



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

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Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism

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PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

Ms. Ashwini K.P., Special Rapporteur (SR) on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Forms of Intolerance

The SR presents her new thematic report on **intersectionality from a racial justice perspective**. The adoption of an intersectional approach to identifying and addressing contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination is a central part of the SR's vision for her tenure in such capacity, and her thematic report reflects this strategic focus. As a woman shaped by intersecting social realities, the SR conceives intersectionality as an academic framework noted in the **lived experiences of black feminists** in the United States that now resonates globally from women of African descent to Dalits, Indigenous communities, Roma, Arab, Muslim, Palestinian, and other marginalised women, including the LGBTQI.

The SR's report outlines that the **concept of intersectionality** emerged from the work of black feminists in the United States of America. It emerged as a powerful critique of the mainstream feminist approach that negated the element of race in analysing discrimination and exclusion. Feminist and critical race scholar **Kimberlé Crenshaw** first articulated the term intersectionality



to describe the mutually compounding impact of race and gender-based discrimination on black women.

The report also provides analysis of how intersectionality as a concept and framework has further been adopted and applied by feminists and scholars from various marginalised groups to understand and analyse the **intricacies of discrimination and exclusion**. For example, scholars from Dalit, Indigenous, and Muslim communities have further contributed to the development of the intersectional concept in the global south context. The SR recognised that there is a degree of heterogeneity about how intersectionality is understood and applied but offer some analysis on the definition of concept and framework.

The report includes an overview of the international human rights law framework with a particular focus on the **obligation of states** to prevent and address multiple and intersectional discrimination. It also includes some analysis of manifestations of intersectional discrimination in different countries and regions drawing on the submissions received in response to the SR's call for contributions. Her report argues that in recognising the manifestations of systemic racism and intersectional discrimination affecting racialized groups an intersectional approach be taken to effectively address such phenomena through effective human rights-based laws, policies, and programmes.

In her report, the SR provides an analysis on some of the key elements of an intersectional approach including **systemic racial and historical analysis** centring the diverse and fluid lived experience of those who have faced systemic racism and intersectional discrimination through full and effective representation and participation, intersectional special measures, disaggregated and intersectional data, the recognition of multiple and intersectional discrimination within national legal framework and intersectional remedies. The SR's report very strongly notes that women of African descent, caste oppressed communities, Roma, Arab, Muslim, Palestinian women, and several other racially and ethnically marginalised communities are **disproportionately affected due to their identities** which further exacerbate due to the lack of policies with intersectional approach.

The thematic report concludes that intersectionality is a powerful concept and framework for addressing systemic racism and intersecting forms of discrimination, oppression, marginalisation, and related human rights violations. It is an important **approach to disrupt and dismantle systemic racism and intersectional discrimination**. The international human rights law framework includes obligations for states to prevent, address, and remedy systemic racism and intersectional discrimination. Despite such obligations, manifestations of intersectional discrimination affecting racialized groups persist across countries and regions.

To address systemic racism and intersectional discrimination, urgent and bold action should be taken by states to implement an intersectional approach, inclusive of all key elements outlined in the SR's report. Moreover, states, particularly those who benefited the most from colonialism and enslavement, must invest in comprehensive and **structural reparatory justice approaches** that account for historical wrongs and the persistent structure of racial inequality, discrimination, and subordination. The SR provides a series of recommendations to states and other stakeholders on the implementation of intersectional approach.



Turning to her report on **combating the glorification of Nazism**, neo-Nazism, and related ideologies submitted pursuant to UNGA Resolution 79/160, the SR notes with concern the continued prominence of racist, nationalist, and far-right political parties and organisations operating throughout various national contexts. In response to such trends, the SR's report highlights relevant provisions within international human rights law, including Article 2, Clause 1, and Article 4 of the International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as well as the provisions in other treaties, including the prohibition to incitement of racial hatred contained within the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The report recommends that states take a number of measures to address the concerning prominence of different manifestations of hatred. The **measures recommended** 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, augmenting efforts to implementation of relevant international legal provisions, including the International Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The report also makes some **targeted recommendations to other stakeholders**, calling on them to continue and strengthen their work, facilitating collaboration between stakeholders, collecting disaggregated data, providing support to victims and survivors of hate speech and hate crimes, and promoting public awareness of multiculturalism and tolerance.

PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY VISIT REPORT

The SR presents the report on her visit to **Brazil** from 5 to 14 August 2024, during which she visited the capital Brasília, Salvador, São Luís, São Paulo, Florianópolis, and Rio de Janeiro. The SR extends her gratitude to the government for their cooperation in all aspects and to all the civil society organisations who supported her visit and individuals who shared their lived experiences.

The SR commends the government for recognising that racism is a systemic phenomenon and for institutionalising efforts to prevent and address racial discrimination as outlined in her report. She identified several promising steps towards addressing racism and racial discrimination. These include, for example, the **institutionalisation of anti-racial discrimination efforts** in Brazil through the creation of the Ministry of Racial Equality and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the development of a policy on Roma persons, and robust affirmative action programme to facilitate access among marginalised racial and ethnic groups to some universities and public sector employment.

While recognising positive elements in the response of the government to racism and racial discrimination, it clearly emerged from the SR's visit that the people of African descent, Indigenous people, Quilombola communities, Roma persons, and those from **racially and ethnically marginalised groups** in Brazil, including those who face intersectional discrimination, continue to experience multifaceted, deeply interconnected and pervasive manifestation of systemic racism.

Manifestations of systemic racism discussed in the SR's report include Indigenous and Quilombola land rights, environmental racism, the situation of women from marginalised racial and ethnic groups, systemic racial discrimination in law enforcement and the criminal justice



system, and racialized religious intolerance and discrimination, and racial xenophobic stereotyping and hatred, including the rise of neo-Nazi groups. The SR's overall conclusion as articulated in her report is that systemised racial discrimination and pervasive racialized violence and exclusion appears to be the common characteristics of lived experiences of those from diverse marginalised racial and ethnic groups.

Moreover, there is a direct link between these contemporary manifestations of systemic racism and the **complex history of Brazil**, which includes colonialism, previously legalised enslavement and military dictatorships. Systemic racism appears to have endured since the formation of the state of Brazil, despite courageous and sustained advocacy among anti-racism human rights defenders. Anti-racial discrimination efforts need to recognise, address and remedy the root cause, historical drivers and underlying power structures of contemporary systemic racism through a reparatory justice approach. Brazil should dedicate significant additional resources to anti-racial discrimination efforts to address the historical **under-investment in marginalised racial and ethnic groups**, provide reparations for historical harms, and accelerate the pace of change towards substantive racial equality.

In her country visit report, the SR provides a series of **recommendations** to the government and other stakeholders on the achievement of further progress towards racial equality. The SR urges the full and effective implementation of her recommendations, as well as the recommendations made by other racial justice and human rights mechanisms, including the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Human Rights Committee and the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

The SR appreciates all the member states who have adopted and who plan to initiate an intersectional approach in their legislative measures and policy-making. Across both her reports, a clear pattern emerges. **Structural inequality**, when left unaddressed, creates fertile ground for rising hate, systemic violence, and the deepening exclusion of racially and ethnically marginalised groups. The findings are troubling and demand urgent and coordinated response.

