

# ANNUAL REPORT ON ECRi'S ACTIVITIES

covering the period  
from 1 January to 31 December 2020



European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance



Commission européenne  
contre le racisme et l'intolérance

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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# Preface

*The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a mechanism which was established by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states. The decision to establish ECRI is contained in the Vienna Declaration adopted by the first Summit on 9 October 1993. On 13 June 2002, the Committee of Ministers adopted an autonomous Statute for ECRI and thus consolidated its role as an independent human rights monitoring mechanism specialised in questions relating to racism and intolerance.*

*ECRI's task is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at the level of greater Europe and from the perspective of the protection of human rights. ECRI's action covers all necessary measures to combat violence, discrimination and prejudice faced by persons or groups of persons, on grounds of "race", colour, language, religion, citizenship, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation and gender identity.*

*ECRI's members are appointed on the basis of their in-depth knowledge in the field of combating intolerance. They should have high moral authority and recognised expertise in dealing with racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance. They serve in their individual capacity, are independent and impartial in fulfilling their mandate, and do not receive any instructions from their government.*

*ECRI's statutory activities are: country monitoring; work on general themes; and relations with civil society. ECRI's strategy for constantly enhancing its activities is to take a step-by-step approach, building on the work it has already accomplished by evaluating, consolidating and extending its action.*

# Main trends

## Introduction

1. Each year, as an introduction to its annual report, ECRI outlines the main trends in the fields of racism and intolerance in Europe to show the context in which ECRI continues its efforts and will further step up its action in the future. The precise characteristics and extent of these trends, observed in the course of ECRI's various activities, vary from region to region and country to country. Usually, ECRI's conclusions about trends in policy areas falling under its mandate rely predominantly on findings stemming from its country monitoring visits. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, ECRI's observations about dominant tendencies in 2020 to a larger degree than usual rely on desk research, information gathered through online meetings and events, and written communications from (potential) individual victims and witnesses of racism or intolerance in Europe, as well as on contributions by ECRI members and findings by international or national partners of ECRI, as well as other Council of Europe's sources.

2. This year's edition is focused on four main areas: mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on groups of concern to ECRI; tackling deep-rooted racism in public life; combating anti-Muslim racism and antisemitism in the face of terrorism; and addressing the backlash against the protection of LGBTI persons' human rights. The latter was allocated a dedicated section given ECRI's unique position in monitoring LGBTI equality in Council of Europe member states since 2013.

### **I. Mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on groups of concern to ECRI**

3. Few, if any, crises since the Second World War have had such a global impact as the Covid-19 pandemic and thus this public health emergency came to overshadow other trends in 2020, in Europe and elsewhere. Racist and xenophobic incidents linked to the outbreak have been widespread. They include verbal and physical assaults, social exclusion, denial of access to basic goods and services, discriminatory restrictions of freedom of movement and quarantine policies, as well as intolerant rhetoric from public figures, in particular politicians and media professionals. The pandemic was also abused by various groups and individuals to spread conspiracy theories about

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the origin of the disease. This included, inter alia, antisemitic hate speech, blaming specific persons of Jewish origin or Jews in general for Covid-19 and thereby using age-old stereotypes to stir up anti-Jewish resentments and hatred. Persons of Asian origin or those perceived to be of Asian origin were also targeted at the beginning of the pandemic. Furthermore, lockdown measures were put in place to slow the transmission of the virus and save lives, but unfortunately the unintended impact of some of these measures has been grave, with schooling disrupted, borders closed, and livelihoods devastated. Several groups of concern to ECRI have often suffered disproportionately from the impact of these measures. While the pandemic caused some self-centred and even xenophobic reactions, especially during its first wave in spring, it also prompted widespread expressions of mutual solidarity and support from states, civil society and individuals. It is beyond doubt that far-reaching social, economic and political consequences of the pandemic and measures taken are still unfolding.

4. The rapid spread of the pandemic in 2020 put a heavy strain on healthcare infrastructures and personnel in Council of Europe member states, as a significant number of people infected with Covid-19 required hospital care, including intensive care. Efforts to limit the number of COVID patients in need of hospital care, in order not to overburden hospitals beyond their capacity and thus running the risk of not being able to provide life-saving care to anybody needing it, led to the imposition of many restrictions in daily life across Europe. These unprecedented measures have had implications for the enjoyment of rights and freedoms under the European Convention on Human Rights (“the Convention”). While numerous countries have introduced emergency regimes of varying intensity or have adopted legislative or other measures without formally declaring such an emergency, some have also formally sought derogations<sup>1</sup> from the Convention under Article 15, due to the threat posed by the public health crisis. The Convention articles from which some states announced derogations were most often related to the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8), freedom of assembly and association (Article 11) and freedom of movement (Article 2 of Protocol 4 to the Convention). The core human rights obligations of states have nonetheless remained the same and all restrictions, whether or not based on a derogation,

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<sup>1</sup> [Status](#) of derogations as of 13 October 2020.

should always fulfil the conditions of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination, as well as being temporary in case of derogations.

5. Regrettably, some government measures introduced with the stated intention of tackling the crisis caused by Covid-19, have resulted in further discrimination of marginalised groups, causing a regression in the respect of their human rights, which could prove long-lasting. For instance, blanket measures to preclude the admission of refugees or asylum-seekers, or of those of specific nationalities, without evidence of any public health risks caused by them, were striking examples of such acts *ultra vires* and have left many *bona fide* asylum seekers in limbo, or at risk of refoulement, for several months until countries have gradually started to ease these measures again.

6. At the same time, promising practices at various levels have also emerged in a number of countries, where for instance, all migrants, including asylum seekers, with pending residence permit applications were granted the same rights as citizens, in order to ensure that everybody who needed it had access to social security, unemployment allowances and health care.

### **A. Ensuring equal access to rights**

7. Some groups of concern to ECRI have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Research shows that persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities are generally at greater risk of contracting the virus due to a wide range of factors, from their disproportionately large share among employees in high risk sectors, including health and social care, to their accommodation in overcrowded housing where social distancing rules are difficult to observe. They may also suffer from higher fatality rates among those infected, often due to poorer initial health and more limited access to medical care. Moreover, the economic downturn caused by lockdown measures, which were taken in response to Covid-19, resulted in the immediate loss of many informal or otherwise precarious jobs. This unemployment caused various degrees of food shortages and lack of health insurances in vulnerable communities, notably among Roma, migrants and LGBTI persons. The Covid-19 crisis has exposed, and deepened, underlying structural inequalities in almost all policy areas, including as concerns access to education, employment, housing and healthcare.



*i. Roma*

8. Although many Roma were suffering from poverty, marginalisation and exclusion in many areas already before the pandemic, their situation has deteriorated more than that of most groups in society, especially in terms of their access to work and basic services.

9. Roma are often confined to overcrowded neighbourhoods with limited access to public utilities, including clean water and sewage. By way of example, in slums inhabited by Roma, physical distancing and good hygiene were nearly impossible to maintain. Distance learning measures have excluded many Roma children from school, risking an increase in the already high dropout rates among Roma pupils, due to lack of internet and/or computer access. The loss of social aid, which was conditional on the participation of children in home schooling in several countries, has made it increasingly difficult for affected Roma to secure their subsistence. In addition to social aid necessary to meet basic needs, Roma pupils must have equal access to education, including in times of pandemics. ECRI therefore calls on member states to draw inspiration from its General Policy Recommendations No. 10 on combatting racism and racial discrimination in and through school education and No. 13 on combatting antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma.

