How to address the persistent decline of tolerance towards communities of color ?

COMMITTEE : Human Rights Council
ISSUE : How to address the persistent decline of tolerance towards communities of color ?
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INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is one of the many United Nations bodies. It has the responsibility to strengthen and promote the protection of human rights around the world, to address human rights violations, such as intolerance, and to make recommendations on them.
On the 19th of December 2017, the General Assembly, in its 72/157 Resolution stated that it is "alarmed at the spread in many parts of the world of various racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist, right-wing agendas and racial superiority, and stress[es] that these practices fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance". A poll conducted by the university of Harvard shows in the US, that nearly 1 in 5 Latinos have avoided medical care due to concern of being discriminated against or treated poorly. Statistics like this one illustrate the HRC's concern and act as a morbid reminder of the jarring reality that racial minorities face and impel the world to confront the ongoing issue of the lack of tolerance towards communities of color. Racially related crimes contradict the values of our current world: A world where peace orientated institutions prevail, a world where texts, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming equality and freedom of each individual, have been adopted by most countries and are embedded in contemporary democracy. The states are obliged to protect minorities and vulnerable groups from unequal treatment. Yet the alarmingly regular and unpunished violations of such fundamental rights urge us to deliberate on ways to put a halt to this oppression, for good.

KEYWORDS

Human Rights Council : The Human Rights Council (HRC) is one of the many United Nations bodies. It has the responsibility to strengthen and promote the protection of human rights around the world, to address human rights violations and make recommendations on them. The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly;

Person of Color (POC) : The term person of color was first recorded at the end of the XVIIIth century. It originally referred to people of mixed African and European descent. It was later revisited, in the late XXth century, and refers to people who are not white;

Minority: A group numerically inferior to the rest of the population of a State, and in a non-dominant position. The members of the group, are nationals of the state, but may possess ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics differing from those of the rest of the population;

Intolerance: Intolerance is a lack of respect for beliefs or practices other than one's own. It also involves rejecting people whom we perceive as different (ex: members of a different social or ethnic group, or people of a conflicting political orientation). Intolerance can manifest itself through actions ranging from avoidance to murder;

Racism : Racism refers to any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life;

Racial discrimination : Distinctions, exclusions, restrictions and preferences based on race, color, descent, national or ethnic origin which have the objective of nullifying the exercise, on an equal ground, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any field of public life (political, economic, social, etc) of a person;

Xenophobia : An aversion, disdain for or fear of people from different cultures, foreigners.

OVERVIEW

AROUND THE WORLD

It is needless to say that racism and intolerance towards POC know no borders. Effectively, every country has ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities within their populations. During the 2005 World Summit, the importance of minority rights, was reaffirmed, by the United Nations in a statement stipulating that "the promotion and protection of the rights of people belonging to

national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities contribute to political and social stability and peace and enrich the cultural diversity and heritage of society." The discrimination of such groups has direct consequences on those people discriminated against, but it has also indirect and deep consequences on society as a whole. A society where discrimination is allowed or tolerated is a society where people are deprived of freely exercising their full potential for themselves and for society.

Despite the presence of minorities in an abundance of countries, intolerance towards these groups of people takes different forms depending on the geographical location. In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly declared that it could not remain indifferent to the fate of minorities. It was during that same year that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, today adopted by 197 countries, was written. The first article reads "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." This fundamental right has been on the UN's agenda for 72 years. The persistence of discrimination of minorities therefore highlights the urgency of the topic.

1. CASE STUDY
A. Intolerance around the world

In order to effectively combat the issue of the persistent decline of tolerance around the world, context about what some minorities go through is essential.

a. Intolerance against the Roma community

The Roma or Romani originated from the Punjab region, located in northern India as nomadic people and entered European ground between the eighth and tenth centuries. They were called "gypsies" because Europeans erroneously believed they came from Egypt. The members of this minority group are made up of distinct collectivities called "nations" or "tribes".

In the European context, Roma comprise the largest minority group with over 12 million spread over almost every European country. From the early years of their arrival to the present date, Roma have been victims of prejudice and intolerance. Their history shows that during periods of peak anti-Romani sentiment, campaigns of extermination, enslavement, forced sterilizations and other human rights violations were practiced on them.

