

5 – 8 April 2021

Documentation of the Work of the Human Rights Council (HRC)
NMUN Simulation*



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Conference B

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Human Rights Council (HRC)

Committee Staff

Director	Anna Rickert
Assistant Director	Paola Chávez
Chair	Alejandro Better

Agenda

- I. Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
- II. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
- III. Business and Human Rights

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
HRC/1/1	Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance	Adopted without a vote
HRC/1/2	Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance	Adopted without a vote
HRC/1/3	Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The Human Rights Council held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age
- II. Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance
- III. Business and Human Rights

The session was attended by representatives of 15 Member States.

On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance.” By Wednesday, the Dais received a total of three proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics such as countering racist and xenophobic hate speech, intercultural education to promote values of diversity and raise awareness about xenophobia and related intolerance, and combatting racial discrimination against migrants and racial minorities in health services. Over the course of the conference, the committee worked in an inclusive and collaborative atmosphere.

On Wednesday, three draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted three resolutions following voting procedure, which all received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including global initiatives to raise awareness about racial discrimination and related intolerance, the impact of discrimination on the physical and mental health racial minorities, and the role of information and communications technology in spreading and combatting racism. Overall, the committee worked as one body, creating a collaborative and inclusive atmosphere.



Code: HRC/1/1

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Condemning all forms of hate speech, which is one form of intolerance,

Noting with deep concern the potential for misuse that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) have to spread hateful rhetoric and discrimination,

Reaffirming the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the 1965 *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, and the 1966 *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* as foundational for the fight against intolerance and foundational to initiatives combatting hate speech,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 73/328 (2019) on “Promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue and tolerance in countering hate speech” and promoting social cohesion, peace and development,

Emphasizing the principles stated in the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech

Considering the 2018 *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*,

Acknowledging existing efforts of ICT intermediaries initiatives to address hate speech through human rights education, peer-to-peer learning, monitoring and reporting of hate speech, and storytelling by victims/targets while emphasizing transparency and in accordance with international human rights standards,

Bearing in mind the many instances of online hate speech transforming into real world acts of violence,

Acknowledging the importance of media pluralism and diversity,

1. *Recommends* Member States to promote the Stand Up for Human Rights Program sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Right (OHCHR);
2. *Calls upon* the donor community and the private sector to become a part of this project and support it by contributing funding;
3. *Request* the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to discuss hate speech within the scope of human rights at their next session;
4. *Encourages* Member States to support, as and where appropriate, initiatives that aim to raise awareness of the worldwide problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, such as promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;
5. *Encourages* Member States, NGOs, and civil society to generate public awareness on combating hate speech, negative stereotypes, and bullying through educational social media platforms;
6. *Considers* addressing Member States on the effective implementation of the *Durban Declaration and Programme of Action* to establish cross border dialogues as an inclusive mechanism of Member States to facilitate negotiations and adapt guiding principles towards regulation of hate speech towards the creation of a Content Control Software in the digital age at a national and global level;
7. *Requests* Member States to support a new generation of digital citizens, empowered to recognize, reject, and stand up to hate speech with the assistance and leadership of United Nations Software Engineers in the creation of the software where coordinated data collection, research, including addressing root causes, drivers and conditions conducive to hate speech will be recorded;
8. *Proposes* the review of the 1965 *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in order to propose the establishment of a mechanism that identifies the factors that contribute to the perpetration of



xenophobia and hate speech based on the updated data collected, especially in respect to discrimination during the pandemic, by OHCHR and produce policy recommendations in the grassroots and institutional level tailor-fitted to each Member State's needs;

9. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to provide expertise, research proposals, and studies with consideration to contemporary forms of discrimination during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as targeted racial discriminations towards Asians and people of Asian descent;
10. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance to produce a thematic report on racism and the COVID-19 pandemic;
11. *Recommends* ICT corporations to consider guiding principles based on the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as applied in the 2018 *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*;
12. *Requests* all Member States to use the Rabat Plan of Action to determine the severity necessary to criminalize incitement as first suggested in the 2018 *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression*.



Code: HRC/1/2

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that proclaims the equal dignity and rights of every human being which apply regardless of any differences in race, color, or national origin,

Concerned about violence, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance against migrants, especially women and children, that is occurring in various parts of the world,

Deeply disturbed by the negative impacts that xenophobia and related intolerance have on refugees' and migrants' physical and mental wellbeing,

Guided by the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, General Assembly resolution 59/194 on "Protection of migrants", and the *Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals Who Are Not Nationals of the Country in Which They Live* (1985),

Further guided by the *International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) as a foundational document enacted to address racial discrimination,

Affirming that access to healthcare is a human right as emphasized in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the ICERD, the *Constitution of the World Health Organization*, and the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*,

Noting with concern that access to psychological healthcare is often constrained for undocumented migrants with services potentially being withheld due to the migrant's race, nationality, or other personal identifying quality,

Noting with approval the efforts made by various humanitarian and health-oriented non-governmental organization (NGOs) for their contributions intended to improve the lives of migrants and refugees,

Acknowledging the impact that colonialism and slave trade has had on people of African descent who are particularly at risk of finding themselves in economic positions that force them to migrate or flee from their country of origin,

