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STUDY GUIDE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you on behalf of **KIIT e-MUN!** It has been a challenging year for all of us in many ways and we are sure that the format of this MUN is a testament to how we have adapted to the pandemic. A lot has happened over the past year. From a new strain of virus to a new POTUS, the world has seen a fair share of things that it can forget or remember for a long time to come.

On that note, we would like to welcome you to the UNHRC at this year's conference. The committee will be anchored by three executive board members: Ms.Daria, Mr.Pradeep and Ms.Simran. We come from different geographies and hence bring our combined expertise and cultural diversity into this committee. The motivation to create this agenda stemmed from our interest *to offer you as big a playing field as possible*. We recommend that you spend a while going through this background guide as it offers you a starting point for your research. By extension, this guide in no way, is exhaustive of what you can read up on or prepare for the committee/agenda.

Now, comes the most important part of this committee. MUN's over years have taken a more **competitive angle whilst slowly losing the learning and collaborative paradigms it is meant to be**. We want to change that and restore what MUNs stand for. We will go an extra step and say that awards reflect your willingness to take home new learnings and at the same time respecting the contributions of others in the committee. To facilitate the same, we are tweaking the standard Rules of Procedure for the committee. It is thus recommended that you attend the first session, where we will be running you through the updated RoP.

As for the agenda, we need you to be cognizant of how globalization has resulted in significantly higher migration. Coupled with various Civil Wars, we have witnessed people moving around the globe significantly more than they have in the past. This has resulted in systemic racism, extremism, police brutality, inconsistent rights for various people, differential benefits and working conditions, discrimination during education and employment and so on. A good understanding of these topics and realizing that they are interlinked, will help you solve the stated issue better.

We hope to see you all soon and trust us when we say we are excited for this as much as you are. Happy preparation time. Please stay safe and indoors. We are in this together and we will get through quicker than we think we will!

All the best and Godspeed!

The Executive Board, UNHRC, KIIT e-MUN

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946 as an international legal framework that protects the fundamental rights of humankind. It consisted of members of 53 States, which have expanded over time to respond to a wide range of human rights issues and set standards for regulating the functioning of the State. It also served as a forum for member states, NGOs and human rights defenders / activists from around the world to raise their concerns. It was developed under ECOSOC and reported to it.

OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, better known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is the secretariat of the United Nations Secretariat working to promote and protect human rights guaranteed under international law and enshrined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The office was established by the UN General Assembly on December 20, 1993, following the 1993 World Human Rights Conference. The office is headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which oversees human rights throughout the UN system and serves as the secretary-general of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

Human Rights Council

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body that promotes and protects human rights around the world. With a present strength of 47 member nations, the UNHRC follows the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and is a member of the UN General Assembly. The Council partners with the OHCHR and carries out special procedures for the UN. The National Council established the UNHRC by adopting a resolution on 15 March 2006, to replace the former body. The UNHRC addresses various significant human rights issues such as freedom of assembly and association, freedom of speech, freedom of belief and religion, women's rights, LGBT rights and racial and ethnic rights.

UNHRC mandate

The mandate of the UNHRC is defined in terms of resolution A / RES / 60/251 of the United Nations General Assembly. For reference, the same link is as follows:

https://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/A.RES.60.251_En.pdf

UNHRC Special Procedures

The system of special procedures in the UNHRC is an integral part and hence encompasses all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social. With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), special procedures facilitate country visits; to deal with individual offenses and concerns of the wider, structural nature by sending links to States and others where they bring alleged violations or harassment to them; conducting relevant studies and calling for professional consultation, developing and advocating international human rights standards and providing technical cooperation advice. Special procedures are reported annually to the Human Rights Council; most of the authorities also report to the General Assembly. Their activities are described in decisions to build or extend their authority, which can be found on the OHCHR website. To understand the nuances of these processes you will need to look at the problem from a UNHRC perspective.

More on special procedures:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx>

UPR: Universal Periodic Review

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process that involves the review of human rights records of all UN member states, run by the State, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, allowing each State to announce the steps they have taken to improve human rights conditions in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. As one of the Council's priorities, the UPR is designed to ensure the equitable treatment of all countries in assessing their human rights conditions. The main purpose of this approach is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and to address human rights violations wherever they occur. Currently, there is no other global system of this type in place.

ABOUT THE AGENDA

The motivation behind this section is to try and chart out certain macro factors that enabled us to lay out this agenda for discussion. Globalization is a reality. From times of decolonization, several countries have taken time to open their economies up for foreign investments. This period of closed trade was characterized by high duties in order to support and promote domestically produced goods. One example would be India which did not allow liberalization till 1991. The resources were sourced, produced and consumed locally in many such countries.

