



Racism and Racial Discrimination

UN Entities

- **United Nations – Fight Racism:** <https://www.un.org/en/fight-racism>
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: OHCHR and Racism <https://www.ohchr.org/en/racism>
 - Racism, discrimination are legacies of colonialism (17 October 2023): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/stories/racism-discrimination-are-legacies-colonialism>
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cerd>
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-racism>
- Ad-hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiidiaries/adhoc-committee-on-complementary-standards-to-icerd>
- Group of Independent Eminent Experts on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiidiaries/iwg-on-durban>
- Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action <https://www.ohchr.org/en/chr-subsiidiaries/group-of-experts-on-ddpa>
- Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiidiaries/expert-mechanism-racial-justice-law-enforcement>
- Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-african-descent>
- Permanent Forum on People of African Descent <https://www.ohchr.org/en/permanent-forum-people-african-descent>
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Fight Against Racism & Discrimination <https://www.unesco.org/en/no-racism-no-discrimination>

Treaties, Declarations and UN Documents

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial>
 - Background information in the Audiovisual Library of International Law: <https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/cerd/cerd.html>
https://legal.un.org/avl/ls/Sicilianos_HR.html
- Report of the Durban Review Conference: <https://docs.un.org/A/CONF.211/8>
- Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (World Conference against Racism, 2001): <https://docs.un.org/A/CONF.189/12>

Databases

- Anti-discrimination database - OHCHR's Database on practical means to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
<https://adsdatabase.ohchr.org/SitePages/Anti-discrimination%20database.aspx>

UN Conferences and Observances

- 21 March - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day>
- 20 July - International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent
- 31 August - International Day for People of African Descent: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/african-descent-day>
- 2025–2034: Second International Decade for People of African Descent
- 2015–2024: International Decade for People of African Descent: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/decade-people-african-descent>
- 2011 - International Year for People of African Descent: <https://www.un.org/en/events/iypad2011/>
- Stand up for human rights: Fight racism: <https://www.standup4humanrights.org/>
- Global Forum against Racism and Discrimination 2022: <https://www.unesco.org/en/forum-against-racism-discrimination>
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: 50 years of fighting racism (Celebration Event - 26 November 2015): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cerd/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial-discrimination-50-years-fighting-racism>
- 10th Anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – General Assembly High-Level Meeting, 22 September 2011: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/>
- Durban Review Conference, Geneva, 20 – 24 April 2009: <https://www.un.org/en/durbanreview2009/>
- World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Durban (2001): <https://www.un.org/WCAR/>
- United Nations - Key conference outcomes on racism: <https://www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/racism.shtml>

Further information

- UN News Centre on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: <https://news.un.org/en/tags/elimination-racial-discrimination>
 - Citing 'weight of history', senior UN officials of African descent issue call to 'go beyond and do more' to end racism (14 June 2020): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/06/1066242>
- UN News Centre on Hate Speech: <https://news.un.org/en/tags/hate-speech>
- United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech: <https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech/un-strategy-and-plan-of-action-on-hate-speech>
- UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Combat Misinformation - Selected Online Resources on Misinformation, Disinformation and Hate Speech: <https://unric.org/en/unric-library-backgrounder-combat-misinformation/>

Selected Statements and Speeches of the Secretary-General

- Stressing 'poison of racism' persists worldwide, Secretary-General Observance Message urges action to make International Convention to eliminate scourge a reality (SG/SM/22581, 12 March 2025): <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sghsm22581.doc.htm>

- Let us commit to building world of dignity, justice, equal opportunity, stresses Secretary-General, in Message marking Day for Eliminating Racial Discrimination (SG/SM/22165, 18 March 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22165.doc.htm>
- On International Day, Secretary-General calls racism 'one of the most destructive forces dividing societies', urges everyone to take action against scourge (21 March 2023, SG/SM/21734): <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sqsm21734.doc.htm>
- Marking International Day on Eliminating Racial Discrimination, Secretary-General urges General Assembly to turn Universal Declaration into reality for all people (SG/SM/21735, 21 March 2023): <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sqsm21735.doc.htm>
- Shared values of human rights, religious freedom, solidarity 'a road map' to combat racism, Secretary-General tells Appeal of Conscience (SG/SM/21465, 20 September 2022): <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21465.doc.htm>
- International Day for Eliminating Racial Discrimination 'an urgent call to action' towards united world free of hate, Secretary-General tells General Assembly (SG/SM/21189, 18 March 2022): <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21189.doc.htm>
- Building just future requires mending unjust past, Secretary-General says in Message to mark Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination (SG/SM/21186, 17 March 2022): <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21186.doc.htm>
- Secretary-General, on Day to Remember Slavery Victims, stresses crucial need for resistance stories in understanding past, as blight of racism persists (SG/SM/21180, 14 March 2022): <https://press.un.org/en/2022/sqsm21180.doc.htm>

Selection of Publications available online

- Fighting against Racism and Discrimination: A UNESCO Toolkit (12 January 2024): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000387454>
- Toolkit: Ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (13 September 2023): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/toolkit-ratifying-international-convention-elimination-all-forms>
- Guidance on Racism and Xenophobia: How UNHCR can address and respond to situations of racism and xenophobia affecting persons under its mandate (February 2023): <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98475>
- Building a UNESCO Roadmap against Racism and Discrimination (2023): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000386532>
- Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities in the COVID-19 Crisis (OHCHR, 29 April 2020): https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/UN_Network_Racial_Discrimination_Minorities_COVID.pdf
- Colour? What colour? Report on the fight against discrimination and racism in football (UNESCO, February 2016): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002357/235721e.pdf>
- Developing National Action Plans against Racial Discrimination: a practical guide (OHCHR, 2013): <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-13-03.pdf>
- Selected Decisions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Volume 1: Thirty-sixth to seventy-fifth sessions (August 1988 – August 2011) <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/CERDSelectedDecisionsVolume1.pdf>
- Dimensions of Racism: Proceedings of a Workshop to commemorate the end of the United Nations Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (2005): <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/DimensionsRacism.pdf>
- United to Combat Racism: Equality, Justice, Dignity (2001): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001233/123354e.pdf>
- The Struggle Against Discrimination: A Collection of International Instruments adopted by the United Nations System (1996): <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001060/106049e.pdf>

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<https://unric.org/en/unric-library-background-er-racism/>