



## **Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership,  
decision-making and peace.

GWI, formerly International Federation of University Women, is in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 1947 and is a nongovernmental organisation maintaining official relations with UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation.

Graduate Women International

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Switzerland

E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

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## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

Racism, xenophobia and intolerance are problems prevalent in all societies.

### The Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development won't be achieved unless we eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance as targeted in the following SDGs.

- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

- o 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- o 16.b Promotes and enforces non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

- o 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

- Cross linked to SDG 3 (Women's Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work), SDG 17 (Partnerships)



### GWI Policy on Racial Discrimination

**2016 Policy Resolution 5 states that:**

**All human beings have a right to freedom of thought, belief, actions and choice.  
This freedom should be preserved at all costs.**

2019 Policy Resolution 1: Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education

2019 Policy Resolution 2: Building Peace through Women's Education

2016 Policy Resolution 5: To Bring an End to Intolerance of Minority Groups and Make the World More Inclusive

# The United Nations Seventy-fifth session

## Third Committee

### Agenda item 70 (b)(2020)

*Draft resolution:*

*A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (Guyana) A/C.3/75/L.50/Rev.1*

## **Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

### **Related Declarations and Conventions:**

- Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

### **The Issue ((United Nations Principle of Equality)):**

- all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies
- any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races

### **Current Status of the Issue:**

- a global rise in hate speech, constituting incitement to racial discrimination, hostility and violence
- an increased spread in many parts of the world of various racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seeks to promote nationalist, right-wing agendas and racial superiority
  - these practices fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
  - the ongoing and resurgent scourges of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in many regions of the world often targets migrants and refugees, as well as people of African descent, and consequently the severe discrimination they may face
  - some political leaders and parties have supported such an environment
- recent incidents of excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent
- three Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination previously declared by the [UN] General Assembly, and the Programmes of Action for those Decades were not fully implemented and that their objectives have yet to be attained
- Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, now nearing universal ratification, yet millions of human beings continue to be victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including their contemporary forms and manifestations, some of which manifest in violent forms.



## The Impact:

- racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance have a deep negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, and therefore require a united and comprehensive response from the international community
- the intensity, magnitude and organized nature of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, and the associated historical injustices, as well as the untold suffering caused by colonialism and apartheid
- Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples continue to be victims

## Prevention:

The promotion of tolerance, inclusion and respect for diversity and the need to seek common ground among and within civilizations in order to address common challenges to humanity that threaten shared values, universal human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion.

## UNGA Recommendations:

- political will, international cooperation and adequate funding at the national, regional and international levels are needed to address all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance for the successful implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- former colonial Powers for reparations, consistent with paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Durban Programme of Action, to redress the historical injustices of slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade
- the international community to recognize the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority

## The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Reaffirms the paramount importance of universal adherence to and the full and effective implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965, in addressing the scourges of racism and racial discrimination.

## Key Resources / Documents

- [International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination \(ICERD\)](#)
- [Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice](#)
- [Durban Declaration and Programme of Action](#)
- [Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference](#)
- [Political Declaration adopted at the 10-year anniversary of the Durban Conference](#)
- [Resolution proclaiming 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(A/RES/2142 \(XXI\)\)](#)
- [Resolution proclaiming the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination \(A/RES/34/24\)](#)



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## The United Nations Principle of Equality

Places obligations on States and tasks them with eradicating discrimination in the public and private spheres.

The principle of equality also requires States to adopt special measures to eliminate conditions that cause or help to perpetuate racial discrimination.

[www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day)

- all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies
- any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that attempt to determine the existence of separate human races



## GWI

*2016 Policy Resolution 5 states that:*

**All human beings have a right to freedom of thought, belief, actions and choice.**

**This freedom should be preserved at all costs.**

**As women, we have a duty to inculcate inclusive values in society and our countries.**