

## Climate Justice Academy

### Session III

26-29 September 2024, Bucharest, Romania

The ENAR network is a network of activists, community organisers, human rights defenders and campaigners working tirelessly to combat structural racism towards an equitable Europe. Our network is at the heart of ENAR's work, and it is one of our objectives to create spaces for our members. As we explore unfamiliar manifestations of racism, we want to share and streamline knowledge to our network and to individuals wishing to learn about anti-racism climate action.

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This is an open call for the **Session III** of the Climate Justice Academy" that will focus on post-growth and degrowth from an anti-racism standpoint, and community action to challenge the economic system.

All ENAR member organisations are welcomed to apply, please however note that to ensure the continuity of the project and fostering of knowledge building, the **priority will be given to the participants that have already attended the Session I and Session II.**

**Date of Session III:** 26-29 September 2024

**Location of Session III:** Bucharest, Romania

#### Background

ENAR conducted research that resulted in the publication of a report in February 2022, the Climate crisis is a neocolonial capitalist crisis. This report demonstrates that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts racialised people globally as well as in Europe and that capitalism, underpinned by structural racism, created the conditions for this crisis. From 'greenifying' extractive industries on Sápmi, monocropping in Guadeloupe and Martinique, urban planning leading to migrant populations living next to incinerators and motorways in metropolitan France, and marginalised communities not having access to safe, healthy, and culturally specific housing in Ireland and Romania, (neo)colonial capitalist policies and practices are harming racialised communities in Europe.

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ENAR is organising a Climate Justice Academy that will bring together anti-racism activists to develop their capacity to campaign and advocate for racial justice in climate action. We will come together and learn and build solidarity. We want to create a space to strengthen our knowledge of the impacts of the climate crisis and focus on responses and community mobilising around this issue.

**We will gather as a group during 3 separate events (Sessions) between November 2023 and June 2024** to unpack manifestations of racism in climate impact, strategize community organising, explore the intersections between eco anxiety and mental health and build new economic models that leave no one behind.

We aim to:

- **Raise awareness about the climate crisis**, its causes and impacts, emphasising the principles of climate justice and interconnectedness of social and environmental issues.
- **Provide training, knowledge and skills** to individuals and communities to enhance their understanding of climate breakdown, and tools available for communities to respond, enabling them to actively contribute to climate action.
- **Empower marginalised communities** to engage in decision-making processes related to climate action, ensuring their voices are heard and their perspectives are taken into account.
- Foster a **network of climate justice advocates** who can effectively engage with policymakers, advocate for just and equitable climate policies and influence decision-making at local, national, and European levels.
- Provide **tools for wellbeing for racialised climate activists** that can be implemented to prevent burnout, cultivate resilience, and promote self-care.

## Issues Covered

<p><b>Session 1</b></p>	<p><b>Exploring manifestations of climate crisis on racialised groups</b></p> <p>Structural racism leads to the silencing of the testimonies of racial discrimination experienced by communities. The invisibility and lack of resources dedicated to researching environmental racism in the European context is one of the results of systemic oppression.</p> <p>Additionally, anti-racism activists and organisations deal with competing priorities that prevent them from focusing on all manifestation of racism impacting the communities they serve.</p> <p>This session will explore the ways in which communities in Europe have been impacted by the crisis and have mobilised to respond to the issues faced. We will focus on investigation and identification of climate impact, as well as strategizing around climate action and shifting power.</p>
<p><b>Session 2</b></p>	<p><b>Racialised mental health in climate action</b></p> <p>Racialised people have been historically uprooted from their land as it was exploited for the wealth of a few through colonisation and slavery. These events continue to have consequences on access to green spaces and more broadly on the relationship between nature and marginalised groups.</p>

Being an activist is challenging. It requires deeply caring for an issue to the point of seeking political and social change. We know that this can be quite tiring and impact negatively our mental health. The heightened concerns about the climate emergency can lead to psychological disorders.

At the same time, working on climate action requires navigating a white-dominated space. For racialised people, this experience can result in trauma that impacts their capacity to work: from microaggressions, not being heard, or facing hate speech and discrimination, these actions can have far-reaching consequences on one's psyche.

This session will focus on the intersection between the consequences of structural racism, racial trauma and eco-anxiety, and how to centre ancestral traditions, knowledge and relation with nature.

### **Creating our own economies**

The climate crisis is a consequence of the greed-focused economic model that is capitalism. The extraction of earth materials and use of fossil fuels to produce endless growth led to the climate breakdown we are experiencing. This means that in order to act on the climate crisis, we need to challenge existing economic models and create economies that work for all people.

In recent years, the degrowth movement has gained traction as a trailblazer in challenging the capitalist growth economy. But what does this mean for groups that have been structurally, historically, and institutionally excluded from the economy?

This session will explore post-growth and degrowth from an anti-racism standpoint, and community action to challenge the economic system.

## **Session 3**

### **Participants Profile**

- Activists working at the intersection of climate action and anti-racism.
- Representatives of community-based organisations and grassroots movements working on environmental and social justice issues.
- Researchers and academics interested in interdisciplinary approaches to climate action and social justice.
- Indigenous community members and leaders who want to organise around the impacts of climate change on their communities and preserve their cultural and ecological heritage.
- Individuals seeking knowledge on racial justice in climate action.

Although we welcome all applications, **we will prioritise people from racialised communities as participants at the Climate Justice Academy.**

**We especially encourage young anti-racist activists to join us.**

Do apply if you are:

- Passionate about racial justice and interested in learning about manifestations impacting people's health, safety, and livelihood.
- Passionate about climate and economic justice, environmental sustainability, racial justice and social equity.
- Have strong interest in raising awareness about the climate crisis and its interconnectedness with social issues.
- Motivated to actively contribute to climate action and empower marginalized communities.
- Open-minded, curious, and willing to engage in critical discussions.
- Belong to marginalized communities or value diverse perspectives.
- Interested in engaging with policymakers and advocating for just and equitable climate policies.
- Willing to develop skills in effective communication, policy analysis, and advocacy techniques.
- Committed to self-care and mental well-being for climate activists.
- Eager to learn, participate in meaningful discussions, and take action.

**Participants are encouraged to join all three events to ensure continuity and foster knowledge building throughout the program.**

Share with your networks and apply through Glue Up **till 15 July 2024**. Please get in touch with [magda@enar-eu.org](mailto:magda@enar-eu.org) and [pia@enar-eu.org](mailto:pia@enar-eu.org) with any questions.

Please make sure that the membership fee for your organisation is paid in order to participate in the Climate Justice Academy.

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