On her report on neo-Nazism, the SR underscores that racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia are not isolated or episodic. They are complex, multifaceted, and increasingly normalised, and stakeholder submissions reveal a **marked rise in racially motivated hate crimes, anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim incidents** in the recent past, and the mainstreaming of far-right wing ideologies into public discourse and politics. This is further exacerbated by **declining content moderation on social media platforms** and algorithm amplification of harmful content, often targeting young people for extremist recruitment. In this light, the SR urges member states to reaffirm their international legal obligation and adopt coordinated national responses.

It is highly important for states to implement comprehensive measures to **address hate speech and incitement to racial and religious hatred**, and this must be done while protecting the right to freedom of expression guided by the Rabat Plan of Action and General Recommendation No. 35 of the Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Most importantly, specific actions are required to regulate online platforms. States must **mandate effective content moderation**, hold companies accountable for providing a platform for propagating hate, and combat the algorithm spread of racist and neo-Nazi ideologies. Member states must take serious note of corporate accountability pertaining to hate speech disseminated on social media platforms. The SR further calls for the **criminalisation of acts that glorify Nazism and incite racial hatred**, alongside the adoption of national action plans to combat racism and far-right extremism.

Finally, disaggregated data is essential, and states must **systematically collect and publish data on hate crimes and hate speech**, including incidents that promote neo-Nazi ideologies, and the data has to be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, religion, gender, caste, and other relevant markers.

With regard to **best practises** to adopt intersectional approach and reparatory justice including the improvement of international standards and tangible actions, the SR reiterates that there is a dire need to change the pedagogy and discourse of legislative reforms to develop intersectional approach in policy-making. Her report emphasises that understanding and addressing racism and racial discrimination and other forms of similar discrimination today requires an intersectional approach. The latter is not a theoretical preference, it is a **legal and empirical necessity**.

Intersectionality has to be grounded in the lived experiences of affected persons, must be integrated in all aspects of policy, law and institutional reforms. States must ensure that those impacted by systemic racism such as women of African descent, Dalit, Indigenous women, Roma, Muslim and Arab women, Palestinian women, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI individuals, stateless persons are not merely consulted but meaningfully included in shaping solutions. Most importantly, intersectionality must be legally recognised and reflected in comprehensive anti-discrimination frameworks.

Legal definitions should reflect lived experiences, and it is essential to adopt special measures like that of affirmative action in education, employment and political representation, including targeted resources for social inclusive policies and community programmes. These community programmes must be designed and evaluated using an intersectional lens, and the voices of those affected should shape the rational design and outcome of such measures.

Apart from this, the **data system must be restructured**. The SR urges states to collect and report disaggregated data across multiple access, race, caste, gender, disability, religion, migration status, and combine qualitative findings with quantitative accounts to ensure policy is grounded in real-world experiences.

States should adopt and implement **reparatory justice mechanisms** that address the structural and historical roots of racial and intersectional discrimination, including colonialism, slavery, caste oppression and patriarchy. Reparations must be comprehensive, embedded in institutional framework. To conclude, it is now incumbent upon states to move from acknowledgement to action through law, education, policy, data and accountability. The credibility of the international human rights system rests on our commitment to confront the most entrenched, interconnected, systemic forms of inequality.



VIEWS EXPRESSED BY BRAZIL AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of **Brazil** appreciates the country visit report and reiterates the government's firm commitment to combat all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, as well as to promote racial equality. The implementation of the national policy for the promotion of racial equality aims to reduce historical inequalities and promote the inclusion of racial minorities in all spheres of society. The Brazilian government recognises that structural and institutional racism directly impacts vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Convinced that sustainable development must include the elimination of all forms of inequality, Brazil launched last year an additional SDG, the **voluntary SDG 18**, aimed at achieving ethnic and racial equality in the country. The *Juventude Negra Viva* programme aims to reduce the vulnerabilities faced by black youth in Brazil and to combat the lethal violence rooted in structural racism. Strategic partnerships have been established to address **factors contributing to racial vulnerability**, including areas such as drug policy. Pilot initiatives, such as a programme for mothers and family members of victims of state violence, have been launched in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Bahia. Progress has also been made in enhancing oversight of police forces, including through the regulation of the use of force and the implementation of body cameras.

Access to justice is a key component in advancing racial justice through preventive measures, reparations, and reforms to the justice system, including support programmes for families of state violence. They are part of a comprehensive approach to ensuring access to justice and upholding the rights to memory, truth, justice, and reparation for victims.

In the area of **affirmative action**, the new quota law broadened access to higher and technical education in federal institutions and expanded the range of beneficiaries to better include groups such as the Quilombola communities. The **national policy plan for Roma people** was launched last year, seeking to guarantee the right to basic infrastructure and dignified housing, the promotion of educational inclusion, and the dissemination of knowledge about Roma history and culture. In December 2024, the Silas Pimenta Technical Working Group produced a consolidated proposal for a national protection plan and a draft bill on a national policy for **human rights defenders, communicators, and environmentalists**, focused on three pillars, namely state protection, popular protection, and access to rights and combating impunity.

Since 2023, the Brazilian government has completed **13 homologations of Indigenous lands** and issued 11 declarations of land boundaries. The government opposes the so-called Marco Temporal Doctrine, which is currently under judicial review for its constitutionality. In 2023, the titling of Quilombola lands was resumed. The Quilombola Brazil Programme has adopted intersectoral measures to safeguard the rights of Quilombola communities and supports their territorial and environmental management practises. In 2022, the national census identified the Quilombola population as an ethnic group for the very first time.

Finally, the **Brazil Without Misogyny** Initiative and the National Pact for the Prevention of Femicides, which includes targeted actions for rural women, Indigenous women, and those living in high-risk areas, are examples of efforts to address gender-based violence. These measures are part of the broader national policy for combating violence against women.



To conclude, the government recognises that significant challenges persist in Brazil. The outlined policies represent meaningful progress in advancing racial equality and social justice and combating racial discrimination. They reflect a renewed commitment to dismantling structural racism and promoting inclusive development, while much remains to be done. These efforts signal a clear and ongoing dedication to building a more just and equitable society.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Albania notes with concern a global increase in cases of discrimination, intolerance and violence motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia which directly affect the enjoyment of human rights and threaten religious harmony and coexistence. Albania welcomes the SR's recommendation, particularly those related to the need to intensify awareness raising and educational efforts, particularly among young people strengthen mechanism for regulated online content and promote tolerance, respect for human rights and diversity. Nationally, Albania has successfully implemented vigorous policies to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and intolerance, adopting appropriate legislation, establishing national independent institutions to prevent and combat these phenomena. In concrete terms, the Albanian Commission for Protection Against Discrimination plays a key role in preventing and combating discrimination. Recognising the remaining challenges, Albania remains committed to strengthening its legislative framework and institutional mechanism to combat all forms of discrimination. Finally, Albania expresses its commitment to fully cooperate with national, regional and international mechanisms and institutions to build a world free from racism and intolerance.

