

36th session of the Human Rights Council

Panel discussion on the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls

Concept note (as of 28 August 2017)

Date and venue: **Monday, 25 September 2017, 3 - 6 p.m., Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva,**
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

Objectives: Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 32/17 and further to the High Commissioner's report A/HRC/35/10, the panel discussion will present an opportunity to further examine the compounded negative impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence on the ability of specific groups of women and girls to realize all their human rights, including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. The panel discussion will also present a unique opportunity to share promising practices for addressing intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls by States and other stakeholders, and discuss the constraints and challenges in doing so, while paying particular attention to legal frameworks, institutions and policies, data and research, monitoring and protection, awareness raising and capacity building.

Among other issues, the panel discussion will:

- Explore the interface between gender norms, racial discrimination, religious intolerance and xenophobia, in the context of women's and girls' public participation and empowerment;
- Examine the impact of intersectional discrimination and violence on the ability of women and girls, particularly of African descent, minority, including Roma; migrants and indigenous women and girls to enjoy their human rights, in particular the right to decent work and adequate standard of living, to access quality education and health, and to live a life free from violence;
- Address the situation of women and girls who live in poverty and are further discriminated and excluded by multiple and intersecting factors, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and;
- Look into the factors that are leading to an increased risk faced by specific groups of women and girls to intersecting violence in situations of conflict. Analyze the extent to which this type of violence drives precarious migration movements, and the protection gaps faced by these women and girls at all stages of displacement.

The panel discussion will aim at:

- Examining causes and impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls;
- Identifying current challenges in addressing these practices;
- Sharing good practices and assess the development of legal and policy responses, and;
- Generating concrete recommendations on actions, that States and other stakeholders may take to prevent and combat intersecting forms of discrimination and violence faced by specific groups of women and girls in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

- Chair:** H. E. Mr. Valentin Zellweger, Vice-President of the Human Rights Council
- Opening statement:** Ms. Kate Gilmore, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Moderator:** H.E. Ms. Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- Panellists:**
- Ms. Hilary Gbedemah, Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Ghana)
 - Ms. Anastasia Crickley, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Ireland)
 - Mr. Carlos Augusto Viáfara López, Professor, Department of Economy of University of Valle (Colombia)
 - Ms. Warda El-Kaddouri, Researcher, United Nations Youth Delegate for Belgium in 2015 and 2016 (Belgium)
- Outcome:** A formal summary of the discussion will be prepared including a set of recommendations addressed to States and other relevant stakeholders on concrete measures to prevent and counter intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
- Mandate:** In its resolution 32/17 of 1 July 2016, the Human Rights Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, with a view to identifying challenges and good practices, including, as appropriate, the contributions of the universal periodic review, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session. It also decided to convene, at its thirty-sixth session, a panel discussion in order to discuss, inter alia, the findings of the report and to examine possible recommendations; and requested the High Commissioner to organize the above-mentioned panel discussion in consultation with States, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights mechanisms, and also with civil society, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and specialized national equality bodies, as appropriate with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion.
- Format:** The OHCHR opening statement and initial presentations by the panellists, the latter guided by the moderator, will be followed by an interactive discussion with States and observers intervening from the floor. The list of speakers for the discussion will be established at the beginning of the panel and, as per practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the beginning of the list. States and observers, including representatives of civil society, will take the floor for a 2-minute intervention each (total 45 minutes), followed by responses from panellists (15 minutes). A second round of interventions from the floor (45 minutes) will be followed by responses and concluding remarks from the panellists and the moderator (15 minutes).
- To make the panel interactive, speakers are encouraged to focus their interventions on the themes of the panellists either by asking the panellists questions or sharing concrete examples and relevant national experience. Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Background documents:

- Human Rights Council resolution [32/17](#) of 1 July 2016 on Addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.
- Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girl ([A/HRC/35/10](#)).
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), general recommendations no. [24](#), on Article 12 of the Convention (women and health); no. [26](#), on women migrant workers; no. [30](#), on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations; no. [32](#), on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women; and no. [34](#), on the rights of rural women.
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), general recommendation no. [25](#), on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, general recommendation no. [34](#) on racial discrimination against people of African descent;
- [Durban Declaration and Programme of Action](#);
- Programme of Activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent;
- General Assembly resolution [71/1](#) of 19 September 2016, entitled “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”.