

Newsletter of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

No. 3 – November 2018

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to share with you my third newsletter, which coincides with the completion of my first full year as Special Rapporteur. It has been a busy and exciting period, and my aim with this communication is to provide you with detailed information regarding my activities. If you do not make it through the entire list of activities, I especially encourage you to at least take a look at my first two thematic reports:

- thematic report on **racial discrimination in the context of citizenship, nationality and immigration status** ([A/HRC/38/52](#), [press release](#)); and
- thematic report on **the threat that the recent surge in nationalist populism poses to the enjoyment of racial equality** ([A/73/305](#), [press release](#))

I also encourage you to review the call for submissions for my next report on **natural resource extractivism and racial equality issues**, which is available [here](#).

With warmest regards,

Tendayi Achiume

UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

*If you would like to be included on or removed from this mailing list, please let us know through a reply to this e-mail.

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Recent Mandate Activities

38th Session of the Human Rights Council

In July, I attended and participated in several events during the 38th session of the Human Rights Council.

During an interactive dialogue with the Human Rights Council, I presented two reports. The first was my thematic report on racial discrimination in the context of citizenship, nationality and immigration status ([A/HRC/38/52](#), [press release](#)). The second report applies a human rights and racial equality approach to shifts in ideologies and support for Nazism and neo-Nazism and their glorification ([A/HRC/38/53](#)).

A video recording of the interactive dialogue is available on [UN Web TV](#). My prepared remarks are available on [Human Rights Council extranet](#).

While attending the 38th Human Rights Council session, I held an informal civil society consultation, entitled “Building an international human rights anti-racism agenda in the shadow of populist nationalism”. I also took part in two official side events. The first side event discussed the Draft Declaration on the Promotion and Full Respect of Human Rights of People of African Descent ([description here](#)). The second side event focused on “Challenging contemporary forms of racism, including laws, policies, practices and narratives against migrants and others associated with migration”.

73rd Session of the General Assembly

In October, I participated in the 73rd session of the General Assembly in New York. While there, I presented two reports to the Third Committee of the General Assembly ([video here](#)). The first report discusses the threat that the recent surge in nationalist populism poses to the enjoyment of racial equality ([A/73/305](#), [press release](#)). The second report discusses the role of digital technologies play in promoting and combatting the glorification of Nazi, neo-Nazi and extremist groups’ ideologies ([A/73/312](#), [press release](#)).

In the margins of the General Assembly session, I convened two events. In the first event, I convened an informal consultation with racial-equality focused youth organization grantees of the Ford Foundation. In the second event, I moderated a discussion with several experts on the threats of ascendant nationalist populist ideologies.

While at the 73rd session of the General Assembly, I was able to participate in several other events. I joined a meeting of [the Group of Friends on the Elimination of Racism](#). As a panelist, I spoke at an official side event that aimed to raise awareness and galvanize support for Declaration on the Promotion and Full Respect of Human Rights of People of African Descent. I participated in an event series on Special Rapporteurs at the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights. I was also able to participate in a discussion on racial equality with members of the World Council of Churches.

Other Recent Activities

- On 25 and 26 June, I participated in “Citizenship stripping as a security measure”, an expert roundtable in The Hague. This event, which was organized by the Asser Institute, the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion, Open Society Foundations and Ashurst, brought together international experts in the fields of human rights, nationality laws, counter-terrorism and racial equality.
- In July, I delivered a keynote address on racial equality and migration governance, entitled “Refugees, Intolerance and Racism: Contemporary Reflections”, at the Refugee Law Initiative’s [Annual Conference](#). A podcast of this keynote is available [here](#).

- In August, I delivered a keynote address at the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies's annual conference. My speech emphasized the urgency with which advocates, government agencies, and other actors must advance civil and human rights agendas.
- In September, I participated as a speaker at the [Southern Perspectives on Migration Conference](#) in Johannesburg. My speech focused on the role of international organizations and priorities for Africa in 2019.
- In October, UNA-UK interviewed me. The interview resulted in a short piece, "Taking Forward the UN's Fight Against Racism", available on the [UNA-UK magazine website](#).
- I recently completed an article that addresses the marginalization of racial equality in the global human rights agenda. The article, entitled "Putting Racial Equality onto the Global Human Rights Agenda", will be part of Sur – International Journal on Human Rights' [forthcoming Special Issue on race and human rights](#).

