FRA work in the fight against racism and on the promotion and protection of the rights of people of African descent

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18th session of the IGWG (virtual),
13 October 2020
FRA’s report ‘Being Black in the EU’ (2018)
Why this report?

A. Mark the UN Decade for People of African decent (2014 -2024).

B. A follow-up of the first EU People of African Descent Week hosted by the EU Parliament in May 2018.

   – provides comparable equality data on the situation of racial discrimination in the EU.
   – assess progress in regard to selected SDGs.

D. First FRA report dedicated to persons of African descent.
EU-MIDIS II: Being Black in the EU

EU-MIDIS II sub-sample

- 5,803 persons of African descent: immigrants (first-generation) and descendants of immigrants (second-generation, born in the survey country).
- 12 EU MS: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, Sweden and United Kingdom.
- Most MSs do not provide official information on racial or ethnic origin in administrative data - proxy variables used for sampling such 'country of birth' and 'country of birth of parents'.

Sample characteristics

- Average age: 39 years
- 51% women
- 63% of respondents are citizens of the Member State they reside, 74% born outside the country
- 60% Christian, 29% Muslim, 6% no religion
Key findings

A. Racism is a common occurrence, including at the hands of the police. Very few report such incidents to any authority or body.
- 30% experienced racist harassment in the five years before the survey. Yet, just 14% reported the most recent incident.
- 5% say they experienced a racist attack in the same period, with 11% of those saying that a police officer was the perpetrator. Experiences with racist violence vary, but reach as high as 14%. Yet, a majority (64%) of victims of racist violence did not report the most recent incident to the police or any organization or service.

B. Police stops are often experienced as racial profiling.
- 24% of respondents were stopped by the police (men more often than women). Of these, 41% characterise the stop as racial profiling.
- Overall high trust in the police, however, the lowest level of trust is among those who consider the latest stop as racial profiling.

C. Racial discrimination is a common place with particular risks for labour market and housing exclusion.
- 39% felt racially discriminated against in the 12 months before the survey, yet only 16% made a complaint about the most recent incident.
- Twice as many respondents with higher education are employed in elementary occupations compared to the general population;
- The paid work rate among respondents with tertiary education is lower than that of the general population.
- 15% own their dwelling compared to 70% for the general population;
- 45% live in overcrowded housing, compared to 17% of the general population.
- More than one in two respondents (55%) have a household income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold after social transfers in the country where they live.
Strengthen the enforcement of existing anti-discrimination legislation and legislation against hate speech and hate crime.

Improve policy frameworks and policy coherence by adopting, for example, action plans at the national level.

Strengthen monitoring bodies, including equality bodies.

Encourage victims to report hate crime, hate speech and discrimination incidents (for example through online reporting tools or through third party reporting).

Eliminate racial profiling and raise awareness among police forces of the damaging effect of such practices on community relations and trust in law enforcement.

Ensure independent investigation of violent incidents involving law enforcement through fully independent and functional complaints mechanisms.

Enhance trust in institutions and promote political participation and representation of ethnic minority groups and of people with an immigrant background.

Link action against racism and xenophobia with improvement of living conditions, access to the labour market, education and healthcare services for the groups of the population most affected.

Improve collection of disaggregated equality data based on the principle of self-identification and with due regard to data protection legislation.
A. The situation is dire and there is no room for complacency. It is intolerable in light of the number of commitments to anti-racism taken by the international community.

B. The survey findings point to major gaps in the implementation of EU legislation prohibiting racial discrimination and criminalising certain forms of racism and xenophobia.

C. Start working with people rather than for people in the struggle against racism and racial discrimination. Inclusive policy making can lead to measurable progress on the ground.
Thank you!

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