



WAVE Network Statement on Racism

Prepared by the Intersectionality Development Group (IDG)

WAVE Statement on Racism

At WAVE we stand against all forms of racism towards women. We understand that women of colour and migrant women are affected by racism in their daily lives, when they interact with the systems, institutions, structures and dominant cultures in the societies where they reside. We understand the harms that racial discrimination and hatred can cause to women.

We commit to centring the experiences of women of colour and migrant women in developing our network ensuring the voices and representations of ALL women and in this respect, we commit to providing space for women of colour and migrant women. We do this by ensuring the following:

Respect that women of colour and migrant women speak on their own behalf.

Update our knowledge and understanding of racism and how it occurs in European society.

Create equal collaborations with women of colour and migrant women.

Address racism in all aspects of our work.

Racism is prejudice and discrimination against people from a particular race or ethnicity, or people who identify as belonging to a particular race or ethnicity that is defined as minority or marginalised group by the institutions and cultures of the dominant group. ¹ It is established upon a belief that different races have distinct characteristics, abilities or qualities to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another creating a dominant group that acts in confrontation or in opposition to other groups leading to their exclusion, creating conditions for their exploitation and continued oppression (inequality and unfair treatment). This constitutes race hatred by the dominant group of the minoritised and marginalised group. Policies, behaviours, and rules that society engenders could also result in unfair advantage to some people or harmful treatment of others based on race. This constitutes systemic forms of racism when produced by systems where disadvantage and harmful treatment reflects the collective experiences of a group (or groups). Race hatred negatively impacts and creates harm for individuals and groups subjected to racism affecting their opportunities in life (see United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination). ²

¹ The content in this section is referenced to the following resources: (1) European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. (2) Kim. L. et.al. 2023 The Fight to make Racism a Thing of the Past. OSF. (3) Salem, S. et.al. Old Racisms. New Masks: On the continuing Discontinuities on Racism and the Erasure of Race in the European Context. (4) European Network against Racism. Shadow Report on Racism.

² Refer to the United Nations International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 1965. Specifically refer to Article 1(1) "racial discrimination" shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.