10. While the lack of appropriate support for Roma in some European countries is grimly reflected in their situation and capacity to meet the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, positive measures taken by actors in other Council of Europe member states must be welcomed. Some public utility providers supplied water and electricity free of charge to Roma communities during lockdown periods. In some countries, Roma families were provided with free internet packages to bridge the digital divide affecting Roma pupils, while in others, shopping vouchers for Roma were distributed or measures were taken to ensure provision of food and water.

11. Roma have further, increasingly and falsely, been blamed, including by political and other public figures for being major spreaders of the virus. Such campaigns amounting to hate speech, at times more implicitly and at other times very explicitly, reinforced negative stereotypes about Roma and made their access to health care and public support measures even more challenging. A number of Roma settlements have been put under compulsory quarantine in certain

countries, based on the false claim that such measures were necessary for the protection of public health and safety. ECRI recalled in its [statement](#) adopted in May 2020 on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and related government responses on groups of concern to ECRI, that adequate safeguards should be put in place to ensure that the restrictions imposed on vulnerable people on public health grounds must be non-discriminatory as well as ensure the principles of lawfulness, necessity and proportionality.

**ii. Migrants and asylum seekers**

12. Like Roma communities, migrants and asylum seekers have faced serious difficulties in accessing basic rights and services during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some recently arrived or irregularly present migrants have not been able to benefit from essential health care on the grounds of not having a social security number in their host country. Access to health care is a key element in several of ECRI's General Policy Recommendations, including General Policy Recommendation No. 16 on safeguarding irregularly present migrants from discrimination. In the latter, ECRI calls for the establishment of firewalls between, for instance, providers of health care to irregular migrants and immigration control and enforcement authorities, in order to avoid irregular migrants being unable to access essential health care services for fear of revealing their irregular status.

13. In the field of employment, migrants have proved to be particularly vulnerable. For instance, migrant seasonal workers employed by slaughterhouses or as fruit-pickers had to work in poor sanitary conditions and were kept in overcrowded accommodation, thereby making them particularly susceptible of contracting the Coronavirus.

14. Studies have also revealed that in some countries, suburban council estates, inhabited by a majority of people with a migrant background, have been disproportionately targeted by police controls for the purpose of enforcing lockdown measures, with ensuing fines adding an additional burden for their inhabitants.

### ***iii. LGBTI persons***

15. Young LGBTI persons have oftentimes been exposed to family rejection and domestic violence during the Covid-19 pandemic. Calls to LGBTI hotlines and victim support call centres increased (in some cases tripled), particularly during curfews. Some LGBTI youth had to move back to LGBTI-phobic family members while others had to reconsider coming out during the pandemic.

16. Furthermore, transgender persons were particularly affected by job insecurity as they often work in the informal economy or as a result of the closure of large parts of the hospitality sector (in which many transgender persons were employed). Most also have had their gender reassignment treatment postponed, while others have had problems in receiving their regular hormone treatment.

17. Members of the LGBTI communities further fell victims of hate speech in some countries, where religious and political leaders blamed LGBTI people for the spread of Covid-19.

18. In some Council of Europe member states, the authorities have risen to the challenge posed by the pandemic by providing targeted support for the LGBTI community. Services offered in this regard included municipal housing, assistance to LGBTI NGOs by public health services and setting up helplines for LGBTI communities and their families.

### **B. Anticipating and reducing discrimination risks in the use of artificial intelligence**

19. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has spurred the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) systems to monitor and curb the spread of the disease. Several countries have introduced digital surveillance technologies, in particular contact-tracing applications, for screening and detecting infected persons as well as for predicting the emergence of geographical or commercial risk areas and sectors, and for modelling public policy interventions based on these predictions. Some devices, such as drones and QR codes, have further been used to enforce quarantine orders, as have log entries into shops and public places.

20. Relying on the analysis of large masses of population data, the use of these tools has however not fairly represented communities, in particular minority groups living in poverty, due to the disparate effects of the pandemic on these groups and their different realities,

and has led to misdirected public health efforts, which have discriminated against such minority groups, putting their human rights at risk. For example, stricter enforcement of social distancing measures in low-income neighbourhoods have on occasions unduly penalised frontline workers belonging to these groups or persons such as asylum seekers traveling to shelters or food banks. More specifically, their movements appeared in violation of social distancing rules or of restrictions to the freedom of movement when such persons were obliged to go to their workplaces, in the absence of teleworking possibilities, or in other ways move in order to meet their basic needs. These interventions have therefore contributed to growing concerns about AI contributing to discrimination.

21. The “datafication” that comes with the development of algorithmic systems to fight the pandemic has also raised concerns for being excessively intrusive, especially in countries which have not established robust privacy or data protection authorities, with a potential harmful impact on minority groups. Evidently, any undue disclosure of personal data holds the risk of scapegoating certain groups, such as LGBTI persons, or religious and ethnic minorities, and may trigger physical attacks or online hatred against them. Reports suggest that contact-tracing applications mostly take a decentralised approach, with users’ data produced and stored locally on users’ devices. However, when collected through a centralised server as done by some governments, they risk identification of data subjects and increase vulnerability to online hate speech. Hence, even if the data is anonymous in principle, the fact that it can be engineered to relink historical data to users could open a dangerous precedent affecting marginalised groups negatively. Many stakeholders, including the Council of Europe through its [Convention 108\(+\)](#), as well as the Commission of the European Union,<sup>2</sup> have therefore called for ensuring appropriate safeguards for processing and storage of personal data in such applications and refraining from their use beyond what is necessary for legitimate and targeted disease surveillance measures. In this respect, ECRI recalls that any collection of personal data should fully comply with the principles of confidentiality, informed consent and voluntary self-identification of persons, as reaffirmed by its General Policy Recommendations Nos. 1 and 4.

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<sup>2</sup> [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2020/518](#), 8 April 2020; [Communication from the Commission \(EU\) 2020/2523](#) final, 16 April 2020.

## II. Tackling deep-rooted racism in public life

22. The year 2020 was marked by a wave of world-wide protests against racism. The tragic death of George Floyd while arrested by police in Minneapolis (Minnesota, United States) amplified what is referred to as the racial justice movement – *Black Lives Matter* – which has unfolded in the United States since 2013, and resonated in Europe as well. The incident sparked a new reckoning on racism not only in law enforcement but in society at large, thereby making the death of George Floyd the symbol, not only in the United States but also in a number of Council of Europe member states, of a pervasive and embedded racism in social structures.

23. Recent events and data have also revealed the extent to which racial profiling and racist police abuse continue to affect groups of concern to ECRI and how this has been exacerbated during the Covid-19 pandemic, reinforcing concerns in Europe about what is growingly referred to as institutional racism. Such racism is covert or overt, and resides in the policies, procedures, operations and cultures of public and private institutions. People singled out based on their skin colour or perceived or real ethnic or national origin, a frequently documented occurrence, in the case of Black and Roma persons in particular, amounts to racial discrimination and generates a feeling of humiliation and injustice among its victims, at times experiencing multiple discriminations due to their gender (e.g. Muslim women wearing headscarves) and/or their status (e.g. migrants), thus eroding their trust in society and in law enforcement bodies. ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 11 on combating racism and racial discrimination in policing calls for explicit legal bans on such discriminatory practices. In particular, ECRI considers it imperative that effective investigations by fully independent bodies be carried out into cases of such police abusive actions. Apart from providing remedies to the immediate victims, such investigations should also identify practices amounting to institutionalised racism within the police, with a view to their termination. Some Council of Europe member states have already taken some promising steps in this regard.

24. At the same time, there is a body of evidence suggesting that it is often “unwitting prejudice” that leads to these discriminatory practices. Consequently, having a good grasp of the mechanisms of implicit racial bias in policing, and in the criminal justice system more broadly, is important for setting up better policies to create an inclusive

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institutional culture. To achieve this, increasing diversity within the police and adequate police training should be at the core of any government action aimed at tackling racism in policing.

