

18th March mobilisation for the International Day of Action against Racism and Fascism

On the occasion of the International Day against Racism and Fascism, commemorated on 21 March, thousands of people across Europe and the rest of the world will take to the streets to assert their determination and resistance to racism and fascism. Along with them, we here in Cyprus will join our voices and declare our commitment to the fight against racism, nationalism and fascism, a fight becoming even more imperative in these dire years.

With Tramp's election to power, his ultra-right racist rhetoric and anti-migrant policies have come to be added to the ever more reactionary policies of the European Union and its member states, both against their own peoples as well as against migrants and refugees. Walls at the Mexican borders but also in the European Union aim to prevent migrants and refugees from reaching safety and fleeing from wars, poverty and wretched conditions and the necessity for moving caused in their countries by the interventions of those who are now trying to exclude them.

Thousands of refugees from war-torn Syria and other embattled countries are besieged in the most abject conditions. The leadership of the so-called "civilised" European Union and governments of its member states shut the doors to them. Thousands of refugees and migrants, mainly women and children, drown every year in the icy Mediterranean waters in their search for safety. Even when they do manage to reach somewhere, they are faced with institutional racism and exclusion, concentration camps and their forced return to "safe countries" such as Turkey in the framework of the agreement of shame with the EU.

These policies strengthen and increase the power of ultra-right neo-Nazi and fascist organisations and parties, which intensify and aggravate their daily attacks, crimes and violence against refugee and migrants communities. With their nationalist, xenophobic and racist agendas, these organisations and parties have eroded the centre-right, which yields to these agendas and adopts even more reactionary policies, and they try to blame refugees and migrants, especially Muslims, for unemployment, impoverishment and all large and small economic and social problems that Europe is faced with. The real culprit for these, however, is the EU itself and the European governments and their neo-liberal austerity policies, the very capitalist system that has profit and exploitation at its core.

In our country, the ultra-right nationalist fascists raise their head and try to impose their racist and nationalist policies, relying on the tolerance and support of the right parties in both sides. They threaten to jeopardise the negotiation process for the solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of a Bi-communal Bi-zonal Federation and political equality as provided for in the relevant UN resolutions.

The far-right neo-Nazi fascist forces, such as ELAM, yearn for concentration camps, deny the Holocaust and aim to abolish democracy. No tolerance of these forces anywhere in Europe or elsewhere.

We declare our opposition to Fortress Europe, to the Europe of walls and refugee concentration camps, to the Europe of racism and exclusion. We declare our solidarity with migrants and refugees, and we support the fight for safeguarding and promoting their rights, combating their exploitation and discrimination against them.

The hundreds of thousands of demonstrators in the streets of the USA, Europe and elsewhere protesting against Trump were the first wave to have sent a strong message across the globe. The 18th March will be the next one, and we shall continue.

We join our voices, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, with the progressive forces across Europe and the whole world and we take part in this international mobilisation. We call on all progressive organisations, migrants and refugees in Cyprus and individuals who share this message to come with us in this bi-communal march in order to turn it into a rally for peace, democracy, equality, human rights and solidarity.

On Saturday, 18 of MRCH, at 11:00 am, we will gather outside the Municipality of Nicosia, to march and shout out loud against racism, nationalism and fascism.