Armenia is fully committed to fight racism and all its manifestations in all areas. Under the ICERD, Armenia submits periodic reports to the CERD Committee detailing efforts to combat racism and promote equality. Armenia's national action plans and legislative reforms are often supported by the recommendations made by partners, which demonstrate its commitment to a continuous improvement in fighting racism and protection of human rights. Armenia recognises the particular importance of education in elimination racism, xenophobia and discrimination. To this end, the government of Armenia continues to make targeted interventions to support minorities in acquiring high educational levels available to all citizens of Armenia, migrant workers and refugees alike. Armenia has been implementing measures to foster linguistic diversity, ensuring the availability of education in minority languages. Armenia further takes notes of the SR's report on neo-Nazism and the fact that the group of NGOs from a member state notorious for its crackdowns on civil society resorted to instrumentalise the opportunity the mandate for the resolution on neo-Nazism provides. As explained in Armenia's letter addressed to the SR, the fake allegations are nothing but a well-orchestrated hybrid campaign.

Azerbaijan thanks the SR's for affirming in her report that international human rights law obliges States to prevent and address intersectional discrimination. Azerbaijan has faced institutionalised discrimination and ethnic cleansing, resulting in the forcible displacement of civilians, the deaths of tens of thousands, nearly 4,000 missing Azerbaijanis, extensive destruction, and the erasure of cultural heritage. The resurrection of Azerbaijan's territorial



integrity and sovereignty has opened significant prospects for peace and stability in the region. Azerbaijan has demonstrated strong political will by initiating normalisation of efforts based on mutual recognition and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, lasting peace and effective post-conflict rehabilitation require the complete elimination of racism and racist practises, the clarification of the fate of missing persons, prevention of further violations, and accountability for past crimes. Addressing these issues is critical for healing and reconciliation. As a nation founded on multiculturalism and peaceful coexistence, Azerbaijan remains strongly committed to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance in line with its international human rights obligations. In addition, Azerbaijan emphasises the importance of Special Procedures' careful assessing of claims using objective, reliable information, and excluding from their reports any submissions that are biased, falls outside the scope of the report, or lack credible evidence.

Bahrain on behalf of the Arab group expresses its appreciation for the efforts made to highlight modern or contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia Bahrain reiterates the need to enhance this comprehensive approach that addresses all forms of discrimination and supports vulnerable groups. The group reiterates its position that rejects all forms of racism, racial discrimination, and commitment to international law and the UN Charter. Expresses its concern about manifestations of racial discrimination and exacerbation of which in all world areas, the Arab group condemns the flagrant violations against the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation, including apartheid and the obliteration of national identity. The Arab group reiterates the need to prohibit any calls for religious hatred, racism, or nationalism that incites violence and discrimination, and also rejects using the accusation of anti-Semitism as an excuse to silence those who defend the rights of the Palestinian people. Racism in all its forms must be addressed in all its forms.

Belgium commends the SR's valuable work on intersectionality and the fight against racism. As a strong supporter of the intersectional approach in tackling all forms of discrimination, including racism, both nationally and internationally, Belgium is encouraged to see that an increasing number of treaty bodies and special procedures are integrating this concept into their work. In this regard, Belgium regrets the resistance that sometimes arises to including strong language on intersectionality in UNHRC resolutions. Belgium believes that all states and UN mechanisms should fully embrace this approach to effectively combat all forms of discrimination. Moreover, it is essential that anti-discrimination frameworks be developed in close consultations with affected individuals and groups, inclusive and representative decision-making bodies are key to achieving meaningful and lasting progress.

Benin agrees on the vital importance of an intersectional approach to fully understand and combat systemic racism and multiple forms of discrimination, oppression and marginalisation. Benin has a rich cultural and ethnic diversity and its national constitution guarantees equality before the law for all with no distinction to origin, race and so on and it recognises the same rights for foreigners present in the country. In this spirit, Benin adopted in 2024 a law recognising the citizenship of Benin for African descendants. As a party to different international instruments to combat racial discrimination, including ICERD, Benin had the pleasure of presenting its initial report in August 2022. In closing, Benin reaffirms its commitment to the DDPA.



Bolivia agrees with the SR on the importance of adopting an intersectional approach when it comes to combating systemic discrimination. Racist, rather, intersectionality makes it possible to make visible how the two interplay, highlighting how certain people tackle issues of discrimination that are more complicated and more severe in nature and to understand how the domination structures are propped up. Bolivia agrees that the intersectional approach can make it possible for the identification of and the dismantling of privilege and power structures, which often are the outcome, for example, of colonialism and patriarchy. Both systems are interconnected and produce marginalisation, repression, and they currently exist today, which is why Bolivia focuses on the need to work on the process of decolonisation and de-patriarchisation, which must be taken into account when drafting laws on education and state plans and policies, to make progress towards transformation of social structures, whilst recognising the importance for us to respect diversity, justice and equity.

Cameroon thanks the SR for her report focused on the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other forms of extremism which promote racism, xenophobia and intolerance. Cameroon firmly condemns all manifestations of racism, doctrines based on hatred, and welcomes the structured approach adopted in the report, which focusses on persons who are vulnerable of multiple forms of discrimination, in particular women and ethnic and religious minorities. Cameroon calls upon us all to strengthen education in history, in particular for young people, and to use digital platforms and opportunities offered by them. In a spirit, Cameroon encourages international cooperation to combat all forms of racism and to prevent ideologies which promote hatred.

Costa Rica welcomes the SR's report, most notably her intersexual approach proposed from the perspective of racial justice, and restates its commitment to the principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in international human rights law and highlights efforts made to guarantee equitable access to rights for all peoples, namely Afro-descendants, Indigenous and migrant peoples. Costa Rica is organising information workshops on the development of a national strategy for a society free of racism, racial discrimination, whose purpose is to communicate the path to follow after the conclusion of its national policy for a society free of racism, racial discrimination. This has led to the update of the national strategy on a number of the aspects of the general guidelines, management models and policy assessment. Thus, Costa Rica is seeking to ensure that what the state does is cross-cutting as it seeks to combat racism, racial discrimination by promoting the realisation of human rights for all peoples and using a cultural diversity perspective, but also based on equality and gender equality, accessibility and sustainable development to ensure that the Costa Rican society becomes more inclusive and equitable. Costa Rica supports the SR's calls on states to interpret coherently existing international instruments to include the obligation to combat discrimination inter-sectionally.

Cuba has a position of principle condemning all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance. This is evident in its national laws, projects, and commitments. In 1959 with the Cuban revolution the country started to tackle all forms of discrimination, which remains a priority for the Cuban state. Acknowledging there is still work to be done, the Cuban government wants to make effective progress towards eliminating discrimination, most notably through a public policy in place to back this up. The right of equality is enshrined in the Cuban Constitution. Cuba recognises human dignity as a supreme value. The adoption and implementation of the national programme against racism, racial discrimination in



2019 predated a national commission as a body to monitor its implementation, and this is an important milestone in combating the phenomenon. Civil society is increasingly involved in this policy, and this is a strength. Cuba will continue to prioritize the realization of social justice, doing away with all remnants of racism and racial discrimination and other evils in society.

The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** underlines that at the 107th session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the members unanimously called upon the United States to take immediate measures for eradicating its deep-rooted racism, highlighting that racial discrimination in the USA is becoming an institutional phenomenon and that most non-white people are victims of violence and other forms of crimes. More than 30 years have passed since the accession of the United States to the ICERD, but so far no further improvement was made in ensuring the human rights of non-white people at home. The DPRK strongly urges the UNHRC and OHCHR to carry out comprehensive and partial investigation into systematic widespread and gross human rights violations and atrocities against humanity, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and hate crimes in the USA and the Western countries, and hold all those responsible to account for human rights violations and abuses.