Figure 1:

International Migration 2019: Report

Figure I.1. Number of international migrants by development and income group, 1990-2019 (millions)

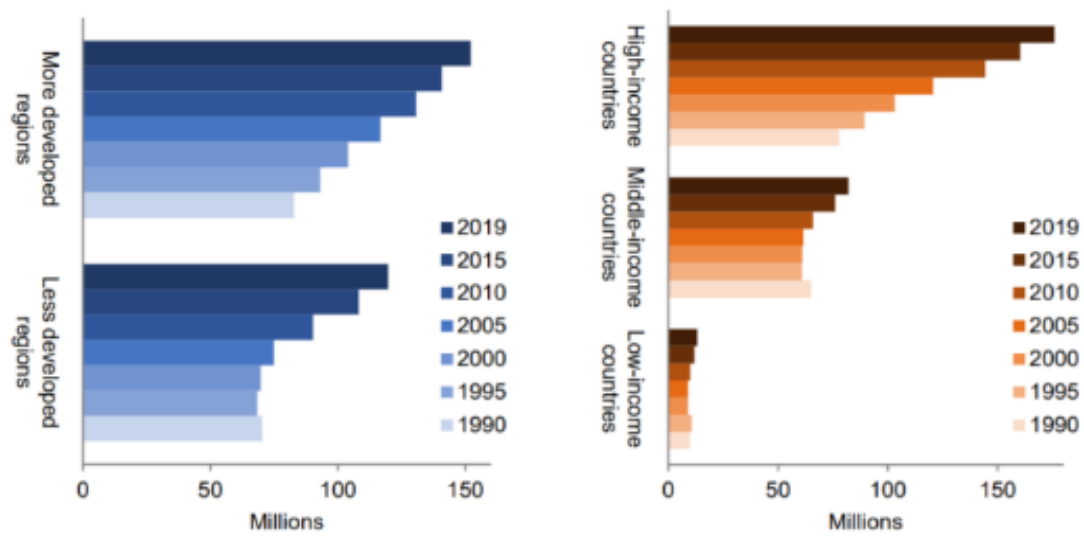
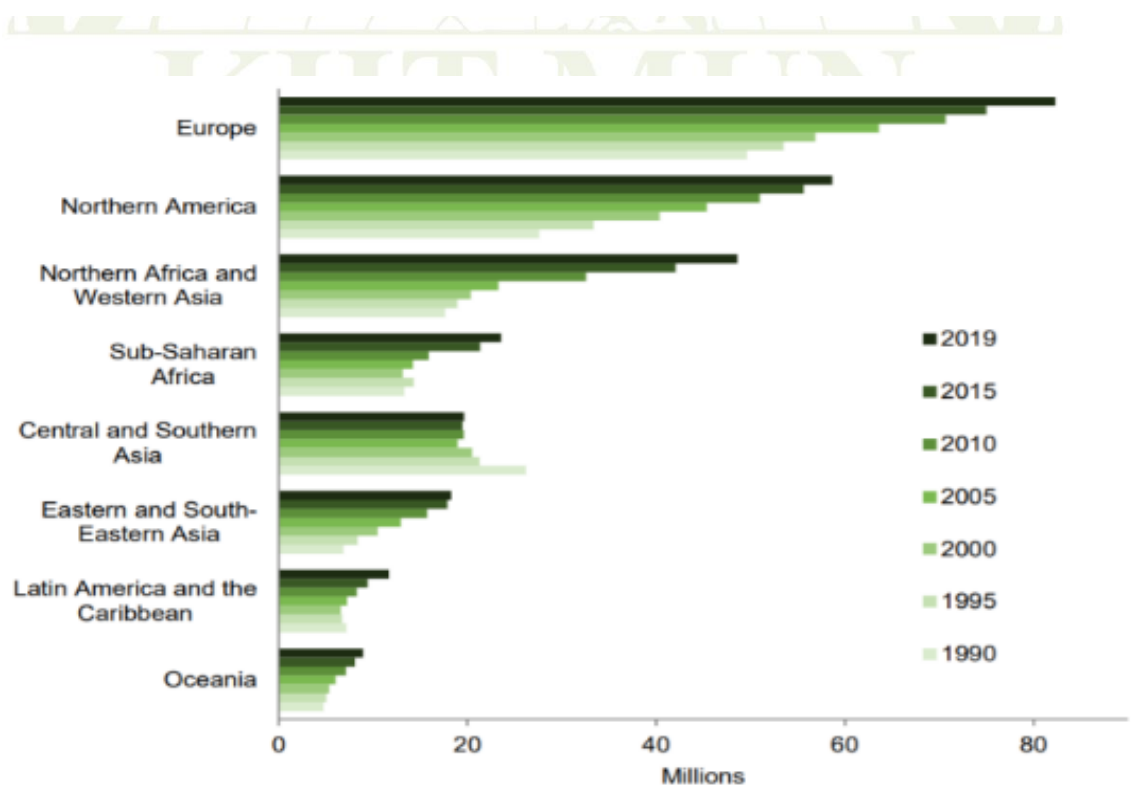


Figure 2:



Source: UNDESA International Migration Report 2019

What has this meant for the world?