In the last few years, many events have illustrated a rising intolerance towards this community. Very recently (on the 13rd of May 2020), the United Nations Special Rapporteur on racism Tendayi Achiume, called out the Bulgarian government regarding the discriminatory restrictions imposed on the Roma. The first motive of concern was a police operation baptized "Respect" put into practice in March 2020. "Respect" is an operation designed specifically for the Roma with aims to instill regular patrols in Romani inhabited neighborhoods in order to ensure that the safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 are respected. Furthermore, checkpoints/ control points around Roma inhabited zones have been established, disproportionately restricting the movements of this community in comparison to the rest of the population. This is

a clear violation of the Roma right to equality and liberty of movement which exposes them to the virus, especially in places like Nova Zagora where access to sanitation is limited.

The Special Rapporteur and two UN experts also shed a light on a recurring issue created by the high ranking officials of Bulgaria. Many members of the government have expressed their approval towards the governments' response targeting the Roma. A member of the political party 'The Leader" has even described Roma neighborhoods in towns as potential "infection nests" which nourished the anti-Roma sentiment. Statements and acts such as these, according to UN experts, promote the social exclusion, marginalization and the segregation of Roma.

Further west in Europe, France has also recorded a profusion of cases of intolerance towards the Roma community. In Mars 2019, rumors and fake tweets claiming that children were being kidnapped by members of the Roma community unleashed waves of violence. For two consecutive nights, dozens of people, often armed with knives and sticks, marched to Roma camps in Seine-Saint-Denis. Some vans were burnt but no one was injured. Around 20 people were arrested and police presence was reinforced in the 34 Roma camps around the French capital until tension died down.

"Here are the Roma who are kidnapping children!! This woman often changes partners in crime!"
(https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/paris-ile-de-france/seine-saint-denis/expeditions-punitives-contre-roms-suite-fausses-rumeurs-seine-saint-denis-paris-1644892.html)

The above examples are drops in the ocean of the amount of discriminatory acts against the Roma which have been a reality since the Middle Ages. The period following the fall of the Berlin Wall was the period during which the Roma rights movement flourished, which federated non Roma civil society organizations and individual activists (like Rumyan Russinov, a leading activist of the Romani movement in Europe). This enabled the vocalizing of the systematic abuse and the discrimination against Roma. Today, international institutions such as the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and many more, and national governments, have formulated their commitment to ending the discrimination.

In 2011 the European Commission adopted the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS). It centers around four key areas: education, employment, healthcare and housing. The framework included the benefits on all grounds (economic, social, etc) that guaranteeing equality for the Roma community would bring and also provided practical ways and set goals to aid State members in tackling the issue (see here: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1444910104414&uri=CELEX:52011DC0173). For example, a goal put in place was ensuring that all Roma children attend at least primary school as educational achievement within the Roma population is much lower than the

rest of the population. The European Commission wasn't the only one to show concern and desire to take initiative against the issue. The United Nations special rapporteur on minorities, Fernand de Varennes, has written many reports, urging and raising awareness of the intolerance towards the Roma (amongst other minorities). He has launched the initiative of having an International Roma Day which is, he states: "an opportunity to challenge States to live up to their international human rights obligations, to implement comprehensive anti-discrimination measures and to undertake legislative and policy initiatives to protect and promote the human rights of Roma minorities, their identity and culture. These must include efforts to strengthen public knowledge about the Romani history and the Roma Holocaust MemorialDay" (https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24458&LangID=E) To add to that, the Roma Together Non-Governmental Organization is also heavily involved in the fight for equality. The NGO participated at the Forum on minority issues and presented recommendations which were accepted by the Human Rights Council.

Despite visible efforts to integrate the Roma community, changes are yet to be made. The NRIS declares that "In spite of some progress achieved both in the Member States and at EU level over the past years, little has changed in the day-to-day situation of most of the Roma. According to the Commission's Roma Task Force findings, strong and proportionate measures are still not yet in place to tackle the social and economic problems of a large part of the EU's Roma population".

b. Slavery in Libya

The XIXth century was one of great change and the period during which the big powers of the time (The United Kingdom, the USA, France, etc) took the resolution to abolish slavery. It took many years for slave trade related practices to end and for black communities to begin having equal rights. In the United States for example, slavery was abolished in 1865 yet segregation ceased in 1954

For many, slavery is a practice of the past, not to be repeated, in other words, a nonexistent issue in modern society. Unfortunately, today millions of people are slaves. This is an issue that occurs in Libya for example.