Djibouti commends the SR's report focus on intersectionality and its analysis of the international legal framework, including obligations that lies upon states to prevent and combat multiple forms of discrimination. Djibouti further commends the report on combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practises which contribute to fuel contemporary forms of racism racial discrimination xenophobia and related intolerance. Djibouti considers that combating racism in all of its forms is a collective commitment which requires us to constantly question and revise policies and practises which exist to combat discriminatory systems to guarantee genuine equality for all with no distinction. Djibouti calls for the respect of international commitments and urges sustained individual and collective efforts to adopt urgent and specific measures to effectively combat racism and racial discrimination globally.

The **Dominican Republic** pays tribute to the SR's commitment to tackling clearly and firmly the alarming normalisation of hate speech, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the glorification of Nazism. The Dominican Republic welcomes the approach adopted in the report which links the rise of extremism with digital misinformation, vulnerability and the ideological manipulation of young people. The latter are challenges that request coordinating a centralised response on human rights. Fully committed to the DDPA, the Dominican Republic reaffirms that combating racism cannot be boiled down to a regulatory framework. It calls for a political education, transformative education and sustained international cooperation. The Dominican Republic has driven forward programmes to strengthen human rights education, to promote intercultural dialogue and to promote peaceful coexistence, especially amongst young people, as pillars to build a critical citizenship which is empathetic and committed to non-discrimination. However, the country recognises still-existing challenges to be tackled, in particular in the face of hate speech online, which calls for responsible regulation and more proactive international cooperation. The Dominican Republic calls on the UNHRC to continue promoting valuable responses focused on education, historical memory and prevention as a foundation to create societies that are fairer and more inclusive.



Ecuador agrees with the SR that all states should scale up their efforts to effectively enforce laws and policies they have to combat discrimination and ensure that intersectional discrimination is taken into account fully in what the state does. Ecuador recognises the legal value and the transforming nature and the intersectional approach the national constitution embodies, a collective rights regime which recognises cultural diversity, cultural, linguistic and organisational of peoples and nationalities, indigenous peoples and nationalities who are also Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubios. Ecuadorian laws criminalise racial crimes, including physical violence or psychological violence, on the grounds of nationality, ethnic origin, place of birth, age. Ecuador also has an active range of institutions, which includes the Department for the Management and Development of Peoples and Nationalities and the National Council for Equality for Peoples and Nationalities. The intersectional approach also leads Ecuador's action within the human rights multilateral arena. In closing, Ecuador is actively involved in the follow-up mechanism of the DDPA and supports the normative development of law on the rights of persons of African descent.

Eritrea, noting that these conversations year after year often sound the same, denounces racism, discrimination and all forms of intolerance. Eritrea reaffirms its commitments and yet there is very little to show for it. We live in a time when we are witnessing attempts to eliminate entire populations. We live in a time when still today black women across Western countries face a higher risk of dying from childbirth due to medical negligence. We live in a world where people fleeing wars are being treated like second-class citizens in their destination countries. These are the facts. The gaps between declarations and actions are glaring. Many of the processes and programmes the UNHRC is discussing have been ongoing for decades. But communities continue to experience racism not as a theoretical concept, but as a daily lived reality. It is disingenuous to continue speaking in the same tone, often recycling old commitments without accountability, measurable outcomes or centring those most affected. The work that needs to be done is not ambiguous. It has been clearly outlined by all of us, as well as by this body, through numerous UN reports. If we are serious about dismantling systematic racism, we must stop relying on rhetorical performance and start matching words with real actions.

Germany appreciates the report's focus on multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination in the context of racism is a very timely one, and one that often does not receive the warranted attention. Intersectionality is more than just the sum of various forms of discrimination. This is why both Germany's national plan, Action Plan Against Racism, published in 2017, and the LGBTIQ Action Plan adopted in 2022, dedicate specific attention to the intersection of racism and gender-based discrimination. Germany reaffirms its strong commitment to strengthening national and global efforts against racism and racial discrimination, as well as reduce intolerance and anti-Semitism in all its forms and manifestations, individually and inter-sectionally. This is a priority for Germany at national and international level.

Ghana on behalf of the African group reiterates its view that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance occur on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, and that victims can suffer multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination based on other related grounds such as sex, language, religion, political, or other opinion, social origin, property birth, or other status. For this reason, the 60th anniversary of ICERD should be a reminder to the international community for all to renew commitment and demonstrate the much-needed political will to deal with the scourge of racism. The African group supports the



following recommendations to step up effort to effectively implement laws and policies addressing discrimination, and to encourage the UN human rights mechanisms, OHCHR, and other UN entities to provide technical assistance and other relevant forms of support to states develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate multiple approaches to systemic racism and racial discrimination, and take all steps possible within resource constraints to address barriers experienced by persons and groups affected by systemic racism and intersectional discrimination, particularly those from the Global South.

Guatemala is aware that racism and racial discrimination are social phenomena that have political, economic and cultural dimensions, which go beyond the ability of states to act, because they do not recognise boundaries and continue to affect people, especially Indigenous peoples, migrants or persons who are disadvantaged. And this, despite national, regional and global efforts, which highlights the fact that racism, racial discrimination, continue to be a threat to the power of the state to eradicate them. In the light of all of this, to combat racial discrimination, Guatemala states need to demonstrate determination and find new ways to guarantee the right to non-discrimination and equality. Guatemala is made up of multi-ethnic and multicultural peoples, which is why the country recognises that promoting the full participation of multicultural peoples and allowing them to live in peace is fundamental. To achieve this, sustainable development is fundamental as well. Under the administration of President Bernardo Arévalo, Guatemala is prioritising strategies and establishing important partnerships in order to plan and develop national policies aimed at eradicating racism and racial discrimination. The deeper causes of racism in all forms must be tackled, thereby leaving no one behind.

Italy recalls that the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the ICERD, which marked a major step forward in a global fight to eradicate racism. Since Italy's accession to the Convention in 1975, the fight against all forms of discrimination has been an integral part of the country's commitment to protect and promote human rights, also in compliance with the Italian Constitution. In this regard, Italy has accepted many of the recommendations formulated during the fourth UPR cycle concerning contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia, including by adopting the new national plan against racism, xenophobia and intolerance on June 12. The plan, developed with the National Office against Racial Discrimination, focusses on preventing and addressing discrimination and inequalities and on enhancing social cohesion across key areas like work, housing, education, health, security, justice and media. Specific actions have been defined, including training of public officials and awareness campaigns. Italy remains steadfast in the fight against all forms of discrimination, standing for inclusion and respect for every individual.

Jamaica on behalf of CARICOM thanks the SR for highlighting the importance of reparatory justice in addressing systemic racism and intersectional discrimination. CARICOM Heads of government continue to amplify the calls for urgent collective action to secure reparatory justice for their countries, communities and children to whom we wish to bequeath developed nations where the skin colour is of no more significance than the eye colour. States, particularly those who benefited the most from colonialism and enslavement, must invest in comprehensive and structural reparatory justice approaches that account for historical wrongs. In this regard, CARICOM reiterates that the second international decade for people of African descent must be appropriately financed, bring about real and transformative change for people of African descent

with three thematic pillars of recognition, justice and development. Reparations is recognition, reparations is justice, reparations is development.