25. While training of law enforcement officials and other professional groups is a key measure, the groundwork for creating diverse and tolerant societies needs to be conducted already during their school years, with the broader objective of ensuring social inclusion. Council of Europe member states should therefore continue to take inspiration from ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No.10 on combating racism and racial discrimination in and through school education.

26. Full acknowledgement of past and present racism, through history teaching and through the media for instance, may be a painful but necessary exercise. The year 2020 marked a major step towards increased awareness about the historical dimensions of racism and inequalities, especially colonialism and slavery, whose legacies have affected the whole of Europe. While this momentum is opportune for responding to the scourge of racism and intolerance, it should not be short-lived but be further supported by relentless and continued action at all levels. In this respect, the governments of Council of Europe member states should not only heed the systemic nature of racism but also take a holistic and intersectional approach to dismantle the powerful social hierarchies behind it. Those deeply rooted social constructs reinforce individual prejudices in society, which in turn deepen divides among people, generate inflammatory rhetoric and undermine any existing climate of cohesion. In this regard, ECRI welcomes the decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in which it encouraged member states to deliver clear messages of zero tolerance of racism and discrimination and to take effective action in the light of [ECRI's statement](#) of July 2020 on racist police abuse, including racial profiling, and systemic racism.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Decision taken by the Committee of Ministers at the 1382<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of 16 September 2020.

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### **III. Combating anti-Muslim racism and antisemitism in the face of terrorism**

27. The year 2020 was also characterised by the resurgence of terror attacks by extremist individuals or groups, against persons of different religions. A series of tragic events started when ten persons, several of them with a Muslim background, were killed by a far-right extremist in Hanau, Germany, in February 2020.

28. The brutal murder of a school teacher by an Islamist militant in October in the Paris region in France and the attack in a Roman Catholic Basilica in Nice, as well as the terrorist attack in Austria, in the very centre of Vienna, that together led to the loss of a number of lives have caused public outcry and added further momentum to growing anxiety across Europe. ECRI is concerned that these horrific murders will spark further intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.

29. There is indeed a dangerous spiral of inter-related forms of racism developing. Real or perceived intolerance and discrimination against Muslims constitute the breeding ground for radicalisation among a few young Muslims, which is the breeding ground for further intolerance and discrimination against Muslims. Anti-Muslim racism entails the risk of counteracting integration and inclusion efforts and may further radicalise a growing number of young Muslims in Europe. Although many European governments called on the public not to engage in general stigmatisation of Muslims, anti-Muslim sentiments that were already present in many countries were exacerbated further by the attacks by Islamist militants. In its previous annual reports, ECRI has warned against reactions that may only lead to greater polarisation of society.

30. At the same time, like in previous years, Jewish people in Europe have also continued to experience antisemitic hatred, including violence. Extremist groups, especially Neo-Nazis and Islamists, pose particular threats to the safety of Jewish communities and their members. Jewish religious places, such as synagogues and cemeteries, remain the main targets of vandalism. Certainly, the tragic antisemitic attacks in Halle, Germany, in October 2019 revealed in the eye of the general public that antisemitic violence needs to be tackled urgently. However, a series of serious antisemitic incidents in member states during 2020 suggest that the Jewish communities continue to face persistent problems, including insufficient police responses to

meet their security needs in some countries. Moreover, ECRI observed that criticism of Israeli government policies is still being used by some antisemitic elements to stir up hatred against all Jewish people in Israel and elsewhere, including by allegations of a “Jewish conspiracy” at a global level. ECRI believes that the Jewish communities and their institutions must not be made targets for opposition to Israeli government actions.

31. ECRI is concerned that many parts of Europe remain confronted with alarming levels of antisemitic and anti-Muslim violence, often incited and aggravated by hate speech online. This confirms how important it is to combat online illegal hateful content, terrorism propaganda and disinformation. It is imperative that social media and other internet service providers also hold responsibility in making sure that their services are not used for activities inciting to hatred. ECRI calls on member states to take further action in this area, in the light of its General Policy Recommendations No. 8 on combating racism while fighting terrorism and No. 15 on combating hate speech.

#### **IV. Addressing the backlash against the protection of LGBTI persons’ human rights**

32. While many Council of Europe member states made significant progress in securing the human rights of LGBTI persons since the adoption of Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, it has been possible to note a clear backlash against this positive trend in some member states, a regression which has grown stronger in 2020.

33. In its second report (adopted in November 2019) on the implementation of the abovementioned Committee of Ministers’ Recommendation, the Council of Europe’s Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) noted some trends, progress and remaining challenges, including the emergence of a climate of opposition to LGBTI persons’ human rights. This climate has gained ground in certain European countries in 2020, linked to populist homophobic and transphobic rhetoric and the so-called anti-gender movement. The Committee of Ministers took note of this CDDH report in September 2020.



34. The backlash against the human rights protection of LGBTI persons has amongst others been manifested at political level in the form of anti-LGBTI rhetoric in electoral campaigns and the adoption by local authorities of resolutions by which they explicitly or implicitly declared themselves to be against what they refer to as a LGBTI-ideology, as well as by attacks against LGBTI activists or young people perceived as belonging to the LGBTI communities.

35. New restrictive legislation was also adopted, including pieces of legislation that made it impossible for transgender and intersex persons to legally change their gender.

36. Nonetheless, progress was also observed during 2020 in the promotion of the human rights of LGBTI persons. For example, several countries outlawed non-consensual cosmetic surgeries performed on intersex children. The appointment of LGBTI persons to high political offices in several countries in Europe has enjoyed popular support. Furthermore, more member states introduced legislation recognising civil partnerships or same-sex marriage for LGBTI persons.

37. Finally, it should be noted that, in 2020, the European Court of Human Rights delivered ground-breaking judgments on LGBTI issues, including in the case of *Beizaras and Levickas v Lithuania*<sup>4</sup>, where it clearly set out the responsibility of states to protect individuals from homophobic online hate speech. ECRI is pleased to note that the Court heavily relied on ECRI's findings and recommendations in its assessment and calls on member states to take action to implement those recommendations. It is by far the best way to avoid being found in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights in this area. ECRI also reiterates its commitment to develop a new General Policy Recommendation on combating intolerance and discrimination against LGBTI persons in the coming period and refers to its Roadmap to Effective Equality in this regard.

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<sup>4</sup> Application no. 41288/15; 14 January 2020.

# ECRI's activities in 2020

## 1. Country-by-country approach

38. ECRI's statutory activities comprise firstly country monitoring work. ECRI closely examines the situation in each of the member states of the Council of Europe and draws up suggestions and proposals as to how the problems it has identified might be overcome. The aim is to formulate helpful and well-founded recommendations, which may assist governments in taking concrete and practical steps to counter racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance.

39. ECRI's reports are first sent in draft form to the member states concerned for confidential dialogue. Their contents are reviewed in the light of the national authorities' comments. They are then finally adopted and transmitted to the governments of the member states concerned, through the intermediary of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers.

40. ECRI's country-by-country approach concerns all Council of Europe member states on an equal footing. The reports for the first round were completed in late 1998. From January 1999 to the end of December 2002, ECRI worked on the second cycle of its country-by-country approach. From January 2003 to the end of December 2007, ECRI worked on the third cycle of its country-by-country approach. From January 2008 until September 2014, ECRI worked on its fourth cycle of country monitoring. As from this cycle, it introduced an interim follow-up mechanism: ECRI requested priority implementation for certain specific recommendations and asked the member state concerned to provide information in this connection within two years from the publication of the report.

