



Dear Colleagues

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2021

The TUC will be working with Stand Up To Racism and other migrant, refugee and anti-racist organisations to organise an online rally and street events on **Saturday 20 March**, to mark the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2021.

We believe that despite the pandemic, it is essential that we mark the UN day against racism in 2021 to highlight the institutional and structural racism that is still endemic in our society. The murder of George Floyd and the disproportionate number of black deaths as a result of the Covid pandemic has brought the fight against racial inequality back into the spotlight.

However, we know that the fight against racism is not uncontested. The government's response to these and other events has been to try and deflect the debate against racism; establish inquiries where they have put in place people who deny the existence of institutional racism; continue to scapegoat migrants and other communities and do nothing to dismantle the hostile environment.

Now more than ever we need to highlight the fact the UK has international obligations to tackle racism and xenophobia and make an important public statement that trade unions and other organisations are at the forefront of opposing racism and xenophobia.

This year's events will be a combination of locally socially distanced protests and an international online rally. The Congress and the General Council have made decisions that the UN day events are an essential part of the trade union movements strategy to fight racism.

The TUC will once again support the rally and coordinate trade union input into the planning of the event. We are seeking financial support to enable us to make this event a success.

Yours in solidarity

Wilf Sullivan

TUC Race Equality Officer

Sabby Dhalu & Weyman Bennett

Stand Up To Racism co-convenors