Forthcoming Mandate Activities

Country Visit and Call for Submissions

At the invitation of the Government, I will conduct a country visit to the Kingdom of Morocco from 13-21 December 2018. During the visit, I will examine the different manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the country. As part of the visit, I will meet with government actors, civil society and other key stakeholders. These meetings will address challenges, identify promising practices and develop concrete recommendations to combat these manifestations.

I will present my preliminary observations on the visit at a press conference on **21 December 2018**. I will present a final report containing my findings and conclusions to the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2019.

In preparation of the country visit, I invite all interested stakeholders to submit relevant information and share their views. Please send submissions to racism@ohchr.org. The final day for submissions is **30 November 2018**. Background information on the visit and guidelines for submissions can be found [here](#).

Information on my mandate's requests for country visits are available [here](#). I encourage stakeholders to advocate nationally for these visit requests to be accepted. I also welcome suggestions on country visits my mandate should request.

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Because migration governance affects racial equality worldwide, my mandate has contributed to the development of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. For example, I participated in the fourth informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing (February 2018); participated in side events and informal meetings held in the margins of the fifth round of negotiations (June 2018); and published an [open letter](#) to Member States advocating for the inclusion of international human rights law and principles regarding racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (June 2018).

I intend to continue advocating for racial equality within the Global Compact and its implementation. In December, I will attend and speak at the [Intergovernmental Conference](#) to adopt the Global Compact. I also intend to participate as a panelist in Intergovernmental Conference side events.

Other Events

In November, I participated in various events organized in the framework of [Geneva Human Rights Week](#). On 13 November, I spoke on a panel, entitled “Being a Human Rights Defender in 2018”. I also took part in an academic colloquium at the University of Geneva on human rights and cyberspace. As part of the colloquium, I convened a workshop on “Human Rights, Racial Equality, and New Information Technologies: Mapping the Structural Threat”.

Upcoming Thematic Reports: Call for Submissions

Natural Resource Extraction and Racial Discrimination and Inequality

My third thematic report will examine racial inequality and racial discrimination in the context of natural resource extractivism. I will present this report at the forty-first session of the UN Human rights Council in June/July 2019.

To inform this report, I invite all interested stakeholders to submit relevant information and share their views. Background information on the report and guidelines for submissions can be found [here](#). Please submit your inputs to racism@ohchr.org no later than **31 January 2019**.

Nazi, neo-Nazi and Other Extremist Groups’ Efforts to Recruit Youth and Implications For the Enjoyment of Human Rights and Racial Equality

As mandated by a recent General Assembly Resolution (see [A/C.3/73/L.53/Rev.1](#)), I will produce two reports in 2019 addressing glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination. The first of these reports will focus on Nazi, neo-Nazi and other extremist groups’ efforts to recruit youth and implications for the enjoyment of human rights and racial equality. I will present this report at the forty-first session of the UN Human rights Council in June/July 2019.

To inform this report, I invite all interested stakeholders to submit inputs and share their views. Background information on the report and guidelines for submissions can be found [here](#). Please submit your inputs to racism@ohchr.org no later than **31 January 2019**.

Continuing Mandate Priorities

Receiving Submissions/Complaints

Under my mandate, I may receive information and take action on alleged human rights violations relating to contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Based on the information received, I can intervene by sending letters – known as “communications” – to Governments and others. In these communications, I present the allegations, outline applicable human rights law and standards, ask for clarifications from relevant authorities and request assurances that violations are prevented, stopped, investigated, or that remedial action is taken.

I encourage any individual, group of people, civil-society organization, inter-governmental entity, or national human rights body to submit relevant information and cases to my mandate. Further information and guidelines for submissions can be found [here](#) and a leaflet explaining the communications procedure is available [on the OHCHR website](#).

Civil Society Consultations

I am deeply committed to building a strong network individuals and organizations working in the field of racial discrimination and racial equality. I hope that this network will include, among others, civil society organizations, social movements, community-based actors, academics, researchers, and front-line human rights defenders.

To make my mandate more responsive to interested stakeholders, I held informal consultations with national and local actors during my trips to Bogota, Geneva and New York. I intend to maintain this practice across all regions of the world. Information about future consultations will be circulated through the network of my mandate.

Strategic Litigation

As a complement to my advocacy and policy work, my mandate supports litigation in national, regional and international courts. I have recently intervened in cases involving forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. My recent interventions are available on the [website of my mandate](#).

How to Contact the Special Rapporteur

I firmly believe that the best way to improve the effectiveness of my mandate is to ensure that it is inclusive and approachable. You can contact me at any time via e-mail at racism@ohchr.org.

You can also reach me by fax (+ 41 22 917 9006) and by postal mail at the following address:

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