Determined to minimize the stigma associated with refugees and migrants by helping them contribute economically and ensure that their rights are fulfilled,

1. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to:
 - a. Consider addressing the negative impact and consequences that discriminatory acts can have on the physical and mental health of migrants and refugees for future thematic reports;
 - b. Attend relevant international conventions and policy forums regarding the aforementioned topic with the view on boosting future research and report processes;
2. *Recommends* for Member States to enable and improve the right to healthcare for migrants and refugees by:
 - a. Improving research methodology by exploring different theoretical frameworks intended to identify and combat the prevalence of racism in healthcare setting that analyzes the institution, personal mediation and internalization, and temporal trends;
 - b. Using the Global Data Service of the Executive Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to get a complete gathering of the information in coherence with the aforementioned sub-clause to gather and data from other researchers;



- c. Working with health-oriented NGOs to disseminate vaccinations within refugee camps and centers in order to realize the human right to the enjoyment of physical and mental health;
3. *Recommends* Member States improve the possibilities for migrants and refugees of exercising their right to mental health by alleviating issues related to distinct traumatic events, isolation, and harm faced by migrants and refugees on a daily basis by:
 - a. Involving state-sponsored clinical psychologists into established refugee centers, so that those living in this vulnerable situation are supported;
 - b. Working with relevant NGOs to establish Mental Health hotlines for victims of xenophobia and discrimination to serve as a first response to address emergency mental health issues and ensure that migrants and refugees have direct access to mental healthcare providers;
 - c. Utilizing the telehealth system wherein Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is used for the exchange of information between patients and healthcare professionals via live video conference and mobile applications;
4. *Encourages* Member States to work with UNHCR to create treatment programs which aid refugees through:
 - a. Access to medical care, adequate housing, and food stipends;
 - b. Micro-financing loans to cover necessary expenses not already addressed;
 - c. Education programs to familiarize refugees with the society into which they migrated in order to avoid cultural clashes that may result in discriminatory acts;
5. *Suggests* Member States provide employment assistance in order to avoid discriminatory hiring practices and help refugees contribute economically by:
 - a. Utilizing job simulation programs to prepare refugees through assessments and practice interviews;
 - b. Implementing employment agencies that will link refugees to employment networks;
6. *Decides* to remain seized of this important matter and to pay particular attention to violations of human rights stemming from racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance towards migrants and refugees.



Code: HRC/1/3

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic: Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in maintaining and upholding human dignity, equality, and inalienable rights of all global citizens,

Guided by the 2030 *Agenda on Sustainable Development*, specifically Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 regarding Quality Education and SDG 5 regarding Gender Equality in the promotion of innovative educational initiatives that aim for diversity and the elimination of xenophobia,

Emphasizing Human Rights Council resolution 7/34 on the “Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,” which includes the aspect of education in encouraging the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance,

Recognizing the important role that education and educational institutions have in combatting discrimination, as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism,

Acknowledging the role of education in the elimination of xenophobia during the COVID-19 pandemic,

Emphasizing the COVID-19 crisis response guidance by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) on respecting human rights throughout the whole spectrum of economic, civil, social, and political rights as it is critical to the success of the public health response during the pandemic,

Acknowledging the legacy of slavery, colonialization, and structural racism and the effect these have on people of African descent,

Bearing in mind the necessary contribution of educational programs, projects, and advocacy mechanisms that help address discriminatory tendencies that work toward the prevention of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance,

Approving the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women,

Considering the important role of women in education and the substantial link between women’s full and meaningful involvement in efforts to prevent and resolve discrimination and building fair and just institutions,

1. *Draws attention* to efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on tackling and acknowledging racial discrimination, racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance through the furthering of education and overall promotion of civic engagement within societies, governmental programs, and plans;
2. *Recommends* Member States to establish intercultural learning programs for youth focusing on promoting values of diversity and multiculturalism modelled after the Can’t Wait to Learn Program by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Sudan that will:
 - a. Address youth, especially those groups who are vulnerable to xenophobia such as racial minorities and LGBTQIA members;
 - b. Encourage UNICEF to take voluntary action to raise awareness and action-based programs to address xenophobia and promote cultural diversity, through formal volunteering programs in partnership with the International Red Crescent Movement;
 - c. Request consultation from the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
3. *Suggests* the implementation of cultural exchange and discrimination prevention courses in youth education in partnership with UNESCO to address and inform on matters such as:



- a. Understanding cultural differences in depth and accepting these differences;
 - b. Exposure to diverse cultures by promoting cultural exchanges where youth can have a mutual understanding regarding cultural differences;
4. *Recommends* Member States to consider the integration of Women Empowerment Principles in the UN Global Compact;
 5. *Requests* the Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination against Women and Girls to provide guidance to Member States to pursue higher education for economic opportunities;
 6. *Calls for* continued collaboration of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, that recognizes different categories on discrimination against women, arguing that the elimination of gender discrimination requires holistic measures;
 7. *Recommends* the implementation of articles presented on international instruments that focus on indigenous people rights including:
 - a. Article two of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*;
 - b. Part I on general policy and Part III on recruitments and conditions of employments of the *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention* of 1989;
 8. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance to create a report for the purpose of identifying the intersection between two pandemics, that are the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic of racially motivated gender-based violence.