41. In 2013, ECRI began its fifth cycle of country monitoring. ECRI's last fifth-round reports were published in 2019. With regard to fifth-cycle interim follow-up conclusions, in 2020 ECRI published conclusions on the implementation of the priority recommendations it had made in its fifth-cycle reports published in 2017, on Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Iceland, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Serbia, Sweden and Ukraine.

42. In 2019, ECRI started work on its sixth cycle of country monitoring. This cycle focuses on strengthening equality and access to rights, in particular through promoting the independence and effectiveness of equality bodies, inclusive education, access to rights of irregularly present migrants and LGBTI equality; combating hate speech and hate-motivated violence and promoting integration and inclusion, particularly for migrants and Roma, and more specifically for children; highlighting and promoting good practices in the fight against racism and intolerance; taking account of crosscutting issues where the intersection of national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and other grounds can lead to further discrimination and including a gender perspective. The reports also deal with topics specific to each country, including follow-up of the priority recommendations adopted in the fifth monitoring cycle.

43. In order to obtain as full a picture as possible, a contact visit is organised before the drafting of each new report. The visits provide an opportunity for ECRI Rapporteurs to meet officials from the various ministries and public authorities dealing with issues within ECRI's remit. They also allow Rapporteurs to meet NGO representatives, as well as independent experts and other persons concerned by the fight against racism and intolerance. Finally, they provide Rapporteurs with a unique opportunity to make direct observations in places where groups of concern to ECRI live.

44. In 2020, ECRI published the first seven reports of its sixth-round of country monitoring, on Albania, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia and Switzerland.

45. All reports published in 2020 have been translated into the national language(s) of the country concerned and steps have been taken to ensure that they are circulated as widely as possible among stakeholders at domestic level.

46. ECRI's reports received considerable media coverage. Reactions to these reports show how topical the issues discussed therein are and how urgent it is to ensure follow-up to their recommendations.

47. In 2020, ECRI carried out one contact visit for the preparation of a sixth-cycle country monitoring report, namely to Norway. The Covid-19 related health crisis and corresponding measures and regulations to contain it prevented ECRI from carrying out the number of contact visits originally planned. Following discussions with the

respective national authorities and also taking into account regulations in force in the countries of origin of delegation members, visits to Bulgaria, Estonia, France and Georgia were postponed. With regard to a planned visit to Hungary, some of the meetings normally held during a visit took place online. In respect of the wishes of the Hungarian authorities, the remaining meetings have been postponed until it is feasible for ECRI's delegation to travel to Hungary.

48. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, ECRI was unfortunately unable to meet in plenary in Strasbourg and quickly adjusted its work through the organisation of online plenary meetings. Where appropriate, it adopted documents through a written procedure. It was also able to focus intensely on thematic work currently in progress, as described below.

## **2. Work on general themes**

### *General Policy Recommendations*

49. ECRI's General Policy Recommendations, the second part of its statutory activities, are addressed to the governments of all member states; they cover important areas of current concern in the fight against racism and intolerance. They are intended to serve as guidelines for policymakers when drawing up national strategies, programmes and projects.

50. ECRI has adopted 16 General Policy Recommendations. It has also produced abridged versions of most of them (containing the key points and presented in an attractive format for use by the general public in particular). In 2020, ECRI continued to translate abridged versions into other Council of Europe languages (Italian, Serbian and Spanish) and the languages of some non-member states (Arabic and Amazigh). At its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference held in September 2019, ECRI had announced that it was necessary in the coming years to update its general policy recommendations on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and on the fight against antisemitism and to prepare a new general policy recommendation to combat intolerance and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

51. In December 2019, ECRI set up two working groups, one tasked with revising its General Policy Recommendation No. 5 on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and one on revising its General Recommendation No. 9 on the fight against

antisemitism. Both working groups met several times through videoconference in 2020.

52. For the working group on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, these meetings included holding an online informal exchange with civil society representatives on 9 September. The working group had an opportunity to get insightful feedback from some grass-root organisations and had a fruitful discussion on issues related to anti-Muslim racism. At its 84<sup>th</sup> plenary (1-4 December), ECRI held an exchange of views with British academic Professor Tariq Modood, a renowned expert on these issues.

53. The working group tasked with the revision of ECRI's General Policy Recommendation on the fight against antisemitism (GPR No. 9) held a number of meetings remotely, including one in preparation of an exchange of views held by ECRI at its 83<sup>rd</sup> plenary (30 September – 2 October) on the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) with Kathrin Meyer, Executive Secretary of IHRA, Robert Williams, Chair of the IHRA Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Union Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, and Brian Klug, Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy at St. Benet's Hall, University of Oxford (United Kingdom)<sup>5</sup>.

54. With regard to ECRI's future work on LGBTI issues, ECRI set up a task force entrusted to prepare the ground for the future working group that will be tasked with drawing up a General Policy Recommendation on LGBTI issues. On 1 October, ECRI held an exchange of views on LGBTI issues with Victor Madrigal-Borloz, United Nations Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Gabriella Calleja, from the European Network of Governmental LGBTI Focal Points and Head of the SOGIGESC Unit of the Maltese Ministry of Justice, Equality and Governance, and Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of the international NGO ILGA-Europe. The task force further held online meetings with representatives of other Council of Europe bodies that in the pursuit of their mandates have addressed LGBTI equality.

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<sup>5</sup> See, in this regard, ECRI's [Opinion](#) on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, adopted at the 84<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (1 – 4 December) and published on 2 December.

### **3. Relations with civil society**

55. Combating racism and intolerance can only be effective if the message filters down to society in general. Awareness-raising and a communication strategy are, therefore, essential. ECRI attaches great importance to this third part of its statutory activities.

56. By way of illustration, on 18 March, ECRI took part in the “European conference on rule of law and human rights – Just Europe”, organised by the Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL) in Zagreb.

57. On 16 July, ECRI’s Second Vice-Chair participated in an Online Policy Dialogue, entitled “Black Lives Matter: Europe’s Anti-Racism Moment?”, which was organised by the European Policy Centre (EPC).

58. On 11 December, ECRI took part in an online event organised by the Migration, Diversity and Justice Centre of the Institute for European Studies on the negative impact of COVID on migrants and minorities.

59. In 2020, ECRI participated in several events involving civil society organisations, which were generally organised by other international organisations (see below under the section “Co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and other international organisations”). Civil society organisations also participated in ECRI’s annual seminar with equality bodies to combat racism and discrimination and working group consultations and exchanges of views to prepare the revision of its General Policy Recommendation No. 5 and future work on LGBTI issues.

#### *Organisation of national round tables in member states*

60. At national level, round tables may be held following the publication of ECRI’s country monitoring reports. They are organised with the equality bodies and aimed at representatives of civil society and the national authorities, the main objective being to encourage all parties concerned to think about ways of jointly solving the problems of racism and intolerance and ensuring that ECRI’s recommendations are implemented.

61. ECRI and the Council of Europe's No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit organised, in co-operation with the People's Advocate and the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination of Albania, a Round Table, which was in Tirana and online, on "Combating racial discrimination and intolerance in Albania" on 28 October.

62. The participants discussed the progress and key matters surrounding the follow-up envisaged or given to the recommendations contained in ECRI's last monitoring report on Albania, published in June 2020. These included additional measures to fight hate speech and discrimination, especially against LGBTI persons and Roma; proper implementation of the LGBTI Action Plan 2016-2020 and the National Action Plan for the integration of Roma and Egyptians 2016-2020 and further actions in the fight against bullying and extremism in schools, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

63. This round table brought more visibility to ECRI's work and is meant to ensure greater impact for its recommendations in Albania.

