



# Combating Racism and Discrimination in Policing

## ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 11: Key Topics

” The increasing threat of terrorism makes the everyday work of the police – keeping our communities safe – more difficult and challenging than ever before.

The police must protect the rights and security of all members of society, irrespective of their ethnic, religious or other background.

ECRI’s guidelines for combating racism and racial discrimination in policing can help governments, police forces and minority groups work together, making society safer and more respectful of the rights of all.

### KEY MESSAGE

— The police have a major role to play in combating racism and discrimination by:

- ▶ being able to police a diverse society whilst respecting human rights;
- ▶ refraining from racial profiling; and
- ▶ monitoring racist incidents and effectively investigating racist offences.

### SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Build good community relations between the police and minority groups.

— Governments, civil society and the police should work together to:

- ▶ train the police in policing a diverse society, and give the police a legal obligation to prevent discrimination;
- ▶ encourage the recruitment of members of minority groups into the police;
- ▶ ensure the police reach out to minority groups to establish regular dialogue and cooperation.



## 2. End racial profiling and make the police more accountable, by

- ▶ prohibiting racial profiling and instead using a standard of “Reasonable Suspicion”;
- ▶ monitoring incidents of racial profiling by the police;
- ▶ investigating alleged cases of racial discrimination by the police through an independent body and ensuring perpetrators face justice;
- ▶ providing support for victims of racial discrimination by the police.

## 3. Ensure the police help combat and monitor racism across society, by

- ▶ investigating racist offences, and accurately recording and publishing them;
- ▶ encouraging victims and witnesses to come forward and report racist incidents;
- ▶ adopting a broad definition of ‘racist incident’, such as “any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person.”

### RACIAL PROFILING

ECRI defines racial profiling as: “The use by the police, with no objective and reasonable justification, of grounds such as race, colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin in control, surveillance or investigation activities.”



### ECRI – USEFUL LINKS

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 11: Combating racism and racial discrimination in policing

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N11/Recommendation\\_11\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N11/Recommendation_11_en.asp)

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 8: Combating racism while fighting terrorism

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N8/Recommendation\\_8\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N8/Recommendation_8_en.asp)

ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 7: National legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination

[http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation\\_N7/Recommendation\\_7\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N7/Recommendation_7_en.asp)

### FACTS AND FINDINGS

“Very little research and monitoring are carried out within the member States of the Council of Europe concerning racial profiling. There are serious gaps in knowledge both as concerns research on methods aimed at identifying and measuring racial profiling and as regards studies that would cover the different aspects mentioned above with respect to the definition of racial profiling, namely the effectiveness, necessity of and harm caused by racial profiling. ECRI considers that these gaps in knowledge effectively allow racial profiling practices to continue unhindered and to intensify in specific security contexts.” Explanatory memorandum to ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.11, paragraph 40.

“Black people are also discriminated in countries where Black communities have lived for many decades. They still live disproportionately often in socially deprived residential areas, are more frequently stopped and searched by the police... than white population” ECRI Annual Report 2014.