Well, in short, we are starting to look at the world as one large economy. The COVID-19 period has been the only lean patch where countries have started recognizing the need to have self-sustainability for certain product classes. However, the advent of technologies such as Cloud have allowed people in various regions to work on the same file from two different geographies at the same time. Thus, by becoming a single global economy, we have started to reap the benefits of economies of scale, sustainable trade and global talent availability. Countries, in the last few years, have gone over and beyond to ensure that people have easy access to the Visas of other countries. Imagine times when you had to apply for a Visa few months in advance and plan your corporate trips! All that has changed in the last decade primarily. This means that we have more people living as expats.

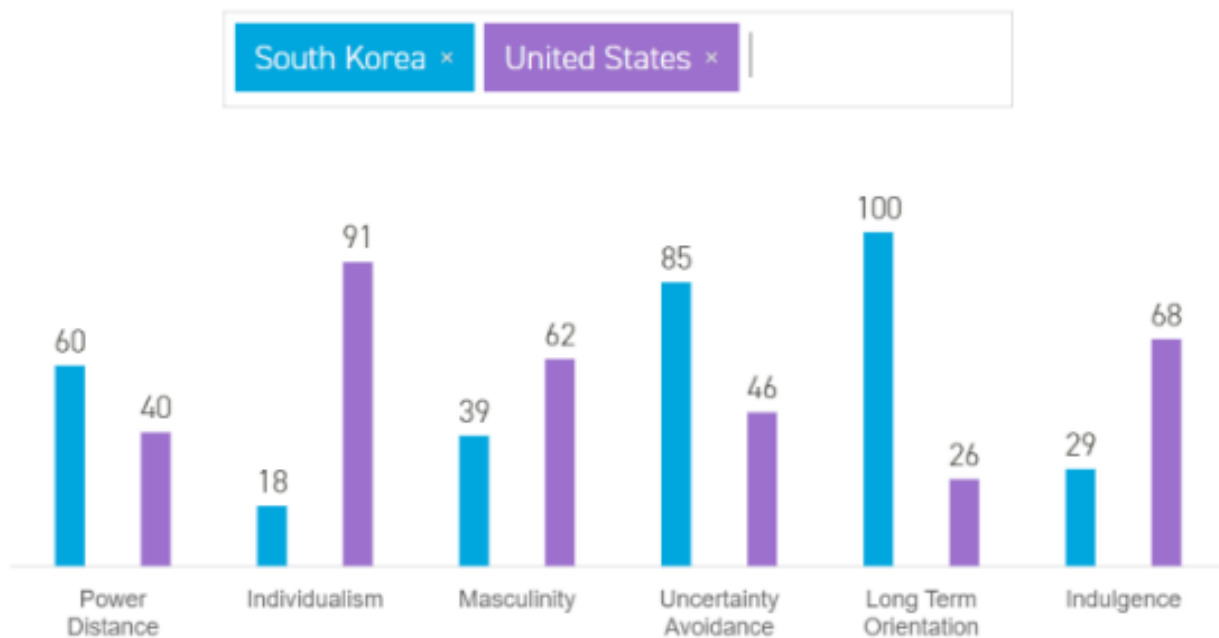
Now, on a parallel note, let us hold the thought of migrants for a while in one part of our head. Let us now talk about what has happened over the last couple of decades in terms of Civil Wars. The affected regions often see a high degree of population outflux. These people often try to relocate to other countries to continue a safer life. However, their way of approaching countries can not always be as migrants. Several of them are displaced which means they do not have a job or education to perform in another country and that makes them refugees. Refugees have the option to seek asylum in other countries. Globally, we follow the Refugee convention of 1951 and countries are bound by their own policies and the convention to accept people into their countries. Assuming people do get the status of an asylum seeker and are granted the opportunity to lead a life like any other citizen, he/she is also entitled to rights and benefits as defined by the country.

The Impact

Let us take the three pieces of information and see what is happening. The world is becoming a unified economy with people moving. There are citizens, immigrants and refugees. The realization is that when we tie this to cultures of countries, it could chart out an entirely different path for itself. We understand that citizens of a country are passionate and patriotic about their country. This results in the need to preserve the culture for future generations and as a standing symbol of their communities. This is where cultural gaps split into two parts.