#### **4. Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on groups of concern to ECRI**

64. Throughout 2020, ECRI has been involved in work on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and related government action on groups of concern to ECRI.

65. On 20 March, ECRI issued a joint [statement](#) with the Directors of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) ahead of International Anti-Racism Day. In this statement, ECRI's Chair underlined the need to join forces to build robust defences against racism and to curb its spread, through strong legislation, effective equality bodies, ambitious action plans and inclusive education.

66. A few months later, at its meeting of 19 May, ECRI's Bureau felt duty-bound to issue a [statement](#) expressing alarm about reports of the growing hardships suffered by groups of concern to ECRI, in particular Roma and migrants, as well as the increased exposure of these groups to hate speech and violence, during the Covid-19 pandemic. The statement recalled that quarantine measures and other restrictions should not result in discrimination and thereby breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights. The

statement also draws attention to the need for member states to ensure the protection during the crisis of the human rights of LGBTI persons, in public and at home, offline and online. ECRI stressed that public policies to address challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic should be based on human rights as well as health and economic considerations and recommended that (post-)Covid-19 task forces or advisory boards set up by governments include specialists in human rights, particularly the fields of equality and non-discrimination.

67. On 30 June, ECRI and the Greek Chairmanship of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers co-organised a webinar on Inclusive Education in times of Covid-19, with a special focus on migrant and Roma children, noting both the challenges faced by disadvantaged students in adapting to distance learning and how some authorities, schools, teachers and other actors in the education sector were better prepared or reacted quicker to mitigate the negative effects of the school closures and support educational continuity.

68. At ECRI's 82nd plenary meeting, which took place from 30 June to 2 July, members held an in-depth exchange of views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and related government action on groups of concern to ECRI, on the basis of, inter alia, a Secretariat briefing document and on the information provided by ECRI to the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI). At its 83rd plenary meeting, which took place from 30 September to 2 October, ECRI held a second exchange of views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and related government action on groups of concern to ECRI, bearing in mind the online exchange pertaining to the longer term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on equality and the fight against racism and intolerance organised under the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 29 September.

## **5. ECRI statement on racist police abuse, including racial profiling, and systemic racism**

69. On 6 July 2020, ECRI issued a [statement](#) calling upon Council of Europe member states to take decisive action to combat racist police abuse, including racial profiling, and systemic racism, in the context of the worldwide mobilisation against racism following the tragic death of George Floyd upon apprehension by the police in late May in Minneapolis (Minnesota, United States), which resonated in Europe.



70. ECRI, stating how during its country monitoring visits to Council of Europe member states it had heard many accounts of racist police abuse, including racial profiling and acts of violence towards minority groups or migrants, recalled its General Policy Recommendation No. 11 on combating racism and racial discrimination in policing. The recommendations contained in this text, such as developing recruitment procedures which ensure that the composition of the police reflects the diversity of the population and establishing fully independent bodies to investigate incidents of alleged police abuse, remain as crucial as ever today. ECRI reiterated that trust in the police by everyone in society enhances safety for all.

71. ECRI also stressed that the recent period opened people's eyes to the "systemic racism and inequalities that have permeated the daily life of minority groups, affecting their access to education, employment, health and housing" and called on decision-makers in Council of Europe member states to increase awareness about the historical dimensions of racism and inequalities, especially colonialism and slavery.

## **6. Cooperation with Equality Bodies to combat racism and racial discrimination**

72. Equality Bodies are strategic partners for ECRI. ECRI held its 2020 Annual Seminar with Equality Bodies on 28 and 29 September on Joining Forces to Communicate the Equality and Diversity Message, through videoconferencing. It brought together high-level representatives of equality bodies across Europe, the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), various other agencies and international governmental and non-governmental organisations such as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and Amnesty international, as well as communication specialists.

73. The seminar explored the ways everyone involved in the fight against racism and intolerance can communicate more effectively and how ECRI, equality bodies and other stakeholders can join forces to increase the impact of their communication on promoting equality and fighting racism and intolerance. The seminar enjoyed a high level of participation. One of its main messages was the need to remember the importance of story-telling and to humanise the broader story, especially to young people. Speakers referred to successful campaigns carried out both at the national and international level.

74. ECRI also participated in a videoconference on algorithms, bias and the fight against discrimination organised by the French Defender of Rights in partnership with the National Data Protection Commission (*Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés - CNIL*) on 28-29 May.

## **7. Other activities**

75. Ahead of its 82<sup>nd</sup> plenary meeting (30 June-2 July), ECRI held an election to a position of member of the Working Group on Relations with Civil Society and Equality Bodies. Saša Gajin (member in respect of Serbia) was elected for three years. His terms of office began on 19 June 2020.

76. At its 84<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting (1-4 December), ECRI held elections to the positions of the Vice-Chairs and one Bureau member. Domenica Ghidei Biidu (member in respect of the Netherlands) was elected 1st Vice-Chair for one year. Michael Farrell (member in respect of Ireland) was elected 2nd Vice-Chair for one year. Reetta Toivanen (member in respect of Finland) was elected Bureau member for two years. ECRI held also elections for two positions of members of the working group on relations with civil society and equality bodies. The following persons were elected: Barbara John (member in respect of Germany); Christian Jura (member in respect of Romania). Their terms of office begin on 1 January 2021.

## **8. Communication strategy**

77. Activities such as the publication of ECRI's country reports and interim follow-up conclusions, round tables and webinars attracted considerable media attention. ECRI has also been referred to in national policy discussions. Approximately 612 press articles covering ECRI's work were identified over the year and approximately 3 024 Twitter followers.

78. Based on the findings of the above-mentioned annual seminar with equality bodies, ECRI's Working Group on Civil Society and Equality Bodies presented a draft communication strategy to ECRI, which was examined at its 84<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting. ECRI will continue to take further steps to strengthen its communication strategy, including through the contribution of individual members.

## **Co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe and other international organisations**

79. ECRI participated in and contributed to many events as part of its co-operation with relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, including the new intergovernmental committees to combat discrimination, and with other international organisations.

### **Council of Europe**

80. ECRI's Chair met with Marija Pejčinović Burić, the Council of Europe's Secretary General, on 26 February to discuss the main trends identified in ECRI's Annual Report covering 2019, prior to an exchange of views on the Annual Report with the Committee of Ministers' Deputies ahead of its publication. Topics discussed included the revision of ECRI's General Policy Recommendations No. 5 on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims and No. 9 on the fight against antisemitism as well as the protection of LGBTI persons from discrimination, hate speech and hate-motivated violence.

81. ECRI participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), which was held in Strasbourg on 8-10 September and online. It also contributed to its work on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in areas of relevance to ECRI and the CDADI. Furthermore, it attended meetings organised by the CDADI's substructures in the course of the year. In particular, ECRI took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the new Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), which was held in Strasbourg on 20-21 February, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the ADI-ROM, which was held online on 8-9 October. On 29-30 September, ECRI took part in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings of the Expert Committee on Combating Hate Speech (ADI/MSI-DIS), which were held through videoconferencing on 29-30 September and on 15-16 December respectively. ECRI participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> plenary meetings of the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), which were held online on 6-8 July and on 15-17 December respectively.

82. ECRI's Chair and its member in respect of Albania took part in the online Joint Hearing of 27 November organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, with the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy on the update of the Charter of Political Parties for a non-racist society.<sup>6</sup>

83. ECRI's Chair took part in an exchange of views organised online on 3 June by the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on "Protection of human life and public health in the context of a pandemic – Effectively responding to a sanitary crisis in full respect for human rights and the principles of democracy and the rule of law".