Libya is the main transit for migrants and refugees trying to get to Europe by sea. The Libyan Coast Guard is an institution supported with funds and resources from the European Union (especially Italy). Its official role is to protect the public onshore installations and more importantly patrol coastal waters and curb smuggling and traffickers. It is estimated that 400,000 to almost one million people are now bottled up in Libya, following the intervention of the Libyan Coast Guard.

Unfortunately, this coast guard created to assure safety, hides a deplorable reality. According to the report by the U.N Human Rights Agency (of September 2017), these people are

kept in detention centers and there are increasing reports of robbery, rape, and murder among migrants. The reports have described the living conditions as "horrific," and among other abuses, migrants are vulnerable to being sold off as laborers in slave auctions.

Videos exposing slave trade in Libya surfaced 3 years ago and instigated global uproar among the international community. During an African/European summit in Ivory Coast in November 2017, among initiatives taken to free a number of the immigrants detained in the centers, European leaders expressed their concern for the issue. The French President Emmanuel Macron described these acts as "a crime against humanity" and vowed the summit members would "launch concrete military and policing action on the ground to dismantle those networks." The response of calling out and disapproving these criminal acts was unanimous among all the state representatives present but no concrete action which effectively combated the issue was taken.

Slavery is a practice that is based on intolerance and racism. It's a very explicit display of the decrease in tolerance in the recent years. Besides the immediate outrage of the public and the call from the international community to stem slave trade and to the repatriation of the migrants to their countries of origin, no procedure was initiated to battle this issue.

c. Xenophobia in Europe

After the peak of arrival of migrants during the migrant crisis, the European Union deliberated to try to administer and control the arrival of migrants on the continent. Most of the migrants during the period originated from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, all countries with recent or ongoing conflicts. The issue divided the leaders between those who welcomed the migrants like German Chancellor Angela Merkel and those who wanted to restrict borders and limit or completely deny access such as Tomio Okamura, a Czech politician and Nicholas Sarkozy, former French President.

This cartoon was drawn during the Migrant crisis to illustrate the refusal of European countries to receive migrants
https://www.courrierinternational.com/sites/ci_master/files/styles/image_original_1280/public/assets/images/arend_2018-06-21-8923.jpg?itok=GbvoBouU

Some actions were taken to help mitigate the crisis. The measures taken by European countries regarding borders and asylum procedures had the aim (among others) to: guarantee safety both for the welcoming countries and for the migrants risking their lives. Another aim was to combat the migrant crisis and overall discourage people from leaving their countries to fulfill an empty dream. Yet certain actions of European governments suggest that sentiments such as xenophobia also motivated a number of policies:

The Hungarian border barrier
(https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/21260/two-tunnels-found-in-hungary-at-serbian-border)

Hungary has built a border barrier with Croatia and Serbia. The fence was constructed during the European migrant crisis, with the aim of ensuring border security by preventing illegal immigrants from entering. The double layer barrier stretches for 155 kilometers and is equipped with thermal cameras and alarms.
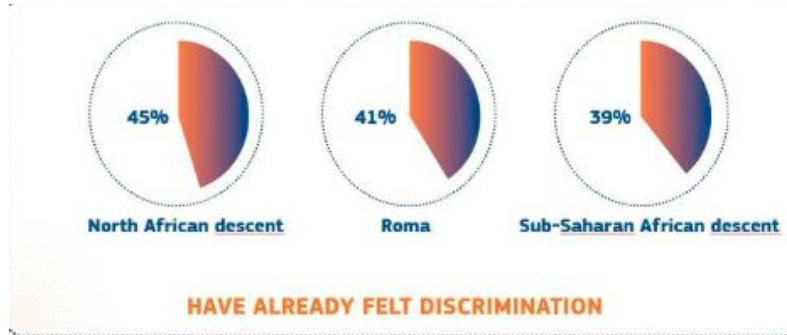
Furthermore, the EU consolidated its partnership on migration control with Libya despite consequent evidence of the brutality against migrants and asylum seekers who are 'sheltered' there. A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) program to evacuate vulnerable asylum seekers from Libya to Niger did not receive enough resettlement offers from EU countries. In September 2017, UNHCR updated its non-return advisory for Libya, emphasizing that Libya is not a safe place to disembark rescued people. EU member states' efforts to obstruct rescue initiatives by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the increasing reliance on Libyan coast guard forces coincided with a significant increase in the death rate.

