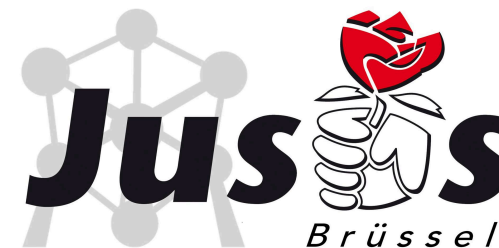




**Joint position of Jongsocialisten Belgium and Jusos
Brüssel regarding PEGIDA's attempt to spread
across Europe**



The dreadful Charlie Hebdo attacks and the widespread fear they generated across Europe have reminded us that our European societies have a lot to cherish. Not only freedom of speech, but also freedom of religion, tolerance and pluralism are core European values which we will never surrender.

Although it seemingly has taken place a long time ago, this year marks only the 70th anniversary of the end of a period shaped by hate and murder all over Europe. This period had its beginnings in a fascist and inhuman movement inside Germany.

Taking this into account and as it becomes apparent that the movement of PEGIDA (=Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the Occident) is about to branch out into various European countries, it is thus of tremendous importance to Jongsocialisten Belgium and Jusos Brüssel to take a clear stance against this movement of racism and misanthropy:

PEGIDA tries to exploit certain fears of Islam by spreading hate and distrust against any alien coming to Europe. Their response to extremism and hate of a few is more hate and extremism against all. They use this fear to spread the idea that Europe is – against any realistic projections - being ,overtaken' by muslims. By using fear to spread lies they polarize the European people and incite hatred towards Muslims living in Europe and abroad.

JS and Jusos Brüssel stand against any form of hate, violence and general suspicion imposed on anyone.

PEGIDA promotes a perverted European idea of aggregated nationalism as a means to exclude people with a different religion or of different origin and to go against all kind of immigrants and often especially against refugees

JS and Jusos Brüssel stand for an open and inclusive society that does not build new walls around Europe with the bricks it took from the old walls within.

Claiming to defend the so-called Christian occident and European values, their deeds and words essentially contradict everything Europe has been built on: Open-mindedness, mutual respect and support.

JS and Jusos Brüssel believe in an European idea full of humanity and dignity, condemning any kind of discrimination.

PEGIDA claims to derive from the core of society and to represent the common people, with all their hopes and fears. Still their representatives in Germany (Lutz Bachmann, who had to step down) as well as in Belgium (Hans Dubois, Wim van Rooy) can be unambiguously assigned to the radical right wing.

JS and Jusos stand against any form of racism and fight fascism. Everywhere. At any time.

We believe in an inclusive Europe and in an open-minded civil society.

We are convinced that the only way to fight the world's problems of poverty, hunger and war, is to stand and work together for a better future in Europe as well as all over the World. It is our duty to help those who suffer from those circumstances, especially if they were aggravated, if not created, by nations of the so-called western civilization.

Europe has always gained from its diversity and its outstanding mix of roots, influences and backgrounds. Such a diversified community can only function based on mutual respect and cooperation, inclusion and openness.

We believe in Unity in Diversity, Eenheid in Verscheidenheid, in Vielfalt Geeint.