- The first is in terms of people feeling threatened by people from other countries, cultures and religions trying to infringe into their space. This is a normal observation and results in racism, stereotyping and conflicts.
- The second is that when we talk about the economy, people move to work as well. Some of these workers also have fallouts with their firms and people because of the difference in cultures. Hofstede gave an excellent metric to evaluate cultural differences from a country perspective.

Let us look at one such example:



We see that 2 countries which are the home to some of the best companies in the world have stark differences in their cultural approach in general. Thus, this results in people behaving and responding differently. This cannot be blamed directly on anybody as it is coded in their cultures.

The result of all of these activities is increased skepticism towards people moving across countries. Some of the key questions that citizens ask are:

- What sets us apart from immigrants and refugees in terms of rights and laws?
- How sure are we that our culture is not being affected due to the increased influx?
- What are the actions that the government is taking to curb extremism?
- What is the guarantee that immigrants and refugees are not a threat to their lives?

Here comes the big question. Have these insecurities and fears also crept into the policy makers, administration, policing staff and others. Why is there so much hatred and brutality when we are trying to successfully build a global economy? Countries face a big task now. How will the systems evolve to keep track of these three broad sets of people? How will the system allow countries to avoid an identity crisis for people? How will the system reassure people that their rights and laws are intact and fair?

With that we discuss a few things, we feel, are important to this agenda and the overall discussion during the conference.

SECTION 2

Systemic Racism and Police Brutality

Systemic Racism

Systemic racism, which refers to the systems in place that perpetuate racial injustice, has 2 primary components to its definition.

First, it's historically specific, meaning the systems maintaining racial injustice change over time (and sometimes based on location). While [racial orders](#) (the beliefs and institutions that arrange relationships between races) often share attributes across countries and cultures, the systems that uphold them adapt to changing conditions. and ultimately had the same effect: The violent disenfranchisement of Black people.

Second, systemic racism is a distinctly structural phenomenon, meaning the practices and behaviors that perpetuate racism within a system are baked into the system itself. This also means that regardless of intention, most people participate in some way with the systems that are in place.

Where does systemic racism occur?

Because it's built into the very building blocks of society, systemic racism occurs in some of our most fundamental structures. That includes [where you live](#), what kind of [education you're able to receive](#), how your family [has \(or hasn't\) acquired wealth](#), what [quality of healthcare](#) you can easily access, how likely it is for you to [face violent and deadly policing](#), your [access to voting](#), and more.

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, the [disproportionately high rate](#) of COVID-19 deaths among Black people in the U.S. is not mere happenstance. Instead, this racial disparity is the result of a host of [structural conditions that \(ultimately\) got their roots in slavery](#), as Dr. Sabrina Strings, an associate professor of sociology at the University of California, Irvine, argued in the *New York Times*.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the top infectious disease experts, has also [backed up a similar claim](#), noting that [social determinants of health](#) for Black Americans are contributing to the [disparity seen amid the pandemic](#). The pandemic has made a long-evident truth even more clear for many people: Structural inequalities are harming Black people in the U.S. from all directions.

Examples of Infamous Occurrences of Systemic Racism in some Countries

- **Racism against black people (or people of African descent)**

Racism against black people is prominent even up to this day. 61% of the Americans state that change is needed for this immediately. The US has recently been dealing with nationwide protests after the murder of George Floyd. He was handcuffed to the ground last May 25, 2020, as Officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds as Floyd pleaded and repeatedly said he could not breathe with the four officers present. Even as Floyd was unresponsive, the police officer kept his knee on his neck even when he was unresponsive. Another African descent, Breonna Taylor of Louisville, Kentucky was killed at home while she and her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, were sleeping. Three plainclothes officers arrived at their apartments and executed a search warrant in a drug case. The couple assumed it was a break-in, immediately called 911, and Walker fired his licensed firearm. Unarmed, Breonna Taylor was shot eight times. Up to this day, the results from the investigation remain pending and the police responsible for this were reassigned.

- **Racism against ethnic minorities**

Last February 24, 2020, in New Delhi, Kaushar Ali, a house painter, was trying to get home when he ran into a battle. He needed to cross a street with his children when Hindu and Muslim mobs were hurling rocks at each other. Ali then turned to police officers to seek help, however, the officers instead threw him onto the ground and cracked him on the head. They started beating him and several other Muslims. This situation has been prominent around New Delhi that it has reached the lengths wherein people who are not Muslim question why they were born that way. With the rise of the COVID-19, Asians have been discriminated against in all parts of the world. United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres said that "the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scaremongering" and urged governments to "act now to strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate." Chinese have been called various names and have been blamed to be the origin of the virus due to the COVID-19. Asians are in constant fear in the outside world due to the racism prominent everywhere.