84. In 2020, ECRI continued its co-operation with other Council of Europe monitoring bodies. On 29 June, ECRI's Chair attended the 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Chairs of the Council of Europe's Monitoring and Advisory Bodies.

85. Drahoslav Štefánek, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on Migration and Refugees, participated in the webinar on Inclusive Education in times of Covid-19 co-organised on 30 June by ECRI and the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

86. ECRI's Chair and Second Vice-Chair took part in a Webinar organised by the Anti-discrimination Department on 7 July, entitled "From challenges to solutions: instruments and tools to fight systemic racism".

87. ECRI's Chair took part in an online panel debate on the Black Lives Matter movement and its importance for young people in Europe, organised by the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth's (CCJ) on 11 August.

88. ECRI's First Vice-Chair participated in a conference entitled "A 'Living Instrument' for Everyone: The Role of the European Convention on Human Rights in Advancing Equality for LGBTI persons". The conference was organised by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit of the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights and its

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<sup>6</sup> In this connection, see also [ECRI's Roadmap to Effective Equality](#).

Registry, to mark the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, and took place on 8 October, through videoconferencing. The event took stock of the impact that the European Convention on Human Rights as interpreted by the Court has had on the lives of LGBTI persons in member states of the Council of Europe.

89. ECRI's Second Vice-Chair participated in the launch event on the training course organised by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme on fighting against racism, xenophobia, homophobia and transphobia. The event took place on 19 October, through videoconferencing.

90. ECRI took part in an online workshop about the role of equality bodies in collecting and publishing data on discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes organised by the No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit and held on 24 November.

91. ECRI's Chair participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society on "Combating hate speech directed against Roma and Travellers", which was held on 26 November.

92. In general, ECRI is regularly updated on the work of other Council of Europe bodies dealing with issues related to racism and intolerance. ECRI's Secretariat provides these bodies with information on ECRI's activities.

## **United Nations**

93. On 5 November, ECRI participated in the online pre-event entitled "How to tackle discrimination by AI-enabled technologies?" at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) that was organised by the United Nations.

### *Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*

94. In 2020, ECRI contributed to the 37<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Universal Periodical Review with its country reports and interim follow up conclusions.

## *UN Conventions*

95. ECRI reports make regular reference to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). ECRI also calls upon Council of Europe member states that have not yet made a declaration under Article 14 of ICERD, enabling individuals and groups of individuals to file petitions before the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), to do so.

## *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)*

96. ECRI is regularly invited to participate in various meetings organised by the OHCHR and to submit contributions based on its monitoring and thematic work. Similarly, OHCHR staff members are regularly invited to ECRI's events. In 2020, ECRI made submissions to the upcoming reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on systemic racism, violations of international human rights law against Africans and people of African descent by law enforcement agencies and of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief on Anti-Muslim hatred/Islamophobia.

97. On 21-22 September, ECRI's Chair took part as keynote speaker in the European Regional Forum on Hate Speech, Social Media and Minority Issues, organised by the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

## *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)*

98. Fengchun Miao, Chief of the UNESCO Unit for ICT in Education, took part in the webinar on Inclusive Education in times of Covid-19, co-organised on 30 June by ECRI and the Greek Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

## *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*

99. ECRI has a close working relationship with UNHCR, facilitated by the UNHCR Representation to the European Institutions in Strasbourg. ECRI regularly receives input from UNHCR concerning its country visits, round tables and various legal issues.

## **Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

100. ECRI and the OSCE continue to involve each other in their conferences and meetings. The OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is systematically invited to and attends ECRI's national round tables and ECRI contributes regularly to OSCE/ODIHR meetings.

101. ECRI and ODIHR continue to work closely on improving state and civil society responses to hate crime, an area of common interest also in the context of ECRI's sixth monitoring cycle, which focuses inter alia on hate speech and hate-motivated violence. The two bodies co-operate and benefit from each other's expertise and initiatives in this area. ODIHR systematically refers to ECRI's country-by-country reports and General Policy Recommendations. ECRI uses ODIHR's hate crime data in all its country monitoring reports.

102. A member of ECRI participated in a high-level OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism in the OSCE region, organised by Albania's 2020 OSCE Chair in Tirana on 3-4 February.

103. ECRI's Chair participated as a keynote speaker in the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting (SHDM) I on Addressing All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination, which took place online on 25 and 26 May.

104. On 2-3 December, ECRI's Second Vice-Chair took part as a keynote speaker in an International Network for Hate Studies' Conference on Hate, Democracy and Human Rights, co-hosted by the OSCE/ODIHR and the University of Plymouth (United Kingdom).

## **European Union**

### *European Commission*

105. The Directorate for Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission and ECRI's Secretariat keep each other informed of important developments in their work and exchange information on subjects of common interest.

106. Helena Dalli, European Union Commissioner for Equality, participated in ECRI's 2020 Seminar with Equality Bodies on 28 and 29 September.

107. On 30 September, Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Union Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life participated in ECRI's exchange of views on the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

### *Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)*

108. Cooperation between ECRI and FRA continued in 2020. ECRI's reports make regular reference to FRA's work. ECRI continued to provide inputs to the preparation of FRA's annual report and FRA provided inputs to the preparation of ECRI's country reports.

109. On 19 May, ECRI's Bureau held an exceptional meeting through videoconferencing, where on that occasion, it held exchanges of views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and related government action on various groups of concern to ECRI on this matter with Michael O'Flaherty, Director of FRA. LGBTI issues, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and ways of better communicating the human rights/equality message were amongst the issues discussed. Mr O'Flaherty spoke highly of ECRI's monitoring work and agreed on working to develop new synergies with ECRI, in a spirit of complementarity.

### *EU Special Representative for Human Rights*

110. On the same day, ECRI's Bureau held an online meeting with Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights. The discussions focused on issues of common interest in Council of Europe member states that are not part of the EU. Mr Gilmore emphasised how relevant ECRI and its work were in the circumstances.

## **European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants**

111. On 31 July, ECRI's Second Vice-Chair participated in a Virtual Coffee Meeting on #BlackLivesMatter and Racism and Intolerance organised by the EEA and Norway Grants.



## **Joint statement**

112. ECRI, FRA and the OSCE/ODIHR issued a joint statement on 20 March 2020 to mark the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> In this connection, see paragraph 65.

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## Appendix I – Membership of ECRI<sup>8</sup>

Name	Member in respect of	Term of office expires
Arzu AGHDASI-SISAN	Azerbaijan	31 December 2022
Sinisa BJEKOVIC	Montenegro	9 December 2023
Bertil COTTIER	Switzerland	31 December 2023
Patrice DAVOST	Monaco	6 December 2025
Régis de GOUTTES	France	16 September 2024
Vitaliano ESPOSITO	Italy	31 December 2022
Michael FARRELL	Ireland	29 November 2021
Inês FERREIRA LEITE	Portugal	25 September 2023
Saša GAJIN	Serbia	6 November 2022
Domenica GHIDEI BIIDU	Netherlands	7 October 2025
Sara GIMÉNEZ GÍMENEZ	Spain	31 December 2022
Marin GURIN	Republic of Moldova	26 March 2024

<sup>8</sup> All tables in this appendix reflect the situation on 31 December 2020.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member in respect of</b>	<b>Term of office expires</b>
Helena HOFMANNOVÁ	Czech Republic	31 December 2022
Vasilika HYSI	Albania	31 December 2022
Irena IVIEVA	Bulgaria	31 December 2022
Barbara JOHN	Germany	31 December 2022
Ögmundur JONASSON	Iceland	31 December 2022
Imre JUHÁSZ	Hungary	31 December 2022
Cristian JURA	Romania	31 December 2022
Anhelita KAMENSKA	Latvia	25 October 2021
Elżbieta KARSKA	Poland	2 May 2022
Els KEYTSMAN	Belgium	31 December 2022
Vigen KOCHARYAN	Armenia	11 February 2025
Neža KOGOVSĚK ŠALAMON	Slovenia	31 December 2022
Volodymyr KULYK	Ukraine	10 December 2023

