



Education International
Internationale de l'Éducation
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Education International - European Region

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ETUCE Statement on the EU Anti-Racism Strategy for 2026-2030

adopted by ETUCE Bureau on 16 June 2025

On 15 April 2025, the European Commission put forward a public consultation to prepare a future [2026-2030 EU anti-racism strategy](#) (later: Strategy). The aim of this initiative is to develop a comprehensive strategy against racism in all its forms and manifestations in the EU beyond 2025 ([2020-2025 EU anti-racism action plan](#)) and to propose a set of non-legislative measures and actions to help reduce interpersonal racism and structural racism at EU, national, regional, and local levels. The strategy will set the basis to address different forms of discrimination and racism. It will address not only specific forms and manifestations of racism (such as racial discrimination, harassment, bullying, hate speech and hate crime) but will also take an intersectional approach to address racism when it intersects with other protected grounds of discrimination, such as gender or religion. The actions will include, but will not be limited to, ensuring the correct implementation of the EU's equality legislation, working with Member States on national actions against racism, strengthening dialogue with civil society and promoting awareness raising activities.

The following Statement represents the views of ETUCE* and its member organisations regarding the renewed Strategy and key aspects of its implementation in the education sector:

- Racism and racial injustice is a global and systematic problem for many minority ethnic people and their communities in Europe and the world. Existing prejudices, stereotypes, racism and xenophobia threaten the inclusion of ethnic minorities in the education system and in the labour market, and lead to direct and indirect discrimination.
- The key barriers:
 - Far right parties are gaining increasing votes in elections, campaigning on racist and anti-immigrant platforms ([ETUCE Resolution on Tackling the Rise of Far-right](#)).
 - Economic challenges, such as a risk of living in segregated areas or in poverty – early school leaving before finishing upper secondary or vocational education.
 - Some young people are drawn towards racist beliefs and in some cases far-right activity, and we need to educate and challenge them, rather than simply excluding them from school, or seeing them consigned to prisons.
 - Education personnel and school leadership are targeted by far-right and populist governments, political organisations, and activists.
 - The absence of information about people of all cultures and religions in textbooks, teaching materials and curricula makes stereotypes flourish;
 - Exclusive curricula do not emphasise important historical periods, such as, for example, colonialism;



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- Education institutions with a majority of students from ethnic minorities experience a significant shortage of teachers and other education personnel;
 - As children's exposure to social media grows and these narratives spread on such platforms, views such as hostility towards and targeting of migrants and refugees, promotion of misogynistic, racist and reactionary influencers, and influencers that spread conspiracy theories, attacks on minority groups;
- ETUCE urges Member States to implement measures supporting teachers with adequate training, sufficient funding for implementation and up-to-date materials on how to develop pedagogically tailored methods that promote democratic citizenship, inclusion and diversity in education and address the challenges of an increasingly diverse European society.
- In particular, ETUCE demands for the new Strategy to ensure that:
 - Education employers and authorities provide a comprehensive initial and continuous training and professional support to all teachers, trainers, academics and other education personnel on democratic citizenship, peace education, shared values, and on how to react in an appropriate manner when they are faced with prejudices, racism, and xenophobia;
 - Textbooks, teaching materials and curricula are revised to include the representation of the cultures of ethnic minorities. Representation of cultural diversity should be critical of discrimination;
 - Awareness is raised on the importance of the education system as part of the wider social support system, including social support for students after class;
 - An effective holistic strategy against racism also implements and supports a meaningful social dialogue with education trade unions in the fight against racism and intolerance. Having education personnel's voice represented in the discussions on mainstreaming the fight against racism across policy areas on European, national, and local levels, is an important step towards a future where any form of racism and hate as well as its dissemination and violence are rejected and condemned.
- ETUCE underlines also the importance of teaching democratic citizenship and transmission of fundamental values through education, especially against the divisive far-right and nationalistic political rhetoric, starting from an early age as a tool to promote the fundamental values of democracy, freedom, tolerance, non-discrimination, equality and solidarity. Among other things, it includes curricula based on students' rights and representing different cultures, the importance of understanding historical processes and the ability to analyse history critically way, and ensuring the implementation of democratic citizenship programmes, including in the professional development of education personnel.
- ETUCE also highlights the crucial role of education to keep the memory alive and educate students to embrace the essential values of our democracy: a society where there is no space for any form of discrimination or hatred.

**The European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) represents 123 Education Trade Unions and 11 million teachers in 51 countries of Europe. ETUCE is a Social Partner in education at the EU level and a European Trade Union Federation within ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation. ETUCE is the European Region of Education International, the global federation of education trade unions.*