

1. UPDATE ON POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Significant policy developments: national or local governmental policy initiatives, administrative measures, financial instruments and good practice projects regarding the fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance (including issues regarding the Jewish, Muslim and Roma communities). Provide information about the initiatives' scope, objectives and intended results. In case you are reporting about a completed initiative, provide information about any evaluation conducted or final report. **Focus on issues for which additional online information is available** (preferably from governmental bodies or important NGOs). Please do not present more than 3 items. (*max. 2000 characters*)

First EU Roma summit

The first high-level meeting organised by UE in on September 16, to address problems faced by Roma minority created quite a stir in French society. During one week, the questions of Roma's' status and living conditions were on the media, associative and politic agenda. This summit had a positive impact in France as it enabled to bring the Roma problematic out.

Receiving numerous complaints regarding discriminations against Roma, the HALDE addressed several recommendations to the government in order to improve their situation and to restore equal opportunity. These recommendations aim at restoring an equal treatment for Roma and travellers, in particular relating to national identity card, the free circulation, access to the right to vote, schooling of children, and access to the parking on specific areas. The HALDE also recommends the removal of the specific statute created by the law of January 3rd, 1969.

In addition, the HALDE has launched on September 22 an information campaign bound for Roma and travellers, in partnership with the FNASAT (Fédération nationale des associations solidaires d'action avec les Tsiganes et les Gens du voyage), to inform them on their rights and the existing recourses:

- a 16 minute movies will be diffused (30.000 copies)
- a manual of legal information will be used as support for regional training meetings organised by FNASAT.

This campaign was in part financed thanks to European funds.

<http://www.halde.fr/Sommet-europeen-sur-les-Roms-16.html>

2. UPDATE ON LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

A. Significant legal developments regarding racism, xenophobia and related intolerance (within the framework of actual or proposed EU legislation): Adoption of new national legislation (give precise information on the status of adoption, purpose and key elements of the legislation), key developments in exemplary court cases relating to racism. It is crucially important that you quote the primary official source/s and the link to website/s.

B. Government-led or significant other information and awareness-raising campaigns on anti-discrimination and anti-racist legislation, particularly related to the implementation of the EU Council Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.

(max. 2000 characters)

Ecris-le haut et fort ! (Write it !)

On July 2008, the HALDE has posted the blog <http://ouvertatous.skyrock.com> to young audiences.

This blog aims to:

- explain cases of discrimination and remedies,
- give people the opportunity to get involved in the fight against discrimination.

The bloggers can respond to articles, videos and surveys by posting comments or telling their own experiences. A downloadable sticker also allows users to display their commitment to their own blog.

On September 24, the HALDE has launched a competition for lyrics on the blog. This contest is relayed by a poster campaign in 11.400 middle and high schools since September 29, in partnership with the CIDEM (Civisme et Démocratie – Association for civic attitudes and democracy)

In addition, a radio campaign for young people was launched on October 6 for a period of 3 weeks.

<http://www.halde.fr/Sensibilisation-des-jeunes,12320.html>

<http://ouvertatous.skyrock.com>

3. RESEARCH

Significant new reports and innovative research studies on racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. Provide a concise, but meaningful summary of key findings and state their relevance for an assessment of the issue. It is crucially important that you quote the primary source/s and the link to website/s. (*max. 2000 characters*)

Assessment of the European Year for Equal Opportunity (2007)

On September 2008, the HALDE, which was in charge of the implementation of the Equal Opportunity Year in France, published several documents in order to make an assessment of the European Year in France.

- a presentation of all the projects selected by the HALDE
- an assessment report
- 17 proposals to improve Equal Opportunity in France. These proposals directly result from the discussions, debates and exchanges which took place within the framework of the selected projects, and in particular the regional conferences led by the HALDE. They are intended to be submitted to the public authorities and of the private actors in order to give a new dash to the fight against discriminations and the promotion of equality.

<http://www.halde.fr/2007-Annee-europeenne-de-l-egalite.html?page=article>

NB: On the website of the HALDE you will find the main documents on the European Year, but it also exist a CD-Rom, edited by the HALDE, which is a real assessment of the European Year in France. The CEDRA can give the FRA one copy of this CD.

Family allowances for foreign parents

On September 1, 2008, the HALDE publish a deliberation regarding the payment of family allowances, for foreign parents whose children entered in France outside the family reunification procedure.

Since 2006, the HALDE has been sized of several complaints from foreign parents who were denied family allowances because their children entered in France outside the family reunification procedure. According to the articles L.512-1 and L.513-1 of the Social Security Code, the family allowances are linked to the status of permanent and effective charge of children permanently residing in France, whatever their nationality or their place of birth. Moreover, the Article 14 of the European Convention for Human Rights states that the enjoyment of rights and freedoms recognized in the Convention must be ensured without any particular distinction based on national origin, the application of article 14 had been extended to social allowances.

Based on these legal provisions, the HALDE has published several deliberations acting on the discriminatory nature of these practices and recommended the Minsitry of Health to initiate a legislative and regulatory change. As the HALDE has obtained no answer neither from the Ministry nor from the Director of Social Security, the HALDE renews its request and published on September 30 2008 a special report on this question.

HALDE, deliberation n° 2008-179 (01.09.2008)

<http://www.halde.fr/Versement-des-prestations,12545.html>

4. Official / unofficial statistical data

Present the latest published official / unofficial statistical data or incidents lists on racist violence and crimes, antisemitism and Islamophobia with a statement on their relevance and validity. (*max. 2000 characters*)

