
genderace

The use of racial anti-discrimination laws

Gender and citizenship in a multicultural context

A European Commission 7th Framework Programme Research Project

Final Press Release

As the phenomenon of discrimination entails complex and diverse understandings, so too may we view identities as multiple, often characterised by the intersectional experience. Men and women differ in their experiences of discrimination, as do their reactions to the phenomenon. GendeRace advances the view that social relations based on gender and racialised identities or ethnicity influence the perception and use of antidiscrimination laws. Whilst both EU and national institutional frameworks may provide numerous responses through action and conflict resolution, the project demonstrates that multiple-discrimination based on racialised identities and gender remains inadequately addressed.

The GendeRace project is funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework programme. It is coordinated by the Université Libré de Bruxelles and the Universitat de Barcelona. Beginning in February 2008 and ends in July 2010, the research has been conducted by six teams in France, Bulgaria, Germany, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

The GendeRace approach

Building on an exhaustive empirical research, this investigation has employed a wide range of qualitative and quantitative methods including secondary data and literature review, to produce national in-depth reports, conduct semi-structured interviews with experts, and the analysis of a quantitative data set comprising discrimination claims and complaints. However, the weight of its fieldwork is to be found within in-depth interviews with claimants and complainants, conducted from a life course perspective to test the project's key theories and hypotheses. In addition, several workshops have been run in each country with stakeholders, policymakers and representatives from women's and ethnic minority organisations involving discussion around findings and development of policy recommendations.

New knowledge, new concepts and European added values

This report reflects the project's comprehensive commitment to improving understanding of multiple discrimination based on racialised identities and gender, and the advancements that have led us to develop practical tools for better assessment of the effectiveness of policies and practices in the field of antidiscrimination when faced with cases of such discrimination. Our findings support the need for more policy initiatives addressing gender equality through the implementation of positive action and gender mainstreaming, taking into account specific needs, situations and experiences of different groups, and particularly in addressing women's multiple identities. A clear message arises from our results - that better awareness of civil rights must be promoted and that existing resources for the making of complaints must be expanded, especially for women. The development of a legal definition and a specific methodology of multiple discrimination could allow an intersectional approach for dealing with claims/complaints. In addition, we identify a clear need for inclusion of a gender perspective within the treatment of race discrimination cases and provision of specific assistance and services according to the needs of the claimant/complainant. The research demonstrates that data collection of complaints on multiple discrimination should be improved to reveal hidden discrimination based on several grounds. Finally, the project asserts the significance that gender equality be enhanced through positive action and gender mainstreaming, with a focus on ethnic minority groups such as Roma or Muslim women.

The Final conference of the project will be held in Brussels on Tuesday June 22, 2010 in Brussels.

Further information: <http://genderace.ulb.ac.be>

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