It also seems as though the governments aren't the only ones who aren't in favor of the idea of accepting migrants. Populist extremist parties and ideas exercised a major influence over European politics during the year of the peak of the crisis. Parties aligned with radical right populism won re-election in Hungary, joined ruling coalitions in Italy and Austria, and gained ground in elections in Sweden and Slovenia, and in state elections in Germany. Poland's populist government remained in power, but lost momentum in local elections in 2018. Elements of the populists' anti-immigration, anti-refugee and anti-Muslim policy agenda continued to be

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embraced by some mainstream political parties in several EU countries, including in Germany. In Luxembourg, 52% of Afro and middle Eastern descendants have been victims of racist harassment in the past 5 years.
These realities exemplify the lack of tolerance of minorities on European ground.

Source: Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey - Main results
(https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/second-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey-main-results)

Despite all these examples, the European Union rejects all forms of intolerance and racism "as they are incompatible with the values and principles upon which the EU is founded" (- The European Commission). There are many pieces of legislation put in place in order to combat racism in the EU. The 'Victims Right Directive' (signed in November 2015) has been implemented in order to define minimum standards on the rights, the support and the protection of all victims of crime, with a particular heed to victims who have suffered a crime committed with a bias or discriminatory motive. Moreover, the 'Employment Equality Directive' (November 2000) and the 'Race Equality Directive' (June 2000) prohibit racial discrimination on general grounds and in the employment field. Another measure taken by the EU regarding racial intolerance online is named the 'Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online' (May 2016). This piece of legislation has been adopted by substantial social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and has the objective to aid users in notifying illegal hate speech on the platforms, as well as improving the support to civil society. Many other laws and financial support are provided by the EU to combat the issue of intolerance.

d. Black Lives Matter

On the 25th of May 2020, a video displaying a disturbing scene emerged and took the internet by storm. The video played the scene of a black man, laying on the ground, as a white police officer maintained his knee on his neck, choking him until his last breath. During 8 minutes and 46 seconds George Floyd agonized and his death caused public outrage amongst people, unleashing a wave of protests on a worldwide scale. The murder began what, as the New York Times* puts it, may be the "largest movement in US History". Regrettably, George Floyd's death represents a drop in the ocean as

in 2019, 54% of those who died as a result of harm from police were people of color. The fatality rate of black people during law enforcement interventions is 2.8 times higher than the one of white people in the United States of America despite the percentage of white people in the USA (73%) being 5.6 times higher than the percentage of black in the country (13.4%). In some cities such as Chicago, black people are up to 6 times more likely to die from police brutality. Protest movements like Black Lives Matter have highlighted the disproportionate killing of black people by US police, and called for major changes in policing practices.
 *article published on the 3rd of July 2020

The Black Lives Matter organization was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. It is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada. Its mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. Black Lives Matter engages in direct action tactics which are meant to "make people uncomfortable enough that they must address the issue." Social media campaigns (notably with the #BlackLivesMatter) and sensitization are also tactics used by the organization.
(Trayvon   Martin's   story: https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2018/07/31/631897758/a-look-back-at-trayvon-martins-death-and-the-movement-it-inspired?t=1604751088522)

Many protests were organized during this year after the murder of George Floyd. During the peak of the protests on the 6th of June 2020, half a million people marched in nearly 550 places across the United States. The protests were not in vain as they led to significant change in the country. Since the death of George Floyd, 31 of the country's 100 largest cities have passed policies restricting the use of chokeholds by law enforcement. Cities across the US are cutting funding towards the police. For example, the Los Angeles Budget Committee approved the relocation of 133 million dollars from the Los Angeles Police Department to budget other areas such as jobs from coronavirus-related unpaid leave of absences. Breonna's Law has been passed in Louisville, Kentucky, banning the kind of "no knock" search warrant that led to Breonna Taylor's death. Other laws regarding this have also been passed.

