



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Combating Racism



Bureau of Public Information
memobpi

Combating Racism

Faced with the rise in racist actions, UNESCO places the fight against all types of intolerance at the heart of its mandate. It contributes to drafting standard setting tools and operational projects.

Racism is the result of different pseudo-scientific theories claiming that there are several races among human beings and which ranks these races hierarchically. These theories are “*scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous, ...there is no justification for racial discrimination, in theory or in practice, anywhere*” (Preamble of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965). According to Article 2 of the 1978 UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, racism is comprised of “*racist ideologies, prejudiced attitudes, discriminatory behaviour, structural arrangements and institutionalized practices resulting in racial inequality ... it is reflected in discriminatory provisions in legislation or regulations and discriminatory practices as well as in antisocial beliefs and acts*”

UNDERSTANDING IS KEY

To better understand the different questions linked to racism, the Organization has decided to focus on several areas:

- development of scientific research and reflection on racism, discrimination and xenophobia ;
- renovation of UNESCO’s standard-setting tools and strengthening of cooperation with the different actors in the United Nations system;

- development of new educational approaches, drafting of teaching materials and statistical indicators on racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance;
- mobilisation of opinion and policy-makers;
- preservation of the diversity of multiethnic and multicultural societies;

- fight against racist propaganda in the media and in cyberspace.

The Organization has also implemented operational programmes and projects to participate, in a concrete manner, to the eradication of racism and of all forms of discrimination.



Poster for the 2004
International Day Against
Racism

The International Coalition of Cities Against Racism.

This initiative, launched in 2004, aims to create a concrete global framework to fight racism within a network of cities interested in exchanging best practices, experience and expertise in order to improve their policies. UNESCO focuses on the city, where various ethnic groups and cultures mix and where differences are confronted on a daily basis. It is based on the cooperation of the essential actors in this venue: city officials and civil society. In December 2004, the European Coalition, which includes Berlin, London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Nuremberg, Stockholm, Geneva, Riga and Barcelona, was launched. The

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Defining Universal Criteria Against Racism and Discrimination

UNESCO has drafted international tools defining the principals, concepts and universal criteria against discrimination:

- Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978);
- World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001);
- UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001);
- UNESCO's integrated strategy of fighting against racism, discrimination, xenophobia, and intolerance (32C/13, 2003);
- Slave Route Project (1994);
- UNESCO's strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention education

project is being implemented in other regions: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Arab States. Each coalition develops a ten-point action plan. The results of its implementation are measurable using indicators developed by UNESCO and research centres. The programme expires in 2007 when the International Coalition will be put into place.

The UNESCO/UNAIDS HIV/AIDS Project (2001) is a programme aimed at ending the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS. Its goal is to raise awareness and to ease understanding of discrimination based on HIV/AIDS and on questions dealing with human rights. It also aims to encourage youth participation in HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and communication.

The 1992 Education Programme for Children in Need aims to provide concrete, immediate and visible aid, particularly through non-formal education, to the most vulnerable and discriminated against populations. The children in need are grouped into four categories: street children; child workers; child victims of war and natural disasters; handicapped children, and children who suffer from cancer or HIV and AIDS. The goal is draw action from the principles contained in the 1990 Convention of Children's Rights. From 1992 to 2004, 287 programmes have been supported financially in 81 countries for a total of US\$ 27,570,000.

The Awareness Raising Programmes: Promoting Tolerance

- the UNESCO/Madanjeet Singh Prize, to promote tolerance and non-violence. Created in 1995, the prize of US\$ 100 000 is awarded every two years. In 2004, the laureate was the Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen;
- International Day for Tolerance, November 16. Created in 1995 by the UN General Assembly;
- March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Created in 1966 by the UN General Assembly.

To Find Out More

SHS web site:
www.unesco.org/shs/againstdiscrimination

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