- **Racism against refugees and migrants**

There has been a fight against discrimination or migrants and refugees worldwide. Thousands of Syrian families are now in limbo. There are thousands of families, including children, who are still waiting for a chance for a better and safer life, and they were told that they were just a few months away from being resettled to the US. A total of 17,000 refugees have been so far from being resettled by the world's most powerful country, compared to tiny Lebanon which is hosting more than one million Syrians. Yemen refugees also require a safe haven and peace. Some of them are caught in a war trying to find their way towards the US. There has been an order banning Yemini refugees from going to the US. Commercial flights are not available or have been too expensive. It has become an unnecessary insult to their on-going injury.

Police Brutality

The term “police brutality” is used to refer to various human rights violations by police. This might include beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, or indiscriminate use of riot control agents at protests.

At its worst, unlawful use of force by police can result in people being deprived of their right to life. If police force is unnecessary or excessive, it may also amount to torture or other ill-treatment. Unlawful force by police can also violate the right to be free from discrimination, the right to liberty and security, and the right to equal protection under the law.

Are police allowed to kill people?

There are strict international laws and standards governing how and when police can use force - particularly lethal force. The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials ([BPUFF](#)) is the key international instrument that deals with police use of force. The most important thing to remember is this: it is the utmost obligation of state authorities, including police, to respect and protect the right to life.

Under international law, police officers should only ever use lethal force as a last resort. This means when such force is strictly necessary to protect themselves or others from the imminent threat of death or serious injury, and only when other options for de-escalation are insufficient. **Many killings by the police that we have seen around the world clearly do not meet this criteria.**

In the USA, **George Floyd, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner** and too many other Black people who have been killed by police were unarmed.

During protests in Iran in November 2019, police shot and killed hundreds of protesters who posed no risk, including [at least 23 children](#). In the [Philippines](#), witnesses have described seeing police shoot poor people who were suspected of using or selling drugs as they were on the ground begging for mercy.

In countries with high rates of killings by police, there is often a combination of factors including inadequate laws, racial or other forms of discrimination, insecurity or conflict, and entrenched impunity.

Governments who routinely trample on other human rights like freedom of expression and peaceful assembly often authorize heavy-handed police responses to protests and demonstrations. That situation is usually seen this recently in Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Hong Kong and Nicaragua. Impunity for killings by police often leads to a deadly cycle of violence. In Brazil for example, [officers routinely kill people](#) who pose no threat – mostly young Black men – safe in the knowledge that these killings are rarely investigated or prosecuted.

LGBTI+ Rights and Police Brutality

In 2017, for example, authorities in the [Russian republic of Chechnya](#) unleashed a wave of attacks on people believed to be gay or lesbian. Dozens of gay men in Chechnya were abducted, tortured and many were killed at secret detention sites.

In the [Dominican Republic](#), sex workers, and especially trans women who are sex workers, face appalling abuse at the hands of police including rape, beatings and humiliation.

Police violence used to be a central issue within LGBTQ activism. In recent years, though, the issue was largely divorced from mainstream movements, which focused on other goals, such as marriage equality. But criminal justice and police practices remain crucial concerns to the LGBTQ community's most vulnerable. Although today's political perspectives frame racial issues and LGBTQ issues as separate, these movements were intertwined. Gay rights activists adopted tactics from civil rights leaders and many people were involved in both racial and LGBTQ justice. Dan McCune, a survivor of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and former member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), explains: "A lot of the people who ended up leading the gay rights movement got a lot of their training from the civil rights movement, like I did." McCune, like other gay rights activists, participated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s nonviolent civil rights training sessions. These consisted of activists learning how to respond nonviolently to violence and antagonism when participating in a protest, march, demonstration or sit-in.

Today, the Black Lives Matter movement leads the national conversation about police brutality. This is no coincidence; a study by a University of California professor found that unarmed black Americans are 3.49 times more likely to be killed by police compared to unarmed white Americans.

Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ rights movement may seem unrelated. However, sociopolitical issues are all interconnected. Discrimination and family rejection lead to poverty and impoverished people may live in heavily-policed areas or work in illegal economies to survive. And of course, LGBTQ people aren't all white. But even those who are should care about police accountability. When some people lack civil rights, others' rights are threatened. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Although it may seem like police brutality has nothing to do with LGBTQ people, especially if they are white, the truth is not so simple. "LGBTQ" is a conglomeration, not a monolith. The LGBTQ community is heterogenous. People of all races can be LGBTQ. Given the community's inherent diversity, different populations within it face different experiences of oppression.