THE IMPACTS

ECONOMY

Discrimination towards minorities is not only immoral but it can be harmful to the economy. With the lack of a diverse workforce and their talents, the competitiveness of a country and its overall economic performance is jeopardized. A healthy business environment enables companies to tap into a wider talent pool. According to

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a recent report produced by the World Economic Forum on city competitiveness, an open and tolerant environment was identified as being conducive to the generation and dissemination of ideas. As a chain reaction, this contributes to the innovation that supports competitiveness and economic growth.
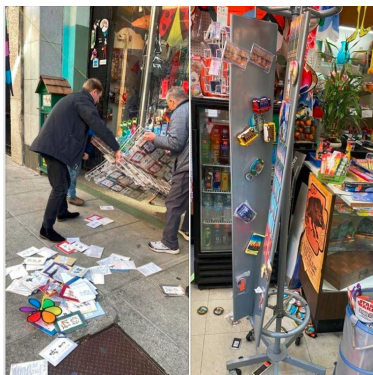
Berlin, London and New-York are examples of diverse and tolerant cities which are at the forefront of global innovation and major hubs of the creative economy. Tolerant cities and countries not only use available talent efficiently, their diversity and tolerant environment makes them an attractive place to live for global talent. Needless to say that the flux of people triggers the economic gear of the territory and assures economic growth. Tolerance and openness therefore give countries a colossal competitive advantage.

To exemplify this fact, let's take the example of the Roma communities contribution in the economy. According to estimates, in Bulgaria, about 23% of new labor entrants are Roma, and Romania, it is about 21%. Integrating the Roma would not only have positive impacts on a social level but also on an economic one, not only for the Roma but also to the communities they are members of. According to research by the World Bank, full Roma introduction in the labor market could generate economic benefits estimated at around half a billion euros for some European countries. Greater participation of Roma in the labor market would improve economic productivity, reduce government payments for social assistance and increase revenue from income taxes. The tax benefits of integrating this community in the labor market are estimated to be around 175 million euros annually on average per country in the European Union. The financial and economic consequences of Roma integration could engender an atmosphere of greater openness towards the Roma and be a means in facilitating their integration in society. The economy could in this manner be an incentive for inclusion for communities of color

SOCIETY

Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Since then, the existence of billions of people has been changed in many ways.

Amongst changes in habits and functioning of societies due to the virus, came tensions and forms of intolerance regarding people of Asian descent in many parts of the world.

A man helps a shop owner pick up a display stand after a group of teenagers vandalizes the store in Chinatown San Francisco on March 16, 2020 (https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/covid-19-fueling-anti-asian-racism-and-xenophobia-worldwide)

Many government leaders and officials have, consciously or not, fueled the sentiments of racism or xenophobia by using anti-Chinese rhetoric. The US president Donald Trump's use of the term "Chinese virus" or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's use of "Wuhan virus" may have been actors in dispersing the use of hate speech in the United States. Furthermore, the governor of Veneto, a region in Italy told journalists in February 2020 that he was certain that Italy could handle the coronavirus better than China as Italians have "culturally strong attention to hygiene, washing hands, taking showers, whereas we have all seen the Chinese eating mice alive". Less than a month later Italy became an epicenter of the disease. In Brazil, the minister for education mocked Chinese people insinuating that the pandemic was a Chinese ploy for "world domination".

The rising anti-Asian sentiment had a positive correlation with the increase of racist attacks. Since February, people of Asian descent have been victims of attacks, beatings, violent bullying, threats, racist abuse which appear to be linked with the pandemic. In the United Kingdom for example, Asian people have been punched in the face and taunted, blamed for spreading COVID-19. In Spain, 2 men attacked a Chinese-American man causing injuries so consequential that the man was in a coma for 2 days. In Texas, a Burmese family was attacked by a man with a knife.

This discrimination has not been limited to people pertaining to the Asian community. In Sri-Lanka and India, where the rise of Islamophobia has been ignored by the governments during the recent years, many COVID-19 related attacks and discriminations against Muslims have been reported. In Myanmar, ultra nationalist leaders have utilized the pandemic to vindicate threats and hate speech towards Muslims.

In early April 2020, Chinese authorities in Guangzhou, which holds China's largest community of Africans began a campaign to forcibly test Africans for the Coronavirus and ordered them to self-isolate, sometimes into quarantine designed hotels. Landlords then evicted African residents, obliging many to sleep on the streets, in shops, etc and access to restaurants was denied to the community.

On May 8 2020, Antonio Guterres made a statement which sums up the situation: "the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering". He urged governments to "act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate". The UN committee which has the responsibility of monitoring compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (signed by 182 countries) has recommended governments to adopt "national action plans against racial discrimination". Plans are to lay out specific approaches to combat racism and discrimination. These approaches could consist of enhanced policing of hate crimes, public messaging and education programming encouraging tolerance.

