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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 Integrated Youth Empowerment - Common Initiative Group (I.Y.E. – C.I.G.), 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.

[22 August 2021]

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



Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

As we deliberate upon the situation of racism, 20 years after the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in 2001, India seems to have diverged backwards as it faces a steep increase in racially motivated discrimination against its minority groups. The rise of radical elements in India has severely damaged India's reputation as a democratic society. We have seen journalists being murdered and minority people being torched to death while the Indian state watches it all without taking any substantial measure to stop this madness.

Rather, senior ministers of the Indian government glorify this xenophobic attitude and encourage religious extremists to further target the defenceless and helpless victims, who mostly belong to the so-called lower castes or religious minorities. The height of indifference on India's part is revealed when these attitudes and extremist statements are shamelessly defended by the Indian government and the Indian media. That is why my government believes to expect that the global community will not be a silent bystander and that it would actively engage to protect the rights of vulnerable communities in India.

We also request that this esteemed Council will press on for India to take legal action against all perpetrators of cast-based and religious violence or hatred. If India prides itself to be the cause of human rights, it must wake up to defend the defenceless among its own folk.