In terms of violence and discrimination, including involvement with law enforcement, trans women of color have it harder than most. Kimberle Crenshaw, a civil rights advocate from Canton, coined the term “intersectionality” to describe how intersecting power systems affect minorities, particularly black women. She noticed how black women were excluded from antidiscrimination efforts which were framed as either “a race issue,” excluding gender, or “a gender issue,” excluding race. These omissions and the compound discrimination black women face prompted Crenshaw to speak about intersectionality and how the most marginalized populations are often overlooked. The same holds true for LGBTQ communities. Marriage rights dominated the conversation for years, leaving poverty, discrimination and violence against trans/queer women of color “for later.” If LGBTQ communities seek to protect and increase their own civil liberties, it is in everyone’s interest to work for the rights and safety of those who most often lack it. One notable intersection lies between LGBTQ existence and homelessness. Per the True Colors Fund, “40 percent of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBT.” Family rejection and discrimination are both reasons behind this grim statistic. Ohio is one of 28 states that lack a statewide law protecting LGBTQ people from housing and employment discrimination.

Police Brutality and Racism

International human rights law strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination. [No one should be treated differently by law enforcement](#) because of their race, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, religion or belief, political or other opinion, ethnicity, national or social origin, disability, or other status. Everyone has the right to equal treatment under the law.

Yet racism and other forms of discrimination are built into law enforcement and justice systems around the world; from racial profiling and discriminatory police checks, to selective enforcement of drug policies and broad application of anti-terror laws.

In the UK, Amnesty International has documented how [the Gangs Matrix](#), a racially biased database used by London’s Met Police, criminalizes and stigmatizes young Black men. Many people have been labelled as suspected gang members for reasons as trivial as the music they listen to or the videos they watch online.

Once on the Gangs Matrix, individuals are targeted for stop and search operations by police, while the stigma of being associated with a ‘gang’ can make it harder to find jobs, housing or education.

In 2018, the Information Commissioner’s Office found the Gangs Matrix was potentially breaking data protection laws and failed to distinguish between victims of crime and offenders, and some limited reforms have been introduced.

Examples of Police Brutality

- **Case Study 1 – The USA**

With the election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States, it has been confirmed that America has always been, and continues to be a racist country. After all, he has insulted veterans, women, minorities, and countless other constituencies, and yet was elected as president. Racism, xenophobia, and discrimination fuels hatred and that are what many marginalized communities face because of the president-elect. On the Charlottesville protest, he said there were "fine people on both sides" of the rally — both the counter-protesters and those members of the alt-right who did Nazi salutes and chants. He also called Mexicans 'rapists' and criticized the NFL prayers who refused to stand for the National Anthem, saying they did not have any proper reason, even though it was reiterated that this was because of police brutality and racism. The new government is not only affecting immigrants and minorities in this way but also making it difficult for them to live normal lives with equal opportunities. With Trump's new immigration policies, apart from political discontent worldwide, the indifference towards the supposedly 'illegal' families, is apparent – for Trump's America, all immigrants are bad. Regardless of their sufferings, they are not being allowed to enter America and follow the American Dream, the only hope they see. The policies also highlight a humanitarian crisis, since families are ripped apart at the border, the United Nations human rights experts said Trump's policy of detaining children "may amount to torture." Residents of Texas condemned this, saying, "It's like we're stepping back a hundred years with people put in this little camp, locking them up like animals. It's twisted and shameful. It's not right." (The Guardian, 2018)

- **Case Study 2 – The Rohingya and Myanmar**

The Rohingya are descendants of Muslims, living in Myanmar, but are considered illegal immigrants and thus, suffer from systematic discrimination. The Myanmar government treats them as stateless people, denying them citizenship. Stringent restrictions have been placed on Rohingya people's freedom of movement, access to medical assistance, education and other basic services. (The Guardian, 2017) Conditions worsened, when in August 2017, violence broke out, to which the government reacted with a policy of ethnic cleansing. This caused them to flee to Bangladesh, over 600,000 immigrants, those who made it to the border walked for days, hiding in jungles and crossing mountains and rivers. Their villages were burned, and their women and children raped by Myanmar militants. A rape survivor narrated her story saying that while she tried to flee, two Myanmar soldiers dragged her away to a field and for the next two days raped her repeatedly, sometimes to the point where she lost consciousness. (Al Jazeera, 2018) She now mothers a child who was conceived due to rape but has not told people and refuses to leave the camp because she feels ashamed. The extent of this humanitarian crisis can be seen by the way minorities are treated and oppressed, just to force them never to return, and establish a sense of power over them. Another woman, Sunuara, who was eight months pregnant at the time, was tied to a bed and raped by nine men for six hours. These horrors show the discrimination against a Muslim community, which Myanmar assumes, just as Trump does, is the cause of all evil. Border camps had and still have a large influx of immigrants, creating a shortage of basic resources and supplies.

