



## MASTER CLASS AGAINST RACISM AND DISCRIMINATIONS:

### Promoting Intercultural Dialogue

On 21 March 2022, UNESCO will host a special global edition of its [Master Class Series against Racism and Discriminations](#), aiming to shed light on the growing significance of racial prejudice and the spread of racial discrimination and intolerance, and raise the visibility on its consequences.

The Master Class Series is part of the Roadmap against Racism that UNESCO is developing as part of its [Global Call against Racism](#), which is contained in a decision adopted by Member States in December 2020. This Roadmap will strengthen UNESCO's contribution to the fight against racism and discrimination across its field of competence, providing a strategic and operational framework to guide UNESCO's action in this important area, especially in the critical post-crisis period.

This Series aims to raise awareness amongst high school students to build their capacity to understand the causes of racism and discriminations, how to constructively combat these ills, and address their consequences. Upon conclusion, each Series culminates with the adoption of the young participants' commitments in designing and pursuing their own local initiatives. Ultimately, the goal is to empower the young participants to become agents of change and trainers for their own communities.

Set to be the 17th session, UNESCO's Master Class has empowered more than 5,000 students to become anti-racism champions in their own schools and communities. Around 97% of previous editions' attendees said the Master Class both educated and inspired them to be more tolerant, and over 75% reported confidence in sharing these new teachings with their family and peers.

This special edition of the Master Class series will address topics surrounding intercultural dialogue, gender-based discrimination, hate speech, negative perceptions of migrants and refugees, LGBTQ+ rights, climate activism and colonial continuities, among others. Each of these themes is uniquely intertwined with the fight against racism and discrimination.

UNESCO will partner with the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – [ICCAR](#) – who will be inviting young participants worldwide to join this hybrid edition. UNESCO Headquarters in Paris will host an in-person event with plenary sessions in which partner cities and schools can participate virtually. These partners can in turn organize their own satellite sessions and thematic workshops locally.

Institutional partners include the Musée de l'Homme, Permanent Delegation of Canada, Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia, Mongolian National Commission, French National Commission, Gwangju International Center, Cities of Atlanta, Barcelona, Bologna, Bordeaux, Cordoba, Heidelberg, Helsingborg, Karlsruhe, Lausanne, Liège, London, Montpellier, Nancy, Saint Etienne, Toulouse, ETC Graz, ASPNet, International Institute of Human Rights and Peace, Sciences Po, Thorbecke Academy (Leeuwarden - Netherlands), MAG Jeunes LGBT+, UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Chair Montreal, UNHCR Spain, UNESCO Cairo Office, UNIC Tunisia, Center for Engaged Foresight, Maison Balmain, Ecole Kourtrajmé.



## Programme

### Morning Session:

*Master of Ceremony: Garance Sarlat*

**09:30 to 9:45**

Opening Ceremony  
Welcome remarks from Gabriela Ramos  
Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO

**09:45 to 10:30**

Inaugural lecture from Professor Evelyne Heyer  
Genetic Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History  
“How do we become racist?”  
Q&A

**10:30 to 11:00**

Intervention from Linda Tinio-Le Douarin  
Coordinator of the UNESCO Master Class Series  
“Unlearning the myth about races: UNESCO perspectives”  
Q&A

**11:00 to 12:00**

Spotlight on Olivier Rousteing  
Q&A

**12:00 to 12:30**

Artistic interludes

- Original song performance from high school students (Nancy and Newcastle)
- Performance by Ecole Kourtrajmé

**12:30 to 14:00**

Lunch Break

### Afternoon Session:

*Master of Ceremony: Tania de Montaigne*

**14:00 to 14:30**

Engagement from various stakeholders:

- Vice-Mayor Patricia Daguerre-Jacque (Nancy, France)
- Carmen Giron Tomas (Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia)
- Bashkim Iseni (City of Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Benedetto Zacchiroli (President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism and ICCAR Global Steering Committee)
- Video from students of Profesor Domínguez Ortiz High School

**14:30 to 16:00**

Parallel thematic workshops\*

**16:00 to 16:30**

Lecture from Professor Helena Alviar  
Sciences Po  
“Discrimination based on gender, race and class: exploring difficult questions”  
Q&A

**16:30 to 17:00**

Plenary session on commitments  
Awarding of certificates  
Closing remarks from Anna Maria Majlöf, Chief of the Inclusion, Rights and Dialogue Section, Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO



## \*Parallel thematic workshops - 14:30 to 16:00

### **Workshop 1: How to identify and respond to hate speech**

Workshop by Clémence Bisson et Alexandra Frontali from the International Institute for Human Rights and Peace

*Room 3 at UNESCO*

*Workshop language: French*

Through educational activities on human rights and democratic citizenship, the International Institute for Human Rights and Peace will propose to the participants situations that will allow them to identify and understand how hate speech is constructed. They will be led to imagine ways to fight against hate speech in their daily lives and to propose counter-discourses.

### **Workshop 2: Being LGBTI+ today in France (and elsewhere): rights and discrimination**

Workshop by MAG Jeunes LGBT

*Room 5 at UNESCO*

*Workshop language: French*

This workshop will deal with the rights and discriminations that LGBTI+ people face, mainly in France today. The workshop will present the acronym LGBTI+ and the notions related to it, and will then use different interactive resources to talk about the discriminations and experiences of LGBTI+ people in order to reflect together about more inclusive communities.

