

Country: Germany
Committee: UNHRC
Topic: Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance
Delegate: Kriti Gupta



❖ PAST

There are many incidents where unwanted, harmful and toxic events took place in German history because of people's racist and xenophobic ideology. Several instances like the Herero and Namaque genocide in colonial time where white Germans were afraid that these black tribes could lead to miscegenation and believed that it would "taint" the purity of German blood. So, multiracial children were sterilised and taken away from their mothers and the other survivors were sent into concentration camps.

This genocide was followed by a peak in racism during the Nazi regime which eventually led to a state-sponsored murder known as The Holocaust. Where in Jews, Gypsies and the blacks were brutally tortured and killed in order to prevent them from mixing into the "Pure German blood" and making it impure.

These are a few famous yet gruesome events which have directly-indirectly lead to racism and xenophobia that exists in Germany even today.

❖ PRESENT

Despite lots of expressions of goodwill by many German citizen, racism in Germany is still alive. For example, there is an active Neo-Nazi scene. Their less openly violent representatives organise themselves in several right-wing parties.

Islamophobia is also on rise in Germany and many Germans associate Islam with fundamentalism and religiously motivated violence, and plans by Islamic associations to erect proper mosques in some major German cities. In Cologne, these discussions were exploited by a right-wing populist initiative.

Talking about sexism, which is a great issue in Germany even though they have 2 million more women compared to men. German women have said they face sexism almost everyday. If they are working they will be constantly nagged about not being a good mother and leaving their child behind. Also if the employer has a choice between a woman and man both of same age and same qualifications, they will most probably choose the male candidate.

❖ AFFECTS

Many are afraid to visit Germany as tourist because they fear they might be a victim of racism, xenophobia and even sexism and this has impacted the tourism industry in Germany which ultimately leads to downfall in overall economy of the country and even international reputation of the country.

❖ STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN

Racism, xenophobia, sexism and other social evils are stains that are difficult to remove from any society. Yet, if everyone has the will to remove them, then with the help of proper laws and a strong will anything is possible. Here are some of the ways the following can be done:-

- Awareness: Firstly we need to make people understand of what wrong they are doing and letting others around them do, that is making a certain section of society feel alienated. Awareness can be in the form of television reports, newspaper, advertisements and parents can even educate their children about this issue. Making people aware means telling them what exactly their mindset should be and what they should be saying if they see someone in a condition where she/he is being discriminated.

- Governmental pressure: Government of any country is powerful enough to influence people, if the leader on his own is liberal minded then he can easily influence people and engrave a peace and equality loving mindset in them.
- Specification of related laws: One main reason why racism and such intolerances exist is because the law is either not specified in the constitution or the implementation is not strict enough. The implementation of these laws should be so strict that people fear before breaking them.
- Laws that can be introduced: Laws that include high amount of fine or a week in prison for violating someone's basic human right that is dignity can also be introduced.

As I reach the end of my position paper, I'd like to say that someone's gender identity, race, religion, looks, language should never be the reason for them to be discriminated, because everyone is unique in their own way and ultimately we all are humans, each with dignity that shall be maintained.