Jordan reiterates that respect of religious sanctities and symbols is a universal humanitarian value and underpins the respect for the culture for respecting the other and coexistence. The SR's report reflects new patterns of racism and hate speech. The world must be united in the face of these patterns that are spread in communities and in the digital space. We should not only condemn these conducts but also take steps in order to prevent them, hold to account the perpetrators and prevent them through awareness-raising. Jordan rejects and condemns all attacks and incitement of hatred and violence. Jordan reiterates the need to commit to relevant UN resolutions in particular those of the UNGA and the UNHRC. There is a common responsibility to promote the values of respect for the other as well as peaceful coexistence.

Kuwait takes note of the SR's report and the recommendations contained in it as concerns discrimination, racial discrimination and politics of exclusion. Kuwait is committed to combating racial discrimination and hate speech in line with Article 29 of its Constitution and its institutional and legislative framework, in line with Kuwait's international conventions it is a party to. As is mentioned in the report, we are seeing an increase in systemic racial discrimination against the Palestinian people within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and outside this. There is targeting of those who defend their rights and including those who are in solidarity with the Palestinian people are sometimes characterised as propagating hate speech.

Mexico deems it important that the report reminds the UNHRC of the meaning of the concept of intersectionality. The Mexican Constitution and laws such as the federal law to prevent and eliminate discrimination lay down the protected categories against discrimination. Mexico has also a National Council to Prevent Discrimination which is a body tasked with combating discrimination including intersectional discrimination. As far as data gathering is concerned, Mexico has a national survey on discrimination which includes data on intersectional discrimination because persons that are interviewed can indicate all of the reasons on the grounds of which they are discriminated. Mexico recognizes that challenges remain and in order to tackle areas of weakness, it is important to make visible those who historically have been forgotten. As a multicultural country, Mexico has seven indigenous peoples and Afro-Mexicans as well. It is a priority for the state to ensure that public policies have an intercultural perspective recognising and respecting diversity.

Namibia agrees with the SR that Neo-Nazism and related racism, xenophobia and intolerance are complex, multifaceted and perverse. Unfortunately, since commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the ICERD, millions of people around the world continue to suffer from severe forms of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. Racial discrimination is prohibited in Namibia. Specifically, the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Act and article 23 of the Namibian Constitution prohibits all acts and practises of racial discrimination and apartheid. Namibia strongly condemns the racial injustices and racially motivated violence being perpetuated against people of African descent worldwide. To conclude, Namibia takes note of the submissions that the Special Rapporteur received from States and other stakeholders and supports the recommendations reflected in the report.



Nigeria reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of all forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Nigeria is gravely concerned about the growing trend of populism and right-wing extremism evidenced by the spread of racist and xenophobic narratives in many parts of the world. We must continue our global commitment to ensure peaceful, just and inclusive societies in order to achieve sustainable international peace and security. In the interest of peaceful coexistence and global stability, we must continue to counter and discourage racist and xenophobic political narratives and all forms of hate speech and incitement to hatred and violence. These actions present a serious threat to social harmony and our collective well-being. If unchecked, we will continue to fight against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance. In this context, it is essential for states to ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is not misused to justify hate speech or incitement to violence given the harmful impact on peace, development and human rights. To conclude, Nigeria joins the call for member states to demonstrate strong commitment to the international community.

Oman expresses its grave concern at the worrying escalation in racism and xenophobia as shown by the increasing hate speech and extremist ideas. Oman draws the Council's attention to the ongoing situation in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, marked by unprecedented levels of violence against civilians. It is not just a temporary escalation, but a grave deterioration of the system of humanitarian values. Amidst a worrying international silence, Oman reaffirms the importance of tackling any attempts to justify such practises. Oman calls on the international community to shoulder its legal and moral responsibilities. Accountability must be ensured for all violations without exception. Oman reaffirms its support for international efforts in order to build a better and safer future.

Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expresses its deep concern over this persistence in various parts of the world where ethnic and religious minorities continue to face systemic and institutionalised forms of discrimination. While the OIC would have appreciated a greater focus on Islamophobia as a contemporary form of racism and the alarming rise in anti-Muslim hatred in various parts of the world, the report's findings on the use of religion as a compounding factor of discrimination are particularly troubling. The OIC reminds all states of their duties under the international law, including resolutions of the UNHRC, to combat all forms of religious intolerance and Islamophobia. The increasing complexity of these shared challenges requires careful and deft handling. The OIC further reiterates its call for the implementation of DDPA and finalisation of complementary standards to the ICERD. It also stresses that Palestinian women and girls are at heightened risk of grave human rights violations and increased economic and social marginalisation. This persistently takes place in the context of prolonged foreign occupation, marginalisation, exclusion, and policies of collective punishment. The horrific situation in the OPT demonstrates the intersecting impact of religious, racial, and ethnic factors in reinforcing the entrenched patterns of discrimination.

Pakistan remains deeply concerned over increasing manifestations of racism and underline the need to confront it globally. The unabated rise in racial discrimination, Islamophobia, and religious hatred are apprehensible manifestations that germinate from ingrained and systemic racist attitudes. Pakistan has been cautioning the UNHRC regarding the alarming rise in anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobic narrative in India. Emerging as a crucible of hate-laden ideologies and disinformation, the Indian state-sponsored venom against Muslims is no longer



restricted to occupy Kashmir or in India. Notably, this collusion of mainstream media and the state was most visible when those vilifying a visiting foreign minister of a Muslim state were not even put off air, let alone booked under criminal charges. The recent hubris-inspired cross-border attacks against innocent civilians and deliberate targeting of mosques in Pakistan were emblematic of the larger malaise that runs through this hate-filled polity. On the other hand, those who even make a whimper in occupied Jammu and Kashmir against this racist exclusionary policy of the Indian occupation regime are subjected to the most brutal application of arbitrary laws. Pakistan welcomes the SR's views on how politics of hatred and racist ideologies transcend borders, threaten regional stability, and risk the enjoyment of human rights of all those who inhabit the region.

Portugal firmly believes that recognising intersectional forms of discrimination is essential for the effectiveness of public policies that promote equality. The report clearly illustrates how race, gender, ethnic origin, disability or socioeconomic status intersect, deepening inequalities and structural exclusion. Portugal acknowledges that racism remains a persistent and structural reality. In recent years, Portugal has taken significant steps to tackle it, such as the adoption of the first national plan to combat racism and discrimination; the creation of the Observatory for Racism and Xenophobia; the reform of the Commission for Equality and Against Racial Discrimination to make it an independent body; and the launching of the first ever national survey collecting data disaggregated by race and ethnicity. The national plan to combat racism and discrimination was developed through an inclusive process with civil society and includes benchmarks, targets and indicators. Portugal strongly believes that effective anti-racism strategies must be grounded in robust data, continuous evaluation and meaningful community engagement, all of which are vital to achieving more just, inclusive and equitable societies where everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Russia notes with regret that the year celebrating the 80th anniversary of the victory over Nazism, not all states have been able to eradicate the legacy of the Nazi military past. In many countries, which portray themselves as leading democracies and human rights defenders, an anti-humanism ideology of national and racist supremacy has been raised to a state policy shored up by cartel-like legal norms and repressive mechanisms. In certain states, we are seeing a war against memorials to those who fought against Nazism and fascism in the Second World War, as well as calls which are similar to national socialist slogans. Russia supports the SR's call to states to fulfil their international obligations to combat crimes on the grounds of racial hatred and incitements to violence. Russia also shares the SR's recommendation to lift reservations to Article 4 of the ICERD and calls for accountability and criminal prosecution of all such crimes.

