing its methodology and the findings of the report, important lessons are shared on the development of data collection in Germany. <i>This is followed by a questions and answers session.</i>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-14:10 Brigid Transon <i>European Public Health Alliance, Organisational Development Trainee</i>	Post-break energiser and warm-up session We resume with a brief activity to re-engage you in the discussion.

<p>14:10-15:00</p> <p><i>Moderated by</i></p> <p>Angelo Camufingo <i>Each One Teach One (EOTO) e.V., Project Lead</i></p> <p>Tanja Florath <i>European Commission, DG JUST, Unit D2 Non-discrimination, Policy Officer</i></p> <p>Daris José Lewis Recio <i>Equinet, Legal & Policy Officer</i></p>	<p>Equality data: policy implications and translation</p> <p>Wrapping up the presentations of the first half of the day on equality data, this interactive session's purpose is to take a step towards concrete solutions. We explore how the lessons from the Dutch and German case studies can be translated to policy action. We further discuss EU policy context implications, for example how it informs national anti-racism action plans, and their related indicators. By highlighting challenges and opportunities, we get an idea on how indicator use and data collection can be developed and reproduced on a wider scale.</p> <p><i>This is followed by a questions and answers session.</i></p>
<p>15:00-15:15</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>15:15-16:45</p> <p><i>Moderated by</i></p> <p>Frazer Goodwin <i>European Public Health Alliance, Senior Communications & Advocacy Manager</i></p> <p>Tanja Florath <i>European Commission, DG JUST, Unit D2 Non-discrimination, Policy Officer</i></p> <p>Mila Paspalanova <i>OHCHR, Anti-racial discrimination advisor</i></p>	<p>Civil society consultation on post-2025 EU anti-racism agenda and national-level implementation</p> <p>We conclude two days of rich discussion with a consultation to add further considerations. Mila Paspalanova introduces this session with a recap on a human rights-based approach to policy. Afterwards, we open the floor for input. Participants are encouraged to share their (prepared) interventions to ensure the conference's reporting is as comprehensive as possible.</p>
<p>16:45-17:00</p> <p>Jacqueline Bowman-Busato</p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Jacqueline provides the closing words of the conference, repeating key take-aways to bring structure and a red thread to the topics discussed, anticipating the recommendations that will be put together after the event. The conference is then officially closed.</p>