

8<sup>th</sup> FARE ACTION WEEK

17 – 30 October 2007



**FOOTBALL AGAINST  
RACISM IN EUROPE**

 **fare**  
WWW.FARENET.ORG



Photo: CEPA

# 8<sup>th</sup> FARE Action Week

Aktionswoche  
Settimana d'azione  
Tydzień Akcji  
Semaine d'actions

SEASON 2007/08  
17 – 30 October 2007

GET INVOLVED!

► The FARE Action Week unites supporters, clubs and those targeted by racism across the continent in a concerted effort to make discrimination a thing of the past. The Action Week of the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network aims to boost public awareness of the problems of racism and exclusion and to create a united front in dealing with this malign influence on Europe's number one sport. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Action Week will run from 17 to 30 October 2007 and see action in at least 38 European countries.

What started as a minor campaign in nine countries in 2001 has

now become the largest series of anti-racism activities in sport ever staged. Last season's Action Week saw a record number of more than 700 events in 37 countries in and around football grounds all over Europe. In Germany alone, 750,000 cards with the slogan "Show Racism the Red Card" were distributed to fans.

Europe's top stars are lending support to the campaign. All 32 teams of the UEFA Champions League participated in the "Unite Against Racism" campaign, reaching more than 600,000 fans directly at the matches and millions more via live broadcast on television. The number of par-

ticipating professional leagues has increased to 14. Also the symbolic activities organised by national FAs and individual clubs are reaching out to more people each year. The FARE network offers financial support for a range of grass-roots activities to address local problems in football clubs at the community level. Some 190 groups including fan clubs, ethnic minority organisations, football clubs and a variety of NGOs from all over Europe submitted creative proposals. With the backing of UEFA the FARE network has offered small grants to 120 grassroots initiatives and provides campaign materials for free. This year many

more fan groups are organising themselves to challenge racism and the far right this.

FARE's long-term focus on the situation in Eastern and Central Europe has led to an increasing numbers of applications in the Balkans, the former Soviet republics and the new EU members such as Poland, Hungary or Romania.

**Join the FARE Action Week and report us your activities to us.**

For further details on the FARE Action Week and the list of activities please see [www.FAREnet.org](http://www.FAREnet.org). Information is available in English, German, Italian and French.

## Warm-up for EURO 2008



Photo: CEPA pictures

EURO 2008 host Austria show with Trinidad-Tobago Racism the Red Card

► Some eight months before the kick-off of the UEFA EURO 2008™ in Austria and Switzerland several EURO qualifying matches on 17 October – the first day of the Action Week – will highlight fight against racism. For instance, at the match Bosnia-Herzegovina against Norway, players will present a banner saying "No to Racism, stop Nationalism".

Building on the success in Portugal in 2004, the FARE network is preparing an anti-racism programme at EURO 2008™. The aim is to promote and convey the positive message of fighting discrimination in and outside the stadiums. FARE

intends to engage fans, local populations and ethnic minorities through Streetkick tournaments, supporter gatherings and the distribution of fanzines. Two matchdays will be dedicated to the "Unite Against Racism" theme. In association with the FSI network FARE is also planning an extensive fan-hosting programme. Martin Kallen, EURO 2008 SA chief operating officer, said: "With the Unite Against Racism and Fan Embassies project we want to make sure fans feel welcome, while violence and racism emerge neither inside or outside the stadia."

## Gay and Lesbian Fan Clubs



Photo: Hertha Junxx

► This season the number of gay and lesbian football supporters joining the FARE Action Week is increasing. For the first time a gay and lesbian fan club from Spain linked to FC Barcelona will mark the Action Week, whilst in several German stadiums we will see a range of anti-homophobic activities.

The UEFA Unite against Racism conference in Barcelona put the issue of homophobia on the agenda of European football for the first time, yet even today there is not a single openly gay player in any of the professional European leagues. In partnership with the European Gay and Lesbian Sport

Federation (EGLSF) FARE continues to raise awareness and be proactive on the issue. At the EuroGames in Antwerp a charter against homophobia in sport was signed by the Belgian FA. Nevertheless, the way forward is still a long road. After UEFA had penalised for the first time an official for making homophobic comments, Albania coach Otto Baric told a Croatian newspaper in September: "I paid a penalty but my opinion is still the same. I wouldn't have such a man in my team. Thousands of my colleagues share my opinion, but it was me to whom it slipped out." Find out more on [www.eglsf.info](http://www.eglsf.info) or contact [fare@eglsf.info](mailto:fare@eglsf.info)



## Racism in Football: No thing of the past



Photo: Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation

Last year the Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation in Hungary held an anti-discrimination day at Ferencvaros TC, a club which historically has had a strong far right following.

➤ The European football season of 2007-2008 has barely started, but we have already witnessed a series of serious of racist, xenophobic and far right incidences.

In Italy, notorious Lazio fans racially abused and attacked Senegal's international Dame N'Doye during a friendly with Panathinaikos. Newcastle United supporters directed Islamophobic chants at Middlesbrough forward and Egyptian star Mido. In Hungary, former national coach Kalman Meszoly remarked during a TV interview about African players with Hungarian clubs: "They have barely come down from the trees". When Croatia played Bosnia & Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Croatian fans formed a human U symbol representing the fascist Ustase movement responsible for mass killings of Serbs, Jews and the Roma during World War II. Other incidences have

been reported from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Scotland, Serbia and Slovakia. Above all the exclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants is still a reality in football.

One might wonder whether the frequent reports have increased because of the rising tide of support for the far right or because of the greater understanding of the problem by the media, fans and football governing bodies. The latest disciplinary measures taken by UEFA and FIFA – in particular Article 58 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code – are helping to sanction against racist abuse in the game. But in addition, awareness-raising and educational work at the grassroots is still much in need. The ever-expanding FARE Action Week works for this long-term perspective of changing hearts and minds.

## Fans at the heart of anti-racism



Photo: Antonio Marcello (http://lausher.firmos.it)

➤ Active fans play a crucial role in the fight against racism and discrimination in football. It was they who stood up first when neo-nazis tried to infiltrate the stands and to spoil the fun for everybody else. It is still them who are often the only ones who fight against narrow-minded people, who think racist abuse is a normal part of the fan culture. There are various nationwide associations of anti-racist fan groups everybody can get involved with, as for example BAFF in Germany or the RSRA for France and the Benelux countries, as well as organisations, like Progetto Ultra in Italy, promoting and supporting fan-involvement. They, as well as other anti-racist fans from various countries, have met on several occasions – like

at the Mondiali Antirazzisti and similar tournaments or meetings all over the continent – to share experiences and develop ideas for a joint strategy against racism.

FARE supports any active fan group that wants to organise actions in their club or in their country against racism. This is especially important for clubs and/or football associations that still don't want to get involved in initiatives against racism or in countries where right-wing fans are trying to take a leading role in fan associations, by (ab)using other relevant fan specific topics like the fight against commercialisation and repression against fans as part of their propaganda.

**Divided by the colours of the shirt – united against racism!**

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## FARE Administration Group



FARE is a partner of the UEFA football social responsibility portfolio