



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

RACISM AND PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

“People of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination and enslavement and of the denial by history of many of their rights... they should be treated with fairness and respect for their dignity and should not suffer discrimination of any kind.”

– Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 2001

In 2011, the tenth anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) coincides with the International Year for People of African Descent. This offers a unique opportunity to redouble efforts to promote the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance that affect Afrodescendants in all regions of the globe.

Adopted by consensus at the 2001 World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the DDPA formulates specific recommendations to combat discrimination against many groups, including Africans and persons of African descent.

What does the DDPA say about Africans and People of African Descent?

- It urges States to facilitate the participation of people of African descent in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and to promote a greater knowledge of and respect for their heritage and culture.
- It requests States to promote the full and accurate inclusion of the history and contribution of Africans and people of African descent in the education curriculum.
- It calls upon States to take specific steps to ensure full and effective access to the justice system for all individuals, particularly those of African descent.
- It urges States to resolve problems of ownership of ancestral lands inhabited for generations by people of African descent.
- It requests States to recognize the particularly severe problems of religious prejudice and intolerance that many people of African descent experience and to implement policies and measures that are designed to prevent and eliminate all such discrimination on the basis of religion and belief.
- It urges financial and development institutions and the operational programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations to assign particular priority, and allocate sufficient funding, to improving the situation of Africans and people of African descent, and to allocate additional investments to health systems, education, housing, electricity, drinking water and environmental control measures.

(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/

