

## **TACKLING RACIST AND XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN EUROPE: REVIEW AND PRACTICAL GUIDANCE**

**by Dr Robin Oakley (Consultant)**

**Community Relations Series, Council of Europe Publishing, 1996**

**ISBN 92-871-3037-X**

At the Council of Europe Summit Conference in Vienna in October 1993, the Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe adopted a *Declaration and Plan of Action on combating racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance*. The Vienna Declaration draws particular attention to the threat posed by the increase in acts of violence, directed particularly against migrants and people of immigrant origin. This threat has not abated, and acts of violence remain one of the most serious and shocking manifestations of racism and intolerance in Europe today.

As a contribution to achieving the goals of the Plan of Action, the European Committee on Migration (CDMG) commissioned a study of racist and xenophobic violence in Europe. This study was carried out by a consultant, Dr Robin Oakley. It is based on the author's research in several European countries and his experience in implementing practical strategies for tackling racist and xenophobic violence.

The present publication follows on from an earlier report by the same author, published by the Council of Europe under the title *Racial Violence and Harassment in Europe* (1992). This first report contained a useful "check-list for action" and the present publication should be seen as providing detailed guidance as to how these recommendations can be carried out.

Incidents and threats of violence against immigrants and against members of minority groups have become a depressingly familiar part of the current scene in virtually all parts of Europe. Dr Oakley sets out to prove that we should not regard such things as inevitable. He shows how, on the contrary, determined and concerted action by all concerned - central and local government, the police, judges and prosecutors, housing agencies, youth and education services and voluntary organisations - can enable society to combat racist and xenophobic violence effectively.

A **companion volume**, *Tackling Racist and Xenophobic Violence in Europe: Case Studies*, (Council of Europe Publishing 1997, ISBN 92-871-3483-9) supplements the main guidance document by describing a variety of practical initiatives introduced in member States to deal with this widespread problem.