Saudi Arabia has made efforts in order to eliminate racial discrimination including the establishment of the Global Centre for Combating Extremist Ideology, whose aim is to promote coexistence and ideological moderation; combat extremist ideology and entrench moderate Islamic principles; and combat extremism, including digitally. Saudi Arabia strongly condemns racial practises against the Palestinian people that amount to religious and racial discrimination. It reiterates that discrimination against the Palestinian people epitomises worst forms of intersectional discrimination that comprises racism and denial of religious and humanitarian rights. Saudi Arabia hopes the SR will give more attention to acts of intimidation against those who call for ending the crimes of the Israeli occupation under the pretext of being hostile against



the racial group as an excuse for not stopping the killing and intimidation of the Palestinian people.

Sierra Leone appreciates the SR's focus on intersectionality, which emphasises that individuals may experience discrimination based on various factors, such as race, gender, disability and poverty. Sierra Leone is continually refining its policies and programmes to ensure they accurately reflect the nation's complexities and foster a more inclusive environment for all. Through its national radical inclusion policy in education, Sierra Leone is helping girls, children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups access equal opportunities. Sierra Leone further shares the SR's concerns about the glorification of Nazism, hate speech and attacks on racial and religious minorities. Sierra Leone condemns all forms of racial and religious hatred and remains committed to promoting peace, tolerance and inclusion. As a post-conflict country, Sierra Leone understands the dangers of identity-based violence and works hard to prevent it through education and community dialogue. Sierra Leone recognises that implementing intersectional approaches and countering hate are ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries. In closing, Sierra Leone calls for stronger international support and cooperation to build necessary institutions and capacity.

South Africa reiterates its view that discrimination, including structural and systemic racism, remain the root causes of poverty, marginalisation, social exclusion, and inequality. Furthermore, South Africa shares the view that intersectionality can be a powerful instrument and framework for addressing systemic racism and intersecting forms of discrimination, oppression, marginalisation, and related human rights violations. For this reason, South Africa supports the following recommendations, namely that states need to ensure that comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, which includes the recognition and prohibition of multiple and intersection forms of discrimination, is in place; and ensure that reparatory justice approaches as a key element of an intersectional approach are grounded in the lived experiences of those who faced systematic racism and racial discrimination. States must seriously consider the inclusion of intersectionality as their response measure to the question of intersectional forms of racism and racial discrimination.

Spain fully agrees on the need to combat discrimination by using an intersectional approach because racism and other forms of intolerance affect concretely racialized women, Afro-descendant women, migrant women. Public policies must be geared towards the concrete needs of these women. Spain considers that true equality means setting in place public policies that are anti-racist and proactive and bring about structural changes as well as to bring about social inclusion and recognition of historically marginalised communities. This is precisely the spirit of the Spanish Law 15-2022 on the Equality of Treatment of Discrimination and the Strategic Framework on Citizenship and Inclusion against Racism and Xenophobia, which focusses especially on the Gipsy or Gitano community and Afro-descendants. In addition to this, in 2020, the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia contributes to this work of monitoring hate speech on social media. Internationally, Spain combats racism and racial discrimination in Xenophobia using effective multilateralism, tackling challenges such as inequality, inequality and disinformation, and anti-sexual discrimination and all forms of racial discrimination. This remains the cornerstone of Spain's actions.



The **State of Palestine** thanks the SR for her unwavering voice of truth on this critical matter. The situation in Gaza is not merely a humanitarian crisis. It is the clearest test yet of a global system supposedly built to prevent atrocity crimes. After more than 20 months of deliberate mass killing, the use of starvation as a weapon of war and the erasure of future generations, one truth is undeniable. Israel is committing genocide. But this is not happening in isolation. Across Palestine, Israel is imposing a system of apartheid, fragmenting, segregating and nominating Palestinians in a project designed to permanently subjugate an entire people. This is due to the complicity of several member states that continue to shield Israel from accountability while daring to preach human rights to others. Their double standards have not only entrenched impunity but corroded the very credibility of international law. Harming both Palestinians and Jewish communities alike. If we are to restore any semblance of justice, the international community must stop evading its responsibility and confront the colonial legacies and racial hierarchies that continue to define who is protected and who is expendable. This system has failed, but it is not too late to act if we choose courage over complicity.

Sweden on behalf of the Nordic-Baltic countries are alarmed by the rise in hate crime around the world. However, they believe that the term ‘combating Nazism’ should not be politicised by states as a pretext for ulterior motives. The Nordic-Baltic countries strongly believe such misuse undermines the genuine fight against this heinous ideology and will reject any use of false narratives in this regard. On racism and intersectionality, the Nordic-Baltic countries agree that discrimination is not a single-axis experience. Often multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination interact, resulting in distinct, unique and compounding experiences of discrimination. Intersectionality is a useful framework for understanding and exposing such multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. However, it is crucial that this framework is applied in a way that safeguards and enhances and does not diminish existing human rights norms. Individual human rights, non-discrimination, equal treatment under the law and freedom of expression were all developed as antidotes to oppression. Respect for these norms remains essential if we are to truly address historical and contemporary inequities and exploitations.

Switzerland shares the SR’s analysis according to which contemporary racism can be seen not only through individual actions based on hatred but also through structural and institutional mechanisms. In Switzerland, racism can be seen at the same time as being interpersonal, institutional and structural. It particularly affects those persons seen as foreign and is often at the intersection of several discriminatory factors such as nationality, skin colour, religion, socioeconomic status and gender. This multiple discrimination has lasting effects on the opportunities the person has for social participation and enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Combatting racism should be rooted in a commitment at all levels of government. This is the case in Switzerland where there are complementary responsibilities of the Confederation, the Cantons and the communes. The adoption in 2024 by the Parliament of a national strategy and an action plan against racism and antisemitism is a major step. The ongoing drafting process aims to coordinate in a much better fashion efforts at all levels of the state to foster synergy between institutions and to guarantee effective, coherent and accessible protections throughout the whole Swiss territory.

Togo agrees on the need for states and international organisations to have an intersectional approach to combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance. As these scourges are taking on diverse



forms today and affect many sectors of social life, Togo endorses the SR's recommendation which calls upon states to tackle systemic racism through drafting and applying global approaches on reparatory justice to right the wrongs of the past, in particular colonialism and slavery. This is why Togo pleads in favour of these atrocities of the past being at the heart of international human rights agendas as a basis to combat intersectional discrimination.