### **Workshop 3: Racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination: what can I do?**

Workshop by Tania de Montaigne and Galina Elbaz

*Salle Miro*

*Workshop language: French*

This 3-step workshop is intended to elaborate the necessary tools for participants to fight against racism and discriminations at their local level.

- Step 1: The participants reflect and list, in groups, what they consider to be racism or discrimination. This first step allows everyone to become aware of what seems obvious to them as a problem, while also picking up on what may not appear to be a problem to them, but may be for others. This discussion allows us to bring to light our own prejudices and to confront them through debating. Each group will share the result of their reflections with the other groups.
- Step 2: A lawyer places each of the injustices listed by the groups in the context of the law. What does the law say or not say? What are the penalties? What are the ways in which citizens can complain or take action? What are the jurisdictions?
- Step 3: Establish together the modes of action for each injustice listed.



#### **Workshop 4: Climate Activism and Colonial Continuities**

Workshop by the City of Heidelberg

*Online via Zoom and projected at UNESCO in room 8*

*Workshop language: English*

By centering the experiences of BIPOC within the European climate movement, it follows up on climate justice discourses and promotes non-white and intersectional perspectives on climate change and activism. The workshop facilitates the reflection of participants' activist work within the climate movement, and encourages them to identify organizational structures inhibiting the inclusion of BIPOC and develop strategies for breaking up white centered spaces and structures. This workshop shifts awareness to racism in the context of civil-society and political organizing and highlights the importance of structures and strategies sensitive to discrimination.

#### **Workshop 5: Changing the narrative on migrants and refugees**

Workshop by Dr. Bashkim Iseni; Delegate for Integration and Head of the Lausanne Office for Immigrants - BLI, City of Lausanne

*Room 1 at UNESCO and accessible online via Zoom*

*Workshop language : English with French and Arabic interpretations*

The other, this person who comes from elsewhere or who is qualified as different from us, is often thought of as being a challenge or a problem, and rarely thought of for their wealth and contribution. This negative image of migrants and refugees - often linked to national and international political events - stains the image of diversity and influences our perception of these categories of people, considering them as external to our society. This workshop seeks to show, through examples, how a given situation can influence our perception of migrants or refugees. From there, it will be a matter of initiating an interactive exchange in order to deconstruct and question the images that shape our impression in order to co-construct another narrative on these segments of society, while inscribing them in our history.

#### **Workshop 6: Uncovering Systemic Racism through Crossing the Line**

Workshop by Renee Robinson, Sciences Po Paris

*Room 8 bis at UNESCO*

*Workshop language: English*

The theme for the session will be focused on uncovering multiple forms of racism that persist through microaggressions and racial profiling. It will begin with a short presentation detailing the different forms of racial profiling and how it manifests from legal and structural issues of racial discrimination present in a few related sectors (criminal justice system, employment, housing, and health care). There will be small clips presented where the students will view different scenarios and then reflect. We will discuss their reflections with an exercise called 'Cross the Line,' to create an interactive and engaging session. These exercises are designed to stimulate thoughts about prejudice, and create group trust by exposing commonalities or common thought patterns.



### **Workshop 7: I can act: The role of young people in the fight against racism**

Workshop by UNESCO Cairo Office

*Online via Zoom and projected at UNESCO in room 6*

*Workshop language: English*

The workshop mainly aims at deepening the understanding of discrimination and racism and empowers youth to be agents of change, which can limit discrimination and racism in their own communities. The workshop will allow youth to think critically about stereotyping, stigmatization, and discrimination, analyze them and come up with actions they can take to stop them.

By using the methodology of Arts & Dialogue, the team will facilitate interactive activities that enable the participants to reflect on themselves, their communities, and their agency to change discrimination and racism. By going through this journey, the desired outcome of the workshop are that:

- Participants are able to understand the cycle of discrimination.
- Participants can see & analyze the different forms of stigmatization, stereotyping, and discrimination present within their communities.
- Participants can come up with potential actions they can take to limit discrimination, racism, stigmatization, and stereotyping.

### **Workshop 8: Story Circles**

Workshop by Joyce Monteiro, Programme Specialist at UNESCO

*Room S373 at UNESCO*

*Workshop language: French*

UNESCO Story Circles is a simple tool for developing and practicing intercultural competencies, which empowers individuals with the skills to interact effectively across differences, such as listening for understanding, empathy, respect, cultural self-awareness and critical reflection. The methodology is inspired by indigenous traditions and uses a circle process offering a safe space where people gather as equals to share personal stories. The workshop will include an introduction to the methodology, an exercise in small groups of 4 to 7 people, and a debriefing session at the end.

### **Workshop 9: What is the role of culture in the fight against racism? (Art-Lab)**

Workshop by Jean-Pierre Chrétien Goni, Theater director at Le Vent Se Lève

*Room 7 at UNESCO*

*Workshop language: French*

The workshop will deal with "hidden", minor, sometimes barely visible discrimination for those who are not concerned. We hope that the young participants will be able to bring to light those forms of discrimination that are little or not visible, that sting their daily lives, whether at school or in the public space. We will also bring to light the idea that all of us can be lead to be unconsciously "discriminating". To do so, we will invent several stories, like documentary fiction, based on videos, photos and sounds previously collected by the young participants. Depending on the participants' preferences we may either tell stories using a platform called "New Narratives", or through a theatrical expression.