

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 53rd SESSION

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance

10 – 11 July 2023

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, Ashwini K.P., addressed the Council for the first time since her appointment in October 2022. She presented two reports focused on outlining the vision and strategic priorities of the mandate; and on trends in the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism, and related ideologies.

In the first, she highlighted a range of international human rights treaties that provide protection from racial discrimination. She stressed the main priorities of the mandate are: country visits; cooperation on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance; intersectionality; an inclusive approach to her work; analysis of the historical roots of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination; and the nexus between digital technologies and contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. She also provided targeted recommendations for Member States and other stakeholders on how to increase efforts to implement international legal provisions and cooperate with the SR's Office in the fulfillment of the mandate.

The second report reported the continued prominence of racist, nationalist, and far-right political parties and organizations operating throughout various national contexts. The report recommended Member States to take substantial measures to address the concerning prominence of different manifestations of hatred. The measures include improving relevant national legal frameworks; adopting national action plans; strengthening and expanding efforts to employ education and public awareness campaigns to combat racist stereotypes and promote diversity; increasing disaggregated data collection; and augmenting efforts to implementation of relevant international legal provisions, including the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

During the 77th session of the General Assembly, she will present reports in relation to the glorification of Nazism, and to the online hate speech.

Interactive dialogue

69 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. The majority of the countries reiterated their support for the UN mechanisms in the fight against serious scourges and racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance, towards a truly democratic society with social justice and equity. Countries appreciated the key aspect mentioned in the report, the link between digital technologies and contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, including online hate speech. For **Ukraine**, the problems associated with discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance, and violence are particularly relevant due to Russia's aggression. Countries informed the Council about various national activities to give effect to the promotion of the principle of non-discrimination and equality for its citizens and foreign nationals. **Suriname** listed national legal provisions and acts. **Venezuela** affirmed that despite the efforts within the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the challenges and human rights violations remain numerous, especially in developed countries where they are often victims of exclusion, discrimination, and poverty. **The EU, Luxembourg, and Colombia** stressed the national solid legal framework addressing all forms of discrimination. Publicly inciting violence or hatred because of race, color, religion, descent, or national or ethnic origin is forbidden within the countries. To effectively combat discrimination, it is furthermore important to also invest in developing comprehensive, holistic policies that focus on prevention, awareness raising, education, social inclusion, victim support, training of law enforcement officials, reporting, and data collection.

Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, and the Arab Group expressed concern about the continued spread of fanaticism, racism, discrimination, and hate speech against people because of their religion, such as the recent burning of copies of the Holy Qur'an in a number of countries, for which there is no explanation other than an attempt to stir up feelings of hatred and hostility and incite violence. Discrimination against Muslims by disrespecting their sanctities and beliefs and provoking them with these shameful and unjustified practices. **Brazil** expressed deep concern about racist manifestations in sports events. Sport is, and can only be, synonymous with respect, tolerance, solidarity, diversity, inclusion, and peace.

UNICEF remained deeply concerned about the longstanding effects of racism on children. It urged States to facilitate children's participation in the fight against racial discrimination, including consulting children on issues that affect them, ensuring child-sensitive access to justice, enabling children to exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and protecting them when exercising these rights. **UN WOMEN** strongly welcomed the Special Rapporteur's particular interest in and intent to mainstream the intersections between gender and racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance into all elements of her work. Women from ethnically and racially marginalized groups are among those experiencing the most severe forms of exclusion and marginalization.

NGOs welcomed the SR's report, appreciating the special attention being paid to the issue of combatting the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism, and other practices that contributed to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. The relationship between health, race, caste, class, and gender is rooted in colonial, patriarchal, and capitalist control over women's sexuality, reproduction, and bodies and produces distinct experiences of oppression that are often fatal. Racialized women are specifically targeted by harmful stereotypes. This has profound impacts on their health and human rights. **NGOs** also welcomed the focus on racist hate speech and on the impact of technology.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (69 country delegations):

Norway (on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries), European Union, Brazil (on behalf of a group of Latin American countries), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Venezuela, Lebanon (on behalf of a group of Arab States), Côte d'Ivoire (on behalf of a group of African States), Germany, Lithuania, Portugal, Peru, Israel, Egypt, Ecuador, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Armenia, Spain, Luxembourg, Bahrain, Australia, United States, Indonesia, Belgium, Iraq, Colombia, Malaysia, Morocco, United Kingdom, Cameroon, South Africa, Türkiye, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, India, Malawi, Oman, China, Djibouti, Libya, Senegal, Mauritania, Sudan, Cuba, Russian Federation, Brazil, Romania, Algeria, Botswana, Bolivia, Tunisia, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, Belarus, Mexico, Panama, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Guinea Bissau, Ukraine, Pakistan, Qatar, Lebanon, Iran, Dominican Republic, Syria, Bolivia, State of Palestine and Suriname.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor during the Interactive dialogue (10):

Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Arab European Forum for Dialogue and Human Rights, Action Canada for Population and Development, Minority Rights Group, Partners For Transparency, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and Physicians for Human Rights, partners for transparency, ISHR.

International organizations (3): UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA

To watch the full meeting refer to the UN WEB TV, [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#).