Tunisia reaffirms its commitment to combating all forms of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance pursuant to its Constitution, which enshrines rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as ratified international conventions. With an approach grounded on human rights and the rule of law, Tunisia embraces the values of tolerance and the fight against racism to protect every person within the country. Emphasizing it was the first country to eliminate slavery in 1946, Tunisia firmly condemns Islamophobia and racial attacks against Muslims in many countries. Tunisia further vigorously condemns the barbaric aggression and genocide launched by the occupying power against the Palestinian people in Gaza and in all the OPT. The colonialist system and settlement policies conducted by Israel are racist policies incitation. The latter along with hatred and violence are all acts that Tunisia condemns.

Ukraine stands resolute in its strongest condemnation of all forms of Nazism, neo-Nazism and any practises that fuel contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Despite global progress in combating these evils, we face a grim reality. Russia's war against Ukraine mirrors Nazi atrocities, mass killing of civilians, filtration camps, torture, rape, forced deportations, attacks on hospitals, schools, civilians and their homes. This is racism, a modern reincarnation of Nazism, blending totalitarianism, imperial revanchism and genocidal violence. The decree signed by the Russian President in March 25 aimed at regulating the status of Ukrainians in temporarily occupied territories further exposes Russia's true intentions to erase Ukrainian identity and commit acts resembling genocide. Recently, the occupying regime banned the study of the Ukrainian language in schools, a brutal attempt to enforce russification, silence cultural expression and crush the spirit of nation. These actions are not isolated, they are part of systematic campaign of cultural erasure and terror. The fight against discrimination, xenophobia and hatred must be stronger than ever. Russia's crimes are not just an attack on Ukraine, they are an assault on the values of humanity, justice and dignity.

Uruguay restates that it firmly condemns racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance, which do not just deny human dignity, but also threaten social cohesion and undermine core principles of international law. Uruguay also emphasises the importance of adopting an intersectional approach as a tool to bring about change and tackle the multiple layers of discrimination that historically marginalised groups face. Uruguay shares the importance of guaranteeing effective access to justice and recognises the need to strengthen regulations to prevent hate speech and undermine freedom of expression. A constant commitment to defending human rights is key, as well as joining forces and voices to promote equality, inclusion and dignity for all. This is the path forward to fairer and more inclusive societies.

Venezuela on behalf of the Like-Minded Group (LMG) restates its commitment to combating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance. The LMG believes it is imperative to address the historical inequalities and the persistent negative effects



of colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade that continue to affect millions of people. The LMG is concerned at the resurgence of hate speech, racial stereotyping, and systemic discrimination against Afro-descendants, Muslims, and all other marginalised communities and foreign occupation. The LMG views with great concern the mass deportations, pushbacks, mass deportations, and the violence which disproportionately affects people from the Global South, often driven by racial stereotypes and normalised by political speech and the communication media. These are trends which deepen inequalities, but it also erodes the international pillars of human rights protection. The fight against racism cannot be used as a pretext to exercise undue pressure or interference. There must be political will, ethical consistence, and global commitment to justice and accountability for all if we want to do away with racism.

Venezuela once again condemns the hateful, unfair criminalisation of Venezuelan migration which reminds us of the darkest pages of the history of humanity from slavery to the horrors of Nazi concentration camps. 109 days have passed since the forced transfer of 252 Venezuelan migrants from the United States to a prison in El Salvador. They were cruelly, inhumanly, degradingly treated without due process, without the right to a legitimate defence. Venezuela has received no informational information by the authorities of these countries. 18 Venezuelan children were forcibly, arbitrarily separated from their parents in the United States and now 18 mothers are crying for their children aged between one and nine. Venezuela roundly rejects the criminalisation of migration and will always request the immediate, unconditional freedom for the 252 Venezuelan migrants who have been illegally separated from their parents and held in the United States.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Entities

The **Council of Europe** has long been active in combating xenophobia and intolerance. Data shows that there has been a reported rise in racially motivated hate crimes in Europe. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the standard-setting work through the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the monitoring activities of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. Some positive developments among Member States in combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other totalitarian regimes as well as related crimes are being observed in its recent reports. The Council of Europe is concerned about the normalisation of far-right extremism within mainstream politics, combined with reduced content moderation on online platforms and algorithms that amplify harmful content. Extremist groups have a digital presence which spreads their ideologies globally, including through AI. The Council of Europe has adopted three recommendations on hate speech, hate crime and intercultural integration that provide comprehensive guidance on how to build inclusive societies. Continuous and renewed efforts must be done in order to tackle these kinds of attacks to democracy and its values in our societies.

The **European Union** is deeply worried about the reported increase in racially motivated hate crimes. The EU combats racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to a robust legal and policy framework. Central to this is the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, which aims to build a union of equality by addressing structural racism and promoting inclusive societies. An intersectional approach is key to understand and respond to the multiple and complex forms of racism. The EU Anti-Racism Action Plan explicitly pursues an intersectional approach that pays



attention to the combination of different grounds of discrimination to deepen the understanding of structural racism and to ensure that responses are more effective. It supports member states in developing national anti-racism action plans, encourages systematic collection of equality data and supports civil society initiatives. The European Commission has committed to a new, strengthened anti-racism strategy beyond 2025 to ensure sustained progress.

UNFPA jointly with UNICEF and UN Women welcome the report and commend the SR's intersectional approach to dismantling racism and multiple forms of discrimination. While significant progress has been achieved through normative frameworks and institutional reforms, systemic barriers remain deeply entrenched and pervasive. It is of utmost importance to address these barriers as women and children continue to be disproportionately affected. They face restrictions on their rights and opportunities across all spheres of life, including access to education, health and meaningful participation in decision-making processes. Of particular concern are the constraints on access to quality health services that women and girls need, which perpetuate inequalities and diminish their well-being and autonomy. UNFPA's State of the World Population Report last year found that women and girls belonging to ethnic, racial or indigenous minority groups are significantly more likely to die from preventable maternal mortality causes due to lack of access to timely health care as well as multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination fuelled by racism. The three UN entities stand ready to support states in upholding their obligation to prevent, address and remedy systemic racism and intersectional discrimination, advice in racial justice and gender equality.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

The **World Jewish Congress** notes with deep concern that anti-Semitism has surged alarmingly since October 7th, 2023, manifesting in increasingly visible and violent ways across many societies. Synagogues have been attacked, Jewish children are not longer safe in Jewish schools. Hatred against members of Jewish communities is too often excused as a political expression. It is not. It is vile anti-Semitism. The Congress has consistently brought this to the Council's attention in the hope of galvanising meaningful and unified action. Anti-Semitism is not activism. It is hatred, pure and simple. It threatens Jewish communities and undermines the foundations of democracy and human rights. Any attempt to suggest that the atrocities of October 7 require context must be rejected. There is no context, none whatsoever, that excuses the massacre of civilians that has been done to women and children or the execution of youth at a music festival. These were acts of terror. Framing them otherwise betrays the UNHRC's moral responsibility and purpose. The safety and dignity of Jewish communities is not negotiable. They must be defended through the uncompromising prosecution of hate crimes, the credible rejection of all forms of anti-Semitism, and a firm stance against those who glorify anti-Jewish violence.