- **Case Study 3 - Israel and Palestine**

Israel is the world's only Jewish state, located just east of the Mediterranean Sea. Palestinians, the Arab population that hails from the land Israel now controls, refer to the territory as Palestine and want to establish a state by that name on all or part of the same land. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is over who gets what land and how it's controlled. In 1948, after war broke out between the two parties, it left 700,000 Palestinian refugees embroiled in one of the biggest humanitarian crises, leading to violence, displacement, restrictions on access to services and an adverse impact on people, especially children. Every time there is a clash, armed soldiers have been accused of beating, detaining and torturing Palestinians. Alongside this, a blockade on Gaza means food and medicine supplies have been reduced, creating a shortage and causing malnutrition as well as other health-related problems amongst the community. The main victims of this situation are the children, who face numerous issues, such as lack of education, child labor, living without parental care. It is important to note that the effect violence has had on children is enormous, which has caused a deterioration of their mental health. The exposure of children to distressing events" includes having had family members or friends or classmates killed or injured, the child's exposure to tear gas, seeing injured or dead people, and witnessing shootings and funerals. Stress factors for children and adolescents include they're not feeling safe, and feelings of exposure to attack, injury, house demolition, and arrest. (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 2010) As per The Guardian, "the common aim of displacing and replacing the Palestinian people, was to maintain a colonial occupation." This clearly shows racist ideologies penetrating a humanitarian crisis.

Past Actions

- **Systemic Racism**

The [United Nations](#) Human Rights Council is moving against systemic racism and police violence - including in the [United States](#).

On June 19, the 47-member council unanimously [passed a resolution](#) mandating that the UN high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, together with UN experts prepare a global report on systemic racism and excessive use of force against people of African descent by law enforcement. The [resolution](#) specifically states the report should focus on the death of [George Floyd](#) in the US and other incidents resulting in the death of people of African descent "to contribute to accountability and redress for the victims."

The resolution followed a debate held after a police officer in the US state of Minnesota killed George Floyd on May 25, sparking protests across the US and around the world. Floyd's killing was the latest in a long history of US police killings of Black people, for which police have rarely been held accountable. During the debate, requested by the African group of nations, Floyd's brother made a moving appeal to the UN rights body and over 120 speakers, [including Human Rights Watch](#), took the floor, with many offering words of sympathy for Floyd's family. Ambassadors, UN experts, and Bachelet had also [condemned the killing](#) and urged serious action to halt racist policing.

The adopted text is a step in the right direction because, for the first time, it brings the issues of systemic racism and police violence in the US and around the world under international scrutiny. **No country, no matter how powerful, should be exempt from Human Rights Council scrutiny.**

For decades, Human Rights Watch has documented excessive use of force by police and racially discriminatory policing – most recently in the [US](#), [France](#), and [Brazil](#) – advocating for accountability and an end to policing approaches that disproportionately target Black and brown communities. Together with partner groups, we have also worked to change government programs, from education to health care, that deepen rather than remedy racial and ethnic inequality and leave far too many people mired in destitution and despair.

The adopted council resolution references the US while also repudiating structural racism globally. In addition to mandating a report on police killings of people of African descent, it asks the high commissioner to look at government responses to anti-racism peaceful protests, “including the alleged use of excessive force against protesters, bystanders and journalists.”

The US has long avoided meaningful attention from the Human Rights Council, and [decided to withdraw from it in 2018](#) – becoming the first member to ever do so after being elected to a seat. Now that the US is in the spotlight, it's crucial that civil society groups ensure that the council-mandated report and high commissioner updates keep the focus on the US to address the challenges faced by families like Floyd's in seeking justice and accountability for police violence.

- **Police Brutality**

In recent years, the United Nations Police Division has undertaken a number of initiatives to expand and consolidate the role of United Nations police working in United Nations peace operations.

International policing is becoming more multi-dimensional as it strives to re-establish the rule of law while providing public safety and security. United Nations Police are working on sexual and gender-based violence in a number of post-conflict settings. They are helping to train national police services. They are helping to reinforce systems that address trans-national crime, and they are working closely with the [International Police Organization \(INTERPOL\)](#), to consolidate lessons learned and define practices of international policing.

The United Nations works closely with many partners, including its [Member States](#), the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), the [United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#), the African Union (AU) and the [European Union \(EU\)](#).

