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Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 January 2020]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Racism

Introduction

Racial and or religious differences have throughout history been the basis for widespread discrimination in relation to different groups from the majority population and with assumption of danger and threat from different groups the majority population, have committed the vilest of acts on the pretext of protecting themselves against the assumed danger and threat.

The re-emergence of racist trends, types of phobia including xenophobia, Islamophobia, and fear of migrants to the rise of racist parties in western countries' parliaments, countries which put the existence of freedom of expression, religion and respect of races and ethnic groups in the high list of ideals and philosophy of the United Nations, and they have targeted their democratic system, shows weakness in strategy and actions in practice.

The truth is that fear of differences are mostly originated from wrong cultural perspective which results in hostile view. This wrong view, under the pretext of "us and them" tries to present its identity, culture and civilization as superior. The promotion of "us and them" is mostly based on difference and for this reason it results in racism, xenophobia and fear of religions. This discourse is the creator of conflicting relationship instead of peaceful coexistence which brings about the opportunity to learn from existing differences.

The xenophobic look often takes place in the provision of economic interests of "us" and creates deprivation and oppression and as a result the spread of violence and hatred towards the other and or the extinction of different ideologies takes away being one at the same time as being different.

A world free of all types of discrimination is realised only through respecting any civilization which has its own culture, tradition and religion.

The globalist view and the international community through defining the western civilization as the civilization with superior power facilitator of xenophobia and discrimination towards the other's culture, traditions and religion, and prevents acceptance and learning from differences.

Not only cultural differences and diversity are not deemed a threat or danger, but it boosts the globalist view. In the promotion of the globalist model, the objective was the domination of one civilization, one culture and one religion as superiority in the world, which is in contrast with the globalist view meaning concentration of human commonalities and learning from differences instead of omission and confronting them. The globalist view and that despite differences humans have many similarities which can bring about their joining each other, releases Mankind's world from restrictive and monopolistic view. The promotion of this view requires actions at national and international levels. The conflicting relations between governments and relations which are focused on aggression and resorting to war on the pretext of protection of peace security and stability, is defined as discrimination against others and causes the weakening of reciprocal trust which is the necessary prerequisite for international actions, shows that the record of governments national and international, and international organizations actions for eradication of xenophobia, racism and fear of religions has not been very successful and the formation of types of anarchist groups is evidence to the claim.

Furthermore, medias associated with political systems that demand cultural, economic, social and political domination in the world, have grossly strengthen the discriminatory, xenophobic and fear of religions attitude, and cause the legitimization of the "us and them" discourse through concentration of the superiority of one and the omission of the other.

Today, the urgency of the efforts of NGOs campaigns as groups who voluntarily and without any profiteering view in correction of the "us and them" discourse, is felt more than any other time.

To this aim, the Women's Nongovernmental Organizations' Communication Network alongside the Lovers of Global Peace and Justice Association for the strengthening of the

commonalities and learning from differences discourse, have held various sittings with university students and members of Iranian non-Muslim associations and different ethnic groups between the years 2017 and 2019. Approximately 300 students and various experts in sittings with different related topics of consensus, discourse, women's rights and avoidance of the threat view of differences, were brought together by this Association and were given specialist training.

Reiterating the role of the United Nations as the home of nations and NGOs as legal and private individuals who without financial motives and away from politicisation must play bigger roles for a world without discrimination, these two NGOs recommend the following solutions:

- Necessity to teach common driven view in education curricula from primary to higher education.
 - Teaching the partnership for a world free of discrimination view on the basis of the view of coalition for finding common values, acceptance and respect of differences.
 - Capacity building for national and international sittings with discourse on differences result in omissions, prejudgements and further introduction to different cultures.
 - Recommendation for holding sittings which raise knowledge and awareness of discriminatory behaviour and view.
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