



General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 March 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fourth session

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 9

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

Written statement* submitted by Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group, 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.

[23 August 2023]

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



Racism and Racial Discrimination in India

Racism and racial discrimination occur daily to millions of people around the world. Racism and intolerance destroyed many lives and communities. The United Nations has been concerned with this issue since its foundation, and the prohibition of racial discrimination is enshrined in all core international human rights instruments. When States ratify these instruments, they agree to obligations such as eradicating discrimination in the public and private spheres. States also agree to adopt special measures to eliminate conditions which cause or help to perpetuate racial discrimination. While progress has been made in overcoming racism worldwide, but in country like India where BJP led right-wing Hindu government is constantly violating this international convention. Religious polarisation has deepened in India since 2014, when the Hindu nationalist BJP came to power. Racial Discrimination, hate speech and attacks against Christians and Muslims have risen sharply over the past few years. Christians in India continue to face racism and discrimination on their faith including threats to Christian people, their gatherings, churches, and ban on educational institutions. According to the UCF report, violence against Christians has occurred in 23 States in 2023. Uttar Pradesh leads with 155 incidents, followed by Chhattisgarh with 84 incidents. In the latest incident, hundreds of villagers armed with sticks and iron rods marched into Sacred Heart Church in Narayanpur district, Chhattisgarh, and vandalised the church. Two separate incidents of harassment in mid-January 2023, just 48 hours apart, offered vivid reminders of the threats faced by India's small but vibrant Christian minority, which increasingly finds itself menaced by a strong nationalist wave within the country's Hindu majority. Hindu extremists target Indian Christians for racial discrimination. Emboldened Hindu nationalist outfits have unleashed a wave of anti-Christian violence under the pretext of forced conversions, instilling fear in India's Christian minority. Because of the same racial discrimination, rioters and roaming mobs in Northeastern India have killed dozens of Christians, destroyed scores of church buildings, and burnt down hundreds of houses belonging to Christians. We urge this council to ask Indian government to stop racism and racial discrimination against Christians and ensure complete protection of their rights.
