



GA2: Social and Humanitarian Committee

Student Officer: Canberk Batman

Issue: Eliminating institutionalized racism

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I. Introduction

Humanity has been suffering from the brutal concept of racism for centuries, and yet could not completely get rid of this racism. Any action taken based on race, ethnic background, or skin color is defined as racism. Throughout these centuries, racism came in different forms. The most evident forms of racism are individual and institutional racism.

Racism has been a prevalent but equally controversial notion in the Americas for centuries. They have been deeming people from certain backgrounds at a disadvantage or making them be treated differently than white people. Nevertheless, today's modern civilization also fails to eradicate racism.

One party optimistically believes that institutionalized racism is eradicated, yet all the graphs and charts in the “Focused Overview” part prove that the related countries are way far away from solving this issue and establishing an anti-racist environment in which all residents, regardless of ethnicity, skin color, or race, are treated equally in all aspects. This problem has been an ongoing problem in the world and especially in the Americas for a long time. Nevertheless, to this day, there were no successful actions taken sufficient enough to end this hollow hate and discrimination.

II. Involved Countries and Organizations

United States of America

The United States has been involved in uncountable numbers of racism-based cases since the colonization of the land and the displacement of the indigenous people. As time passed by, the influence of indigenous people and culture to American culture was sought to be reduced. Their culture was not respected enough. The exploration of the residential schools also shows that racism towards indigenous people is not over. African people being moved to the Americas triggered racism towards people of color. Slavery became the way things work, and superiority between races became the issue. The Supreme Court was more likely to blame minorities for crimes, black voter registration rates were low, employers could use the workforce for a cheaper price using minorities, and the minorities were less likely to have insurance. Besides all these, the majority of the minority population was classified as unemployed. The graphs in the Focused Overview (Pictures 1,2,5,6,8, and 9) prove that the U.S. has a huge rate of deeply rooted systemic



racism in every aspect of life, and people belonging to the minorities have to endure harder life circumstances.

The story of discrimination of people of the Latin origin began in the 19th century, after the U.S. won the Mexican-American War. 55 percent of Mexican territory was granted to the United States by The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The Mexicans residing in those territories were given the opportunity of citizenship. With the immigration rates growing, discrimination against Latinos was triggered. Latinos were forced to live in urban barrios, which are located in the poorest areas of the territory. Though Latinos were extremely influential to the U.S. economy, their language, skin color, and origin was used as a reason to discriminate. When the former president of The United States Donald Trump first proclaimed “Make America Great Again,” many read between the lines and got the ultimate message: Make America White Again. The Washington Post reads, “Immigrants, refugees and people of color have always recognized Trumpism for what it is — a politics of nostalgia for an era of unquestioned white superiority and power.” (The Washington Post) As the recently elected President of the States, Joe Biden ensured that every single one of the United States citizens will be treated with dignity, without any discrimination against their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and so on. Today, latino children make up almost a quarter of all the children residing in The U.S. Therefore, Biden states “Our collective success depends upon the success of the Latino community.” (Biden, Joe) After the elections, Biden claimed that as the new President, he will make sure that Latinos’ economic mobility will be invested in, access to high-quality education will be expanded, and therefore racial inequity in education will be tackled. The main purpose for all of these claims of Biden is to secure the United States’ values as a nation of immigrants.

Canada

According to Statistics Canada, white people were almost 2 times more likely to obtain post-secondary education compared to the blacks in Toronto, one of the urban cities in Canada, in which more than 200,000 black individuals live. Unemployment in the black population was nearly 1.5 times higher than that for the white population.

Other than the racism black people are exposed to, the Canadian system also discriminates, and has been discriminating, the indigenous people that were living on the land before the colonization of the land. The colonizers built schools, especially for these indigenous family’s children. The parents of the kids were killed in cold blood, and the children were forced to go to those “residential schools” as the Canadians call them. In those residential schools, the children were forced to abandon their traditions, language, and every single thing related to their ancestry. They were taught the “ideal” Canadian tradition. The ones that insisted on using their language and not leaving their culture behind, were killed and buried under the school site. The aim of those schools was to make those kids adopt the colonizers’ culture and clear off the



indigenous cultures from the world, and so from history. These residential schools were open in the past, but