

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

21 March, 2018



Contact : socialmediapartnerships@ohchr.org - Tel: +4934197411440
<http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/>

What is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination?

Observed annually on 21 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an opportunity to renew our commitment to building a world of justice, equality and dignity, where racial discrimination has no place. The Day was established by the UN General Assembly, commemorating the 1960 massacre by police of 69 people at a peaceful anti-apartheid demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa.

2018 celebration

This year celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is especially momentous as it coincides with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (adopted by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948) and the centenary of the great anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela birth.

UN resources to fight racism

The United Nations have initiated various bodies and instruments in order to fight racism including the below:

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) monitors the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (adopted in 1965 and now nearing universal ratification).
2. UN Special Rapporteurs are independent human rights experts focusing on human rights from a thematic (or country-specific) perspective, including:
 - a. the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
 - b. the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
 - c. the Special Rapporteur on the rights of minority issues
 - d. the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples
3. How individuals can submit complaints or information:
 - a. Individual complaints to Human Rights Treaty Bodies
 - including complaints procedure to CERD
 - b. Information submission to Special Procedures
 - including communications to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
4. Human rights training programmes:
 - a. The Indigenous fellowship programme
 - b. The Minorities fellowship programme
 - c. The Fellowship programme for People of African Descent
5. The OHCHR Funds and Grants:
 - a. The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, which provides travel grants to facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous communities and organisations in United Nations meetings relating to indigenous issues

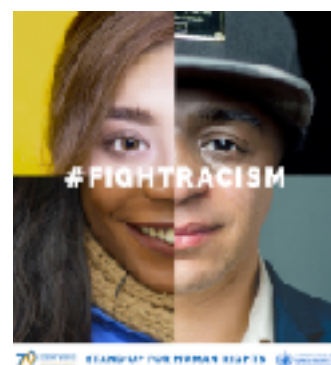
6. The country review procedures :
 - a. Country visit reports of the special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
 - b. Country visit reports of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
 - c. Country visit reports of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - d. Country visit reports of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of minority issues

How can you support ?

Today, the UN Human Rights Office is asking people around the world to stand up for someone's rights and fight racism. Wherever we are, we can make a difference. It starts with each one of us.

We would like to share with you, below, social media assets you may want to use to mark this important Day. We encourage you to raise your voice on social media to #FightRacism and to support us in making anti-discrimination a viral cause worldwide. Here is how you can support:

- Show why this cause is important to you by sharing your own story with "*I #FightRacism because...*"
- Share one of the UN Human Rights #FightRacism campaign visuals ([Link](#)) and/or link to the official UN [#FightRacism page](#)



- Share our educational videos about :
 1. The history of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination narrated by Ian Berry, the Magnum photojournalist who witnessed the the Sharpeville massacre ([Link](#))
 2. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume, on how to use international Human Rights mechanisms to claim your rights when governments don't do enough to fight racism ([Link](#))
 3. Inspiring calls to action by our UN anti racism champions Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, and Kevin-Prince Boateng, Professional Football player
- [Record yourself](#) reading the articles about anti-racism in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and post the video on your social media

- [Tell us](#) how you #FightRacism on our [Stand Up 4 Human Rights](#) website and see other ways you can [take action](#)
- Monitor the progress of your country when it comes to fighting racism and share country-specific insights (see the country review procedures in the [UN resources](#) chapter).
- Tag the official UN Human Rights Office social media accounts so we may be able to share your stories:
 - @unitednationshumanrights on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
 - @unhumanrights on [Twitter](#)
 - Official hashtags: #FightRacism and #StandUp4HumanRights

Thank you for your commitment,

The Social Media Team at the United Nations Human Rights Office.

ABOUT OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a part of the United Nations Secretariat, has been given a unique mandate to promote and protect all human rights. Headquartered in Geneva, the Office is also present in some 40 countries. Headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position established by the General Assembly in 1993 to spearhead the United Nations' human rights efforts, OHCHR takes action based on the unique mandate given it by the international community to guard and advocate for international human rights law. For more information please visit www.ohchr.org