United Nations police towards 2020: Multi-Year Vision and Strategy

In accordance with the Secretary-General's agenda and relevant Security Council Mandates, the United Nations Police adopted a vision and Multi-Year Vision and Strategy in March 2014, titled: [United Nations Police Towards 2020: Serve and Protect to Build Peace and Security](#).

Upon request of the United Nations Secretary-General the [High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations \(HIPPO\)](#) presented its report on how United Nations peace operations can be made more effective, efficient and responsive in June 2015 (A/70/95). In his implementation report, the Secretary-General welcomed the progress on the [Strategic Guidance Framework](#), took note of the work on new modalities for planning and recruitment and tasked the Police Division to initiate an [External review of its future function, structure and capacity \(A/70/357\)](#). An independent review team began work in early 2016 and submitted its findings to the Secretary-General in May 2016.

The Secretary-General submitted his report on [United Nations policing \(S/2016/952 of 10 November 2016\)](#), in response to Security Council resolution 2185 (2014), in which the Council requested a report on the role of policing as an integral part of peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding.

The report also contains the Secretary-General's response to the external review of the functions, structure and capacity of the Police Division of 31 May 2016. Notably, it sets out his vision as to how to ensure that the United Nations police is ready to respond effectively to the challenges of the twenty-first century and contains 14 key recommendations that have fed into the [reform of the peace and security architecture](#) that Secretary-General António Guterres launched.

The report outlines how the environment in which the United Nations police operates has been altered by changing conflict dynamics. The United Nations police now engage in United Nations peace operations and post-conflict and other crisis situations across the entire peace and security spectrum, from conflict prevention and management to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace sustainment. It is often the breakdown of law and order that triggers United Nations deployment and, conversely the establishment or re-establishment of policing and other rule of law functions that allows United Nations peace operations to downsize and eventually withdraw.

Furthermore, the report takes stock of progress made and operational successes, such as the conferral of full responsibilities to host-State police in Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone; transition planning in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti; gender sensitive policing and gender-balancing efforts in Côte d'Ivoire, Darfur and Haiti; and evolved integrated rule of law approaches in Mali and Somalia.

Past Actions

- Every year, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) holds fellowship programmes for people of African origin, giving participants the opportunity to learn and deepen their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, with a focus on issues like systematic racism, particularly relevant to them.
- The UN Department of International Relations (DGC) organises panel discussions, film screenings and other public events to raise awareness. In April 2016, DGC, OHCHR, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) and the non-governmental organization Black Women Blueprint organized a discussion on the African Women's Forum. On Human Rights Day in December 2016, DGC organized a film night, sponsored by the Jamaican Permanent Mission, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the African Diaspora International Film Festival, which contains short films by new African-born producers. And in February 2017, DGC organized an audition of the educational documentary "AfroLatinos" by independent producers.
- UNESCO has developed educational content on the basis of General History of Africa (including textbooks, teacher guides, textbooks, films, radio programs and textbooks) at various levels of education with the aim of correcting the general ignorance of African history.
- All American members of the African Union are committed to incorporating this content into their national studies. UNESCO has reported that it further clarifies the increased capacity of the General History of Africa to address the new challenges facing Africa and the dispersal of African people.

- UNESCO has also worked on creating an international coalition of General History of Africa artists to convey these messages to the youth and the general public.
- The OHCHR and the DGC in 2017 organized two workshops on racism in Brazil, aimed at government agencies and communities.
- UNESCO has published a guide to the management of memorial sites and their travels related to the history of slavery. The guide has assisted local communities, authorities and heritage professionals to compile inventory and storage, to promote and effectively manage memorial sites related to the slave trade, slavery and heritage of African indigenous people.

QARMAS

1. How to ensure an individual's legal protection from racism and police brutality?
2. How to promote and develop programs that address racism and police brutality worldwide?
3. How can a regionalized framework be utilized to eliminate racism and police brutality worldwide?
4. What are the roles of the government, non-government organizations, and private sectors in eliminating this issue?
5. As UNHRC, how can we ensure that all policies and being followed and no one's life is in danger?
6. How can you ensure the protection of LGBTQI+ individuals from cases of police brutality?
7. What is the role of data in influencing a more comprehensive framework for identifying population classes and providing real time dashboards?
8. How can countries reinforce their legal systems to provide unbiased justice especially when it comes to racism, vandalism, etc, arising from cultural differences?
9. How can labour laws evolve to account for discriminatory workplace practices and methods to prevent the same especially when the definition of conditions and practices are different in each country?
10. Can the world keep moving forward sustainably and unify or is there a breakeven point beyond which the single economy will not work? (Think about it not just from an economic standpoint)

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