

# UNHRC POSITION PAPER

## Combatting Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related tolerance.

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Canada

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### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The following report is yielded to United Nations Human Rights Council because of the utter need of voiding Racism, Xenophobia, Racial discrimination and all the tolerance regarding the implementation of the programme.

### **Some Important Terms**

2. Racism - **Racism** is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another. It may also mean prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.
3. Xenophobia- Xenophobia can pertain to many things, with the basic meaning being a fear or dislike of something that is different or unknown to a person. The ideas of xenophobia have become so deeply ingrained in many people's minds, making it a challenge to completely eliminate these harmful doctrines.
4. Racial discrimination- Discrimination based on skin color is closely related to racial discrimination, as skin color is often used as a proxy for race in everyday interactions, and is one factor used by legal systems that apply detailed criteria.

### **Action plan against Racism**

A society free from racism. More than a matter of principle, this is Canada's vision. It brings together people of all backgrounds—ethnic, racial, and religious—to build a society where one's heritage is a source of pride and inspiration.

5. Section 15 of Canada states that every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination.
6. Moreover, Section 35 recognizes and affirms the historical and treaty rights of Aboriginal peoples.
7. The UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Discrimination praised Canadians for embracing diversity and for having strong mechanisms to protect citizens from discrimination.
8. By embracing this action plan, Canadians move closer to realizing a shared vision for a truly inclusive society—a Canada for all. It is a society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect, where there is a helping hand when needed, and where no one is left behind.

***“No human race is superior while no religious faith is inferior, all collective judgements are wrong to which only racists stick along.”***

## **Racism and Xenophobia faced by People**

9. In Europe today, many immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees face very difficult situations and see their basic rights and dignity violated every day. Refugees and asylum-seekers have often been forced to leave their homes, countries and families to save themselves from war, persecution or a complete lack of security.
10. Asylum-seekers and refugees form a particularly vulnerable target group, whose status is defined and protected by the Geneva Refugee Convention of 1951. Most European countries now have legislation that allows them to be detained at airports and border police stations, often without any consideration of their rights.

## **RACISM IN EDUCATION**

11. The EUMC/FRA has indicated in its studies that areas where immigrant or minority children are being let down include enrolment assessment, the choice or allocation of schools, drop-out or expulsion rates, academic performance and results, limited careers options, and progression to higher education.
  12. I) Financial and human resources, by allocating adequate resources and training in order to fulfil the urgent demands of a multicultural environment.
  - ii) Preventing segregation and to promoting intercultural education when defining public policies on education.

## **CONCLUSION**

11. In recent years, racism, xenophobia and intolerance have resurfaced in Canada and other countries, and have led to a series of violent incidents. The causes of these phenomena are complex and their manifestations vary from country to country. It appears that at national level, these trends are underestimated and that justice is not always done, or at least not always seen to be done. People have expressed their determination to safeguard fundamental rights, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all. The reports show that in the period from 1997 to 2007 progress has been made across the EU, but also that much remains to be done in combating and preventing racist violence and discrimination in all fields of life.

12. Racial understandings are shaped by social experience, political history, and cultural tradition - in addition to the more typically examined economic factors - and each of these inevitably vary across national boundaries. Yet in a broader and more meaningful sense, the new racism has been important to the winning of popular support for a much wider agenda of social and economic conservatism. This wider agenda has less to do with the expression of particularistic racist attitudes than with the articulation of conservative assumptions regarding who is deserving and who is undeserving.