MAIN INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

THE UNITED NATIONS
The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security. It also has the objective of developing friendly relations among nations,

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achieving international cooperation, and being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. It was founded on the 25th April 1945 in San Francisco. On the 18th of December 1992, the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities was adopted by the General Assembly. It has a list of rights to which a person belonging to a minority group is entitled. Rights such as: the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, to use their own language, etc.

The UN has made many achievements in its fight against racism on a worldwide scale. The actions of bodies of the UN such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports from Independent experts and Special Rapporteurs which bring the State's attention to human rights violations. This led many countries to take action upon these violations. For example, the Congress of Deputies of Spain has approved a law in the memory of slavery, with the recognition and support of black communities, in Spain. Bolivia has created the National Council of Afro-Bolivians, which addresses the needs and concerns of this population group. Greece trained its judges and public prosecutors, as well as its police, on intolerance and developed guidelines for police on how to tackle racist crimes.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission is the executive branch of the EU, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU. The European Union site stipulates that "As part of its external cooperation, the EU supports minorities (as well as indigenous populations) as a means of enabling them to raise the problems they face in peaceful ways and persuading states to address these issues, which helps to prevent conflict in the long term." It invests financial and material resources in programs to promote the inclusion of minority groups.

The European Commission has published the 'EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025' which has guidelines for the European Union on ways to tackle racism in the EU alongside with other legislation like the "Audiovisual Media Services Directive" set up to establish requirements to protect users of audiovisual media services and video sharing platforms from incitement to violence or hatred.
(The action plan is available here
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/a_union_of_equality_eu_action_plan_against_racism_2020_-2025_en.pdf)

WE CHARGE GENOCIDE

We Charge Genocide (WCG) is a grassroot, intergenerational effort to center the voices and experiences of the young people most targeted by police in Chicago, USA. The volunteer-run initiative based in Chicago aims to highlight and condemn the abuse enacted by the Chicago police and to provide individuals across Chicago with information, resources, and tools to report on police misconduct. The name We Charge Genocide comes from a petition filed to the United Nations in 1951, which documented 153 racial killings and other human rights abuses mostly by the police.

On the 12th to 14th of November 2014, WCG sent a delegation of 8 young people to Geneva to present evidence of police violence at the 53rd session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture (UNCAT). Addressing the issue directly to the UN was for them a means of increasing visibility of police violence in Chicago and castigating the continued impunity of police officers who abuse, harass, and kill youth of color in Chicago every year. The attendance of WCG at UNCAT had the desired effect: on November 28th, 2014, the UNCAT released its concluding remarks in review of 'United States government's implementation of Convention Against Torture' and mentioned the police shootings, the "fatal pursuit of unarmed black individuals" and the lack of statistical data on police brutality. The statement said: "The Committee is particularly concerned at the reported current police violence in Chicago, especially against African-American and Latino young people who are allegedly being consistently profiled, harassed and subjected to excessive force by Chicago Police Department (CPD) officers. It also expresses its deep concern at the frequent and recurrent police shootings or fatal pursuits of unarmed black individuals. In this regard, the Committee notes the alleged difficulties to hold police officers and their employers accountable for abuses." The Chicago Police Department was called out by name, and even the death of Dominique Franklin Jr, who was fatally tazed in the head by a police officer's case was later cited, therefore meeting all the expectations of the delegation and bringing the awareness desired.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are many possible tactics conceivable to be put in place in order to combat the issue of intolerance towards racial minorities.

The educational system could be a good basis to start with. The challenge of certain societal problems, such as structural discrimination, is to make them visible as we often grow up with them being self-evident and unquestioned. So, having educational programs which raise awareness about the mechanisms of prejudice and intolerance and how they contribute to discrimination and the oppression of people, and on the appreciation of diversity and promoting tolerance could be an efficient way of raising a more tolerant and self-aware generation.

Tackling the issue of impunity could also deter people from committing violence against minorities. In the US, the percentage of black people who die during police intervention compared to other races is disproportionately high. The statistics show the proportion of black people being killed or mistreated by police, and the percentage of those police receiving consequent sanctions illustrate the malfunctioning of the system. Making sure that policemen who commit crimes against these communities receive punishments from their actions is crucial. On a wider scale, it is essential to show that no state is above scrutiny when it comes to these human rights violations.

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- Rising intolerance OHCHR statement:
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- Other anti-Roma acts: https://www.refworld.org/docid/565bf5c04.html
- Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Dr. Fernand de Varennes:
  https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/SRMinorities/Pages/SRminorityissuesIn dex.aspx
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