

Case Study:

To what extent should the EU amend its policies to better address systemic racial discrimination?

In this simulation, you will be divided into teams of 2-3 representatives of member states of the EU. Your goals will be to propose legislation to the European Commission that will address additional forms of systemic racism and/or other forms of discrimination.

Background

The European Union contains several articles within several treaties that address the issue of racial and ethnic discrimination. For example, Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union states that:

The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.

Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU states that:

Without prejudice to the other provisions of the Treaties and within the limits of the powers conferred by them upon the Union, the Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

To address discrimination, the EU created the Racial Equality Directive, which ordered member states to create a specific body within their country to address discrimination in areas such as employment and housing. This directive was adopted unanimously by all EU member states in 2000.

However, many have argued that it is time for legislation to be introduced into the EU to amend policies to address other forms of racial and ethnic discrimination, in particular forms of discrimination that may be systemic in nature. For example, many argue that the EU needs to take stronger steps to address racial and ethnic intimidation by police and racial bias within the criminal justice system of many EU countries. Other argue that the EU needs to specifically address the specific discrimination that women of color living in member states face.

(More information can be found [here](#))

Resources

Use these sites to get a better understanding of the Racial Equality Directive:

[Text of the Racial Equality Directive](#)

[Handbook on the Racial Equality Directive](#)

This PDF gives you an overview of the areas of discrimination currently covered by the Racial Equality Directive and methods to address them.

[EU Anti-Discriminatory Frameworks: Module One](#)

This website gives you an overview of the history and scope of the Racial Equality Directive as well as attempts to amend it since 2000.

Use these sites to begin crafting resolutions

[European Commission Memo on Racial Equality Framework](#)

This memo outlines problems European Commission has determined with the current the Racial Equality Framework

[Addressing Possible Gaps in the Racial Equality Framework](#)

This report by Fair Trials, a non-governmental organization that serves as a watchdog around criminal justice issues, identifies several issues that are not sufficiently addressed under the current Racial Equality Framework.

[EU Anti-racism Action Plan:](#)

This report details steps that the European Commission has proposed to address systemic racism in the wake of the global racial reckoning that followed the George Floyd protests in 2020.

