

NEWS HOUND

Folks, I can tell you I've known eight presidents, three of them intimately – Joe Biden

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Launch of a contact point on racial discrimination



Your questions sent to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx will be dealt with in the strictest confidence

On 5 November, DG PERS announced that it was setting up a contact point on issues relating to racial discrimination. You will now be able to send your questions on racial discrimination, whether personal or general, to the following email address: [PERS-EIDU-xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx) (mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx)

██████████, Director of Social Services and Human Resources Support and currently acting Head of the Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Unit, tells us more:

Why provide staff with a contact point on racial discrimination issues now?

This was something that was already planned for in the roadmap accompanying [the Papadimoulis report on diversities other than gender](https://epintranet.in.ep.europa.eu/files/live/sites/epintranet/files/human-resources/equality-diversity/ep-ref-documents/other-diversities-report/papadimoulis-other-diversities-report_en.pdf) (https://epintranet.in.ep.europa.eu/files/live/sites/epintranet/files/human-resources/equality-diversity/ep-ref-documents/other-diversities-report/papadimoulis-other-diversities-report_en.pdf) . The contact point has a very broad remit: colleagues can ask very general questions, seek information, or ask specific questions relating to their professional or personal situation. Providing a dedicated

address with a guarantee of confidentiality is a method that proved successful for issues concerning disability and LGBTI+. With the Commission having just published its [Anti-Racism Action Plan](https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/union-equality-eu-action-plan-against-racism-2020-2025_en) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/union-equality-eu-action-plan-against-racism-2020-2025_en) for the period 2020-2025, a contact point on racial discrimination was needed. The Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Unit is therefore very happy to join this inter-institutional approach to take on racism.

What other action is planned in this context?

On 23 March 2021, Parliament will organise an online event for all Members and staff to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Training to promote tolerance and diversity is being prepared. ██████████'s webinar (see [Newshound of 8 July 2020](https://newshound.in.ep.europa.eu/cms/en/welcome/biz/articles/vers-une-institution-plus-inclusive.html) (https://newshound.in.ep.europa.eu/cms/en/welcome/biz/articles/vers-une-institution-plus-inclusive.html)) was a great success, and it has given us the encouragement to pursue this type of initiative, not only with managers, but with all staff. At the political level, the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity, chaired by Vice-President Dimitrios Papadimoulis, is continuing the work to achieve equality and tackling discrimination of all kinds.

What would you say to colleagues who might hesitate about emailing xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx (mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxxxx.xx) ?

I would tell them to write it and send it with full confidence, as confidentiality and a sympathetic ear are guaranteed. Colleagues in the Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Unit will respect your privacy and do their best to reply to you or point you in the direction of services which are better placed to reply, should the case arise. All questions are important. Nonetheless, if you *do* have any questions you would like answered before you send an email to the mailbox, just get in touch with ██████████, who is an administrative manager in the Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Unit.