

## Newsletter of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

No. 1- January 2018

Dear all,

This newsletter is to update you about my work as newly appointed Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. I am deeply honoured to have been selected for this important position and I would like to assure you that I will spare no efforts in fulfilling my obligations as Special Rapporteur, giving voice and greater visibility to all those impacted by racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance across the globe.

As I assume this role my priorities include establishing and maintaining easy channels of communication with civil society organizations, social movements, community-based actors, academics and others doing the difficult work of fighting discrimination and intolerance. In this regard I wish to highlight my recent call for submissions to inform my first thematic report, which will focus on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the context of laws, policies and practices relating to citizenship, nationality and immigration. The call is available [here](#) and submissions are requested on or before 16 February 2018. More generally, I welcome your engagement, which you can submit at any time to this email: [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org).

I hope that this newsletter will be an opportunity for me to maintain meaningful contact with you and to update you regularly on the work and activities of my mandate.

Thank you all and please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Warm regards,  
E. Tendayi Achiume

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## Overview of the mandate

The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance is an independent human rights expert appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is one of 56 special procedures of the Council and was created in 1993 by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, predecessor of the Council. This is a voluntary and unpaid position.

The scope of the mandate covers all contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on grounds of race, colour, descent or national and ethnic origin. The Special Rapporteur can therefore address a wide range of issues, including incidents of racist and xenophobic nature, including racially motivated hate speech; systemic discrimination (de facto and de jure) against certain groups, communities etc.; racial/ethnic profiling and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; racial discrimination in the administration of justice; racial discrimination with regards to economic and social rights; discriminatory bills and laws, including in the context of counter-terrorism and immigration; Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Christianophobia; the glorification of Nazism and other historic injustices. It is also part of the mandate to document and promote good practices in the elimination of all forms and manifestations of racism, racial dissemination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Special Rapporteur is mandated to address racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against Africans and persons of African descent, Arabs and Muslims, Asians and persons of Asian descent, migrants and non-nationals, persons belonging to indigenous peoples and minorities, as well as all other victims mentioned in the [Durban Declaration and Programme of Action](#).

To learn more about the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, please check her [website](#).

## Main means of actions

With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Special Rapporteur on racism:

- monitors the situation in countries through [fact-finding visits](#);
- acts on complaints of alleged human rights violations by sending [communications](#) to States and any other relevant actors on alleged violations regarding contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- submits annual reports to the [Human Rights Council](#) and the [General Assembly](#);
- organises expert meetings and consultations to solicit a wide range of views on issues falling within the mandate;
- contributes to the development of international human rights standards;
- engages in advocacy and raise public awareness;
- and provides advice to Governments through technical cooperation.

## The current Special Rapporteur: Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume (Zambia)

Ms. E. Tendayi Achiume is the fifth Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the first woman to hold the position. She was appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2017 and took up her functions on 1 November 2017.

Ms. Achiume is currently a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, and a research associate of the African Center for Migration and Society (ACMS), at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. Her research and teaching interests lie in international human rights law, international refugee law, international migration and property. At UCLA School of Law, Ms. Achiume heads the International Human Rights Clinic, which provides pro bono expert legal services to individuals and institutions seeking to advance social justice through human rights.



To know more about the current Special Rapporteur, please check her full [biography](#).

## Call for submissions for the first thematic report: Racial and ethnic based discrimination through nationality and citizenship exclusion

The Special Rapporteur will focus her first thematic report on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the context of laws, policies and practices relating to citizenship, nationality and immigration. The report will be presented at the thirty-eight Session of the Human Rights Council in June 2018.

To inform her report, the Special Rapporteur invites all relevant stakeholders (including States, civil society, multilateral organisations, national human rights institutions, activists and academics) to submit inputs and share their views. Background information on the report and guidelines for submissions can be found on the [website of the Special Rapporteur](#).

The deadline for submissions is **16 February 2018**. Submissions can be made in English, French, or Spanish to [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org).

## Submitting information/complaints to the Special Rapporteur

The Special Rapporteur is mandated to take action on cases of alleged human rights violations relating to contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Based on the information received, the Special Rapporteur intervenes by sending letters – known as “communications” – to Governments and others. In these communications, the Special Rapporteur presents the allegations, outlines applicable human rights law and standards, asks for clarifications from relevant authorities and request them to ensure that violations are prevented, stopped, investigated, or that remedial action is taken.

The Special Rapporteur encourages any individual, group of people, civil-society organisation, inter-governmental entity, or national human rights body to submit relevant information and cases to her.

Further information and guidelines for submissions can be found [here](#).

## Special Rapporteur to visit the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (30 April- 11 May 2018)

The Special Rapporteur has been invited by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to conduct an official country visit from 30 April to 11 May 2018.

During the visit, the Special Rapporteur will examine the various manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the country. She will address major problems and challenges, identify good practices, and make concrete recommendations. The visit will include meetings with government actors, civil society and other key stakeholders.

We invite all stakeholders interested in submitting information to the Special Rapporteur in preparation of the visit, or in meeting with her during the visit, to contact us via e-mail at [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org).

### How to contact the Special Rapporteur

The Special Rapporteur firmly believes that the best way to improve the effectiveness of her mandate is to ensure that it is inclusive and approachable. You can contact her at any time via e-mail at [racism@ohchr.org](mailto:racism@ohchr.org).

She can also be reached by fax (+ 41 22 917 9006) and by postal mail at the following address:

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