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Tackling discrimination based on social origins

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Ms Selin SAYEK BÖKE and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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To what extent does being born in a certain neighbourhood or belonging to a certain social class impact a person's life chances and outcomes?

Few European States directly measure this phenomenon, and most do not include social origins as a protected ground in their anti-discrimination legislation. Reliable data is therefore often lacking in this field. Crime statistics often focus on the ethnic origin of perpetrators or victims, where such data is collected, yet ignore the extent to which socio-economic (dis)advantage shapes individual and collective experiences of the criminal justice system. Having the wrong address is often cited as a reason why certain candidates are not invited to job interviews; yet most research in this field focuses on individuals' ethnic origins and/or religious beliefs, rather than on their social origins.

When public policy fails to take due account of discrimination based on social origins, it cannot provide effective responses but instead, serves to perpetuate the system that produces such discrimination. This is a denial of equality and of social justice.

Failing to address these issues may leave States in breach of their obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights (ETS No. 5) and the European Social Charter (ETS No. 35), both of which expressly prohibit discrimination based on social origin. Through the preparation of a thorough, evidence-based report, the Parliamentary Assembly should adopt a set of recommendations aimed at supporting States in redressing this situation. It should also promote sharing of experience and good practice.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SAYEK BÖKE Selin, Turkey, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
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BENKŐ Erika, Romania, EPP/CD
BERLINGHIERI Marina, Italy, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
CHRISTENSEN Jette, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DONCHEV Andon, Bulgaria, NR
FILATOV Tarja, Finland, SOC
GURMAI Zita, Hungary, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
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ROMANENKO Roman, Russian Federation, NR
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC
TRASTOUR-ISNART Laurence, France, EPP/CD

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group