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member in respect of</b>	<b>Term of office expires</b>
Renee LAIVIERA	Malta	17 November 2024
Jean-Paul LEHNERS	Luxembourg	8 February 2026
Šarūnas LIEKIS	Lithuania	31 December 2022
Anna-Sara LIND	Sweden	20 October 2025
Ülle MADISE	Estonia	31 December 2022
Maria Daniella MAROUDA	Greece	4 November 2025
Elena MIHAJLOVA STRATILATI	North Macedonia	9 May 2024
Kristina PARDALOS	San Marino	11 December 2023
Andreas PASCHALIDES	Cyprus	31 December 2022
Karin QUADERER	Liechtenstein	28 May 2024
Jacint RIBERAYGUA CAELLES	Andorra	26 September 2021
Elene RUSETSKAIA	Georgia	31 December 2022
Gerald SCHÖPFER	Austria	27 February 2025

<b>Name</b>	<b>Member in respect of</b>	<b>Term of office expires</b>
Tena ŠIMONVIĆ EINWALTER	Croatia	1 July 2024
Sergey SOKOLOVSKIY	Russian Federation	31 December 2022
Aslak SYSE	Norway	31 December 2022
Kadri Ecvet TEZCAN	Turkey	31 December 2022
Reetta TOIVANEN	Finland	1 July 2024
Michal VAŠEČKA	Slovakia	31 December 2022
Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN	Denmark	31 December 2022
Michael WHINE	United Kingdom	25 September 2023
Vacant seat	Bosnia and Herzegovina	

## Deputies to ECRI members

<b>Name</b>	<b>Deputy in respect of</b>	<b>Term of office expires</b>
Costanza HERMANIN	Italy	31 December 2022
Ketevan KHUTSISHVILI	Georgia	31 December 2022
Alain LACABARATS	France	16 September 2024
Alexis MARQUET	Monaco	6 December 2025
Aránzazu MORETÓN TOQUERO	Spain	31 December 2022
Fabienne ROSSLER	Luxembourg	8 February 2026
François SANT'ANGELO	Belgium	31 December 2022
Monika SARGSYAN	Armenia	25 September 2023
Gjergj SINANI	Albania	31 December 2022

## **Observers to ECRI**

### ***Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe***

Sos AVETISYAN  
Titus CORLĂȚEAN  
Momodou Malcolm JALLOW

### ***Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe***

Harald BERGMANN

### ***Holy See***

Guillaume DRAGO

### ***European Commission (European Union)***

Barbara NOLAN  
Szabolcs SCHMIDT

### ***Mexico***

Tania RAMÍREZ, National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination  
(CONAPRED)



## **ECRI's Bureau**

Maria Daniella MAROUDA  
Chair  
member in respect of Greece

Michael FARRELL  
Vice-Chair  
member in respect of Ireland

Domenica GHIDEI BIIDU  
Vice-Chair  
member in respect of the Netherlands

Cristian JURA  
Bureau member  
member in respect of Romania

Volodymyr KULYK  
Bureau member  
member in respect of Ukraine

Tena ŠIMONVIĆ EINWALTER  
Bureau member  
member in respect of Croatia

Michael WHINE  
Bureau member  
member in respect of the United Kingdom



## Appendix II – Secretariat of ECRI<sup>9</sup>

**Johan FRIESTEDT**, Executive Secretary to ECRI

**Thobias BERGMANN**, Administrator

**Mats LINDBERG**, Administrator (as from 1 June 2020)

**Elena MALAGONI**, Administrator (as from 1 December 2020)

**Zeynep USAL KANZLER**, Administrator

**Sophie KURT**, Researcher/Project Officer

**Paula ECK-WALTERS**, Administrative Assistant

**Aida-Diana FARKAS**, Researcher/Project Officer (as from 1 July 2020)

**Sylvia LEHMANN**, Assistant

**Maya RASMUSSEN**, Assistant

### **External Relations (European Union and OSCE):**

**Stefano VALENTI**, Administrator

### **Secretariat's address**

Directorate General II - Democracy

Directorate of Anti-discrimination

Council of Europe

67075 STRASBOURG CEDEX

France

**Tel.:** +33 (0) 3 90 21 46 62

**E-mail Secretariat:** [ecri@coe.int](mailto:ecri@coe.int)

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<sup>9</sup> This appendix reflects the situation on 31 December 2020.



# Appendix III - Meetings held by ECRI in 2020<sup>10</sup>

## Plenary sessions

- 25-27 March 2020 (cancelled) <sup>11</sup>
- 30 June-2 July 2020
- 30 September-2 October 2020
- 1-4 December 2020

## Bureau meetings

- 24 March 2020
- 19 May 2020
- 26 June 2020
- 25 and 29 September 2020
- 30 November 2020

## Meetings of the Working Group on relations with Civil Society and Equality Bodies

- 24 March 2020
- 29 June 2020
- 29 September 2020
- 30 November 2020

## Meetings of the working group on the revision of the General Policy Recommendation on combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims (GPR No. 5)

- 23 March 2020
- 18 May 2020
- 6 July 2020
- 9 September 2020
- 2 October 2020
- 30 November 2020
- 4 December 2020

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<sup>10</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the meetings and other events listed in this appendix were held through videoconferencing.

<sup>11</sup> Final reports and conclusions were adopted by ECRI through a written procedure whilst the examination of preliminary draft reports was postponed until the following plenary meeting.

## **Meetings of the working group on the revision of the General Policy Recommendation on the fight against antisemitism (GPR No. 9)**

- 23 March 2020
- 21 April 2020
- 28 May 2020
- 29 June 2020
- 22 July 2020
- 30 September 2020
- 2 October 2020
- 26 October 2020
- 4 December 2020

## **Meetings of ECRI's Task Force on LGBTI issues**

- 6 October 2020
- 27 October 2020

## **Round Table**

Tirana, Albania, 28 October 2020 (organised partly online)

## **Seminar for the equality bodies: Joining Forces to Communicate the Equality and Diversity Message**

- 28-29 September 2020

## **Meetings of CBC Working Groups**

*Preparation of contact visits:*

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| • Bulgaria: | 3 July 2020     |
| • Estonia:  | 17 January 2020 |
| • France    | (cancelled)     |
| • Georgia:  | 24 March 2020   |
| • Hungary:  | 7 July 2020     |

### *Amendments:*

- Czech Republic: 26 June 2020
- Norway: 22 September 2020
- Slovak Republic: 24 June 2020

### *Interim follow-up:*

- Croatia: 2 December 2020
- Liechtenstein: 1 December 2020
- Malta: 1 December 2020
- Republic of Moldova: 2 December 2020
- Portugal: 1 December 2020
- San Marino: 1 October 2020
- Spain: 30 September 2020
- Sweden: 2 July 2020

### **Contact Visits**

- Norway: 2-6 March 2020
- Bulgaria: postponed
- Estonia: postponed
- France: postponed
- Georgia: postponed
- Hungary: postponed





## Appendix IV - List of publications<sup>12</sup>

- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.1: Combating racism, xenophobia antisemitism and intolerance (Strasbourg, 4 October 1996)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.2: Equality Bodies to combat racism and intolerance at national level (Strasbourg, 7 December 2017)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.3: combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies (Strasbourg, 6 March 1998)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.4: National surveys on the experience and perception of discrimination and racism from the point of view of potential victims (Strasbourg, 6 March 1998)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.5: Combating intolerance and discrimination against Muslims (Strasbourg, 27 April 2000)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.6: Combating the dissemination of racist, xenophobic and antisemitic material via the Internet (Strasbourg, 15 December 2000)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.7: National legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination (Strasbourg, 13 December 2002 and revised on 7 December 2017)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.8: Combating racism while fighting terrorism (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.9: The fight against antisemitism (Strasbourg, 9 September 2004)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.10: Combating racism and racial discrimination in and through school education (Strasbourg, 21 March 2007)

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<sup>12</sup> Publications that are out of date no longer figure on this list.

- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.11: Combating racism and racial discrimination in policing (Strasbourg, 4 October 2007)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.12: Combating racism and racial discrimination in the field of sport (Strasbourg, 19 March 2009)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.13: Combating antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma (Strasbourg, 19 September 2011)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.14: Combating racism and racial discrimination in employment (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.15: Combating Hate Speech (Strasbourg, 21 March 2016)
- ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.16: Safeguarding irregularly present migrants from discrimination (Strasbourg, 10 May 2016)
- ECRI's country-by-country approach:

→ First cycle:

- Volume I (Strasbourg, September 1997)
- Volume II (Strasbourg, March 1998)
- Volume III (Strasbourg, 15 June 1998)
- Volume IV (Strasbourg, 26 January 1999)
- Volume V (Strasbourg, 13 March 1999)
- Volume VI (Strasbourg, 24 May 1999)
- Volume VII (Strasbourg, 9 November 1999)

→ Second cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)

- Belgium (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
- Croatia (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
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- Malta (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
- Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
- The Netherlands (Strasbourg, 13 November 2001)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
- Portugal (Strasbourg, 4 November 2002)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 23 April 2002)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 13 November 2001)
- San Marino (Strasbourg, 4 November 2003)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 27 June 2000)
- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 8 July 2003)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 15 April 2003)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 21 March 2000)
- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 3 July 2001)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 23 July 2002)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 3 April 2001)

- Compilation of second round reports (Strasbourg, February 2004)

→ Third cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Croatia (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 8 June 2004)
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- Estonia (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Finland (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
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- Latvia (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)
- Malta (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 24 May 2007)
- Netherland (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Portugal (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 16 May 2006)

- San Marino (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 29 April 2008)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 13 February 2007)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 21 February 2006)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 27 January 2004)
- "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 15 February 2005)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 12 February 2008)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 14 June 2005)

→ Fourth cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 9 February 2011)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 31 May 2011)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 26 May 2009)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 24 February 2009)
- Croatia (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 31 May 2011)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 15 September 2009)
- Denmark (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- Estonia (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)
- Finland (Strasbourg, 9 July 2014)
- France (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Georgia (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Germany (Strasbourg, 26 May 2009)
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- Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 19 February 2014)
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- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
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- Monaco (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Montenegro (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- Netherlands (Strasbourg, 15 October 2014)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 24 February 2009)
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- Portugal (Strasbourg, 9 July 2014)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 15 October 2014)
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- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 25 September 2012)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 15 September 2009)
- “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Strasbourg, 15 June 2010)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 8 February 2011)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 21 February 2012)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 2 March 2010)

→ Follow-up recommendations fourth cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 9 June 2015)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
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- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 3 June 2014)
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- Estonia (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)
- Finland (Strasbourg, 7 June 2016)

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- Malta (Strasbourg, 4 October 2016)
- Moldova (Strasbourg, 7 June 2016)
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- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 19 September 2017)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 9 June 2015)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 22 May 2012)
- “The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (Strasbourg, 9 July 2013)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 9 June 2015)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 19 February 2013)

→ Fifth cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 9 June 2015)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 28 February 2017)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 4 October 2016)

- Austria (Strasbourg, 13 October 2015)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 7 June 2016)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 25 February 2014)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 28 February 2017)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
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- Denmark (Strasbourg, 16 May 2017)
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- Latvia (Strasbourg, 5 March 2019)
- Liechtenstein (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 7 June 2016)
- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 28 February 2017)
- Malta (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Republic of Moldova (Strasbourg, 2 October 2018)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 1 March 2016)
- Montenegro (Strasbourg, 19 September 2017)
- Netherlands (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 24 February 2015)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 9 June 2015)
- Portugal (Strasbourg, 2 October 2018)
- Romania (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Russian Federation (Strasbourg, 5 March 2019)
- San Marino (Strasbourg, 27 February 2018)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 16 May 2017)
- Slovenia (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Slovakia (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)
- Spain (Strasbourg, 27 February 2018)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 27 February 2018)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 16 September 2014)



- "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" (Strasbourg, 7 June 2016)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 4 October 2016)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 19 September 2017)
- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 4 October 2016)

→ Follow-up recommendations fifth cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Andorra (Strasbourg, 19 March 2020)
- Armenia (Strasbourg, 10 September 2019)
- Austria (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Azerbaijan (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Belgium (Strasbourg, 28 February 2017)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Strasbourg, 19 March 2020)
- Bulgaria (Strasbourg, 16 May 2017)
- Cyprus (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Denmark (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)
- Estonia (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- France (Strasbourg, 5 March 2019)
- Georgia (Strasbourg, 5 March 2019)
- Germany (Strasbourg, 28 February 2017)
- Greece (Strasbourg, 27 February 2018)
- Hungary (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Iceland (Strasbourg, 19 March 2020)
- Italy (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Lithuania (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Luxembourg (Strasbourg, 19 March 2020)
- Monaco (Strasbourg, 5 March 2019)
- Montenegro (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)
- North Macedonia (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Norway (Strasbourg, 27 February 2018)
- Poland (Strasbourg, 15 May 2018)
- Serbia (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)
- Slovak Republic (Strasbourg, 16 May 2017)
- Sweden (Strasbourg, 8 December 2020)
- Switzerland (Strasbourg, 16 May 2017)
- Turkey (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)
- Ukraine (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)

- United Kingdom (Strasbourg, 6 June 2019)

→ Sixth cycle:

- Albania (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)
  - Austria (Strasbourg, 2 June 2020)
  - Belgium (Strasbourg, 18 March 2020)
  - Czech Republic (Strasbourg, 8 December 2020)
  - Germany (Strasbourg, 17 March 2020)
  - Slovak Republic (Strasbourg, 8 December 2020)
  - Switzerland (Strasbourg, 19 March 2020)
- Proceedings of the Seminar “Combating racism while respecting freedom of expression”, 16 -17 November 2006 (Strasbourg, July 2007)
  - “Ethnic” statistics and data protection in the Council of Europe countries, by Patrick Simon, *Institut National d’Etudes Démographiques* (Strasbourg, November 2007)
  - “Cooperation for effectiveness: Local authorities and national specialised bodies combating racism and intolerance”, ECRI study by Niall Crowley (Strasbourg, May 2015)
  - “National Specialised Bodies: Effective implementation of their advisory function”, ECRI study by Niall Crowley (Strasbourg, December 2016)
  - “25 Years of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance: Impact in the Field of Equality”, ECRI study by Timothy Jacob-Owens (Strasbourg, August 2019)
  - “Moving Forward: Increasing ECRI’s Impact”, ECRI study by Nils Muižnieks (Strasbourg, September 2019)



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ECRI is a human rights monitoring body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which specialises in the fight against racism, discrimination (on grounds of "race", ethnic/national origin, colour, citizenship, religion, language, sexual orientation and gender identity), xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance; it prepares reports and issues recommendations to member states.

European Commission  
against Racism and Intolerance



Commission européenne  
contre le racisme et l'intolérance

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