



**“ A global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is a matter of priority for the international community. ”**

## **RECOGNIZING VICTIMS OF RACISM**

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**“ Despite efforts undertaken by the international community, Governments and local authorities, the scourge of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance persists and continues to result in violations of human rights, suffering, disadvantage and violence ”**

– Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 2001

Adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) is a comprehensive, action-oriented document that proposes concrete measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Specific recommendations are formulated to combat discrimination against many groups, including: Africans and persons of African descent, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, the Roma, Asians and persons of Asian descent, women, children, and minorities.

### **Indigenous Peoples**

**Indigenous peoples have been victims of discrimination for centuries...[We] affirm that they are free and equal in dignity and rights and should not suffer any discrimination, particularly on the basis of their indigenous origin and identity.**

#### **The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA):**

- Urges States to adopt or continue to apply measures to promote, protect and ensure the enjoyment by indigenous peoples of their rights and fundamental freedoms in all areas of society, and to promote better knowledge of and respect for indigenous cultures and heritage.
- Urges States to work with indigenous peoples to stimulate their access to economic activities and increase their level of employment, where appropriate.
- Calls upon concerned States to honour and respect their treaties and agreements with indigenous peoples and to accord them due recognition and observance.
- Requests States to consult indigenous representatives in the process of decision-making concerning policies and measures that directly affect them.
- Calls upon States to recognize the particular challenges faced by indigenous peoples and individuals living in urban environments and urges States to implement effective strategies to

*(This is a public information note, not an official summary of the DDPA)*

**General Assembly High-Level Meeting, 22 September 2011  
Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

[www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/](http://www.un.org/en/ga/durbanmeeting2011/)





combat the racism and related intolerance they encounter, paying particular attention to opportunities for their continued practice of their traditional, cultural, linguistic and spiritual ways of life.

### **Migrants**

**We strongly condemn the manifestations and acts of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them.**

#### **The DDPA:**

- Requests all States to actively discourage all racist demonstrations and acts that generate xenophobic behaviour and negative sentiments towards, or rejection of, migrants.
- Invites international and national non-governmental organizations to include monitoring and protection of the human rights of migrants in their programmes and activities.
- Requests States to promote and protect fully and effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of the migrants' immigration status.
- Calls upon States to facilitate family reunification in an expeditious and effective manner which has a positive effect on integration of migrants, with due regard for the desire of many family members to have an independent status.
- Urges States to review and revise, where necessary, their immigration laws, policies and practices so that they are free of racial discrimination.
- Recommends that host countries of migrants consider the provision of adequate social services, in particular in the areas of health, education and adequate housing, as a matter of priority.
- Urges States to ensure that migrants, regardless of their immigration status, detained by public authorities are treated with humanity and in a fair manner, and receive effective legal protection and, where appropriate, the assistance of a competent interpreter, particularly during interrogation.
- Urges States to recognize the same economic opportunities and responsibilities to documented long-term migrants as to other members of society.

### **The Roma/Gypsy/Sinti/Traveller**

**We recognize with deep concern the ongoing manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including violence, against Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers.**

#### **The DDPA:**

- Calls upon States and encourages non-governmental organizations to raise awareness about the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance experienced by the Roma/Gypsies/Sinti/Travellers, and to promote knowledge and respect for their culture and history.
- Calls upon States to ensure that Roma/Gypsy/Sinti/Traveller children and youth, especially girls, are given equal access to education.

### **Asians and People of Asian Descent**

**Despite the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by them for centuries, people of Asian descent have contributed and continue to contribute significantly to the economic, social, political, scientific and cultural life of the countries where they live.**



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- The DDPA encourages States to address the problems of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against people of Asian descent and urges States to take all necessary measures to eliminate the barriers that such persons face in participating in economic, social, cultural and political life.

### **Women and Children**

**We note with concern the large number of children and young people, particularly girls, among the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.**

#### **The DDPA:**

- Urges States and encourages all sectors of society to empower women and girls who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, so that they can fully exercise their rights in all spheres of public and private life.
- Requests States, in collaboration where necessary with international organizations, having the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to provide protection against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against children, especially those in circumstances of particular vulnerability, and to pay special attention to the situation of such children when designing relevant policies, strategies and programmes.

### **Minorities**

**We affirm that the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of minorities, where they exist, must be protected.**

- Urges States to ensure within their jurisdiction that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities can exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as well as the rights to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, use their own language, and to participate effectively in the cultural, social, economic and political life of the country in which they live.

### **Refugees**

#### **The DDPA:**

- Calls upon States to recognize the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that refugees may face as they endeavour to engage in the life of the societies of their host countries and encourages States to develop strategies to address this discrimination and to facilitate the full enjoyment of the human rights of refugees.