The **International Dalit Solidarity Network** thanks the SR for highlighting the tripartite marginalisation of caste, gender, and poverty in South Asia. Intersectional discrimination, especially where caste and gender overlaps, remains widespread. Factors like economic status, disability, religion, and sexual orientation further deepen exclusion, limiting access to rights and opportunities. An intersectional approach is essential to address systemic caste-based discrimination. However, the Network is concerned that both the UN and the caste-affected states are not giving this issue the attention it demands. The Network urges states to consult



diverse Dalit women in empowerment efforts, collect disaggregated data by caste, gender, religion, disability, and sexual orientation, and strengthen the justice system to prevent and respond to caste- and gender-based discrimination and violence.

Partners for Transparency expresses its deep concern about the alarming rise of racist and neo-Nazi movements, which pose a direct threat to peace and social cohesion in many countries, particularly Western ones. Recent trends indicate that the Internet and social media platforms are becoming central tools for spreading racist propaganda and hate speech. Facebook announced that it removes approximately 66,000 hateful posts per week. Furthermore, recent years have witnessed the increasing penetration of racist ideas into official political discourse, with political leaders in Sweden and the US calling for exclusionary policies against refugees and migrants, practises that fuel institutional discrimination. Neo-Nazi groups have also become more organised and bolder, particularly in the US, where the public marches have been held, featuring Nazi symbols and racist slogans, a clear indication of the rise of this extremist movement. In conclusion, Partners Foundation calls upon the Western states to take firm measures to prohibit glorification of Nazism and criminalise racist propaganda online.

Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA) stresses that racism and related intolerance fuel conflicts worldwide with devastating humanitarian impacts. In Sudan, violence driven by extremist groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, has displaced over 13 million people and caused widespread famine. On May 22, the US State Department reported Sudan's use of chemical weapons, violating the Chemical Weapons Convention. OIPMA calls on Sudan to cease all chemical weapons and use comply with international obligations. It urges the UNHRC to support accountability through OPCW investigations and the ICC, while advancing peace initiatives to end Sudan's suffering. Aligned with the UN's mission to protect future generations from war, OIPMA proposes an International Decade of Tolerance from 2025 to 2035. This initiative seeks to eradicate intolerance, hatred, and extremism, foster peace, and promote empathy, education, inclusion, and intercultural dialogue, especially in LDCs. Tolerance must become a daily practise across policies, education, and communities. Only sustained collective action can build a future of peace, dignity, and respect.

The **Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI)** refers to the SR's country visit report on Brazil which exposes the long persistent racism against Indigenous people, which has an impact on all indigenous people there. After their historic victory in the Supreme Court in 2023, Indigenous rights have been violated by Congress through Law 14701. There is now a conciliation tribunal created by the Supreme Court, and also, that has frustrated their rights, their companies are putting pressure to carry out mining. The state has a duty to map out Indigenous land. During her visit to Brazil, the SR condemned acts of violence against the Guarani-Kaiowá people as a manifestation of structural racism. Following the SR's visit, there were new attacks against these peoples in other Indigenous territories in Brazil, with the participation of individual and state actors. These atrocities have received the support of economic and political sectors that are local because there is a lack of mapping out of traditional territories, and constitutional rights are not respected. Brazil will be hosting COP30, but the environmental racism of Brazil has left an indelible mark. CIMI urges the Brazilian government to fully, and in good faith, implement the recommendations of the free world.



The **Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos** notes that the Brazilian government recognises that racism is systemic and has established important programmes and enacted legislation to prevent and address racial discrimination. However, the justice system remains selective, and public security follows a rather primitive approach, perpetuating systemic racism. This issue, along with the country's unhealthy history of slavery, has turned poor neighbourhoods into places of violence and control. In these areas, racialized sectors face many barriers to social mobility and are often exposed to police brutality because of the strengthened inequality. Prisons are used as a nefarious replacement for public policies and communities that do not receive basic social services. For many, the state is only present through police and prisons. Brazil often spends incarceration while investing in essential services such as education, health, and housing are reduced. It is urgent that Brazil creates public services and justice policies that work together, cause different forms of intersectional discrimination and focus on alternatives to freedom.

Minority Rights Group (MRG) commends the SR for recognising intersectionality systemic and natural of the racism in Brazil. MRG echoes the urgency of addressing the visibility and the dual discrimination faced by black people with disabilities in Brazil. MRG is deeply concerned that systemic racism enables and continues to produce and perpetuate disability truths, state violence, medical negligence, environmental injustice, and institutional exclusion. MRG urges the UNHRC to call on the Brazilian government to recognise the production of disability truth, racialized state violence, including policy brutality, and obstructive violence. Qualitative and quantitative data of the black people with disabilities ensure reproductive justice and prevent forced sterilisation of African-descended people with disabilities, guarantee accessible inclusive education for children, black children with disabilities, strengthen policies that promote independent living and individualisation practises. Without the urgent action, black people with disabilities in Brazil will remain at the margins in anti-racist and disability agendas.

The **Human Rights and Democratic Participation Center 'SHAMS'** expresses its deep concern over Israel's persistent and systematic racial discrimination and apartheid policies against the Palestinian people in clear violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the ICERD. For decades, Palestinians have been subjected to a system of apartheid, segregation and racial discrimination manifested in discriminatory laws, policies and practises that permeate every aspect of daily life. This includes the illegal construction and expansion of settlements, the forced displacement of Palestinian communities, restrictions on movement, arbitrary arrests, home demolitions and the denial of basic rights solely based on national and ethnic identity. The dual legal system enforced in the occupied Palestinian territory, whereby Israeli settlers enjoy full rights under Israeli civil law, while Palestinians are subjected to harsh military rule, is a stark embodiment of racial discrimination. SHAMS urges the SR to address the entrenched system of racial discrimination imposed on Palestinians and call on the international community to uphold its legal obligations. Immediate protection, equal rights and accountability for Israel's apartheid and discriminatory policies are urgently needed.

Christian Solidarity International states that nearly 22 months have lapsed since Azerbaijan expelled 120,000 ethnic Armenians from their homeland in Nagorno-Karabakh during September 2023. It has been 20 months since the ICJ ordered Azerbaijan, in accordance with its obligations under the ICERD, to ensure that persons who have left Nagorno-Karabakh after 19 September

2023 and who wish to return to Nagorno-Karabakh are able to do so in a safe, unimpeded and expeditious manner. The ICJ also ordered Azerbaijan to protect and preserve registration, identity and private property documents and records of the Armenians who fled Nagorno-Karabakh. Not only has the government of Azerbaijan failed to uphold this order, it is actively destroying Armenian-owned homes, property and entire villages, making it impossible in many cases for this order to be carried out. Given this flagrant disregard for international law and the ICERD, Christian Solidarity International once again urges the UNHRC to appoint a Special Rapporteur for Nagorno-Karabakh and to take all necessary steps to ensure that the ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh can return home.

Indian Council of South America (CISA) recalls that UNGA Resolutions 644 and 1328 in the decolonisation process called for the elimination of all racial discrimination law and policy. The intersectionality that the SR brings up must be addressed internationally for Indigenous peoples who are recognised under the UN Charter or international treaties. Indigenous peoples have been characterised as peoples over whom the superior genius of the European civilisation expresses its authority over them as in the racist ideology of the Supreme Court of the United States. When looking at more intersectionality in history, the Nazi movement was inspired by the racist ideology of the KKK as members of the Ku Klux Klan raced in the 1920s and marched in Washington D.C.. It was also inspired by the Union of South Africa Citizens who drew apartheid as one of their main acts.

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