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Global Migration Policy Associates

*An International research, policy development,
advisory services and advocacy group*

Briefing by international experts on migration and racial discrimination

at the

Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Friday, 14 August 2015

Presentations

Patrick Taran, President, Global Migration Policy Associates, Geneva, Switzerland

On the 'intersectionality' between discrimination against migrants, all forms of racial discrimination, and xenophobia

Liz Fekete, Executive Director & Head of European Research Programme, Institute of Race Relations, UK

When Solidarity Fails: The Consequences of the Relocation Crisis

The failure of the EU to rise to the humanitarian challenge posed in the Mediterranean, the mean-spirited and sometimes positively hostile response of some governments, and the breakdown of solidarity between the receiving countries and their richer neighbours, has had consequences. The political rhetoric that surrounds relocating these vulnerable migrants - not a humanitarian challenge but a security threat - has made it more difficult for electorates to understand why they take such a journey. Unless politicians at a national, local and regional level are encouraged to act responsibly, xenophobia will continue to be manipulated into something even more sinister, and potentially deadly.

John Wrench, Visiting Professor, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway,

Raising awareness of the problem of discrimination against migrants and minorities in employment in Europe

Racial/ethnic discrimination in employment usually operates clandestinely, without the victims being aware of it. It is commonly indicated in statistical patterns over time, and then identified by specific targeted research. Before such investigations bring the problem to the surface, there can be a pervasive 'no problem here' attitude on the part of employers and trade unionists. This presentation sets out the main sources of research evidence that identify the operation of ethnic discrimination in the employment sphere, and clarifies a number of conceptually distinct 'types' of discrimination that are relevant to this evidence. It then draws on research by EU agencies, carried out 14 years apart, which illustrates differences that exist between EU Member States in employers' and trade unions' awareness of, and responses to, the issue of discrimination against migrants and minorities in employment, as well as showing changes in awareness that have occurred since the 1990s.

Biographical information

Patrick Taran is President of Global Migration Policy Associates (<http://globalmigrationpolicy.org>). He has nearly 40 years full-time professional experience in international migration, immigration, refugee resettlement and discrimination/integration work at local, national and global levels. From 2000 to 2011 he was Senior Migration Specialist at the International Labour Office (ILO). He was Secretary for Migration at the World Council of Churches 1990 to 1998; in 1994 he co-founded Migrants Rights International (MRI) and was program officer for the IOM-ILO-UNFPA-UNITAR International Migration Policy Programme from 1998-2001. He established and directed the South American Refugee Program in Seattle, Washington (1976-1980) and was programme executive at the Immigration and Refugee Program of the National Council of Churches USA 1980 to 1990. His degree majors were social work and Latin American studies at Friends World College/State University of New York. He currently teaches at Geneva School of Diplomacy and the ILO International Training Centre, Turin. Recent publications include *Strengthening Migration Governance*, ILO-OSCE (editor), *International Migration, Social Cohesion and Development: An Integrated Approach*, Council of Europe, and *Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies*, Mediterranean edition, OSCE-IOM-ILO (coauthor-editor).

Liz Fekete, born in 1959, is Director of the Institute of Race Relations (<http://irr.org.uk>), where she has worked for over thirty years. She heads its European Research Programme (ERP) and is an Advisory Editor to its journal *Race & Class*. She is also author of *A suitable enemy: racism, migration and Islamophobia in Europe* (Pluto Press, 2009). Liz Fekete lectures widely throughout Europe and has been an expert witness at the Basso Permanent People's Tribunal on asylum, the World Tribunal on Iraq, and the Tribunal 12 investigation of asylum policy supported by the City of Stockholm. She is currently an associate of the International State Crime Initiative at Queen Mary University of London and the Border Crossing Observatory at Monash University, Australia. She was also a contributor to the Socialist Register's annual yearbook for 2016.

John Wrench is Visiting Professor at the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, and Honorary Professor at Centre for the Study of Migration and Diversity at Aalborg University, Denmark. He has researched and published in the area of ethnic discrimination and inclusion in the labour market at a European comparative level, whilst working at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, the Danish Centre for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Southern Denmark, and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights in Vienna. Publications include *Diversity Management and Discrimination: Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in the EU* (2007) and "Still no problem here? Responses to anti-discrimination legislation among trade unions in EU countries" (2015, available at <http://trs.sagepub.com/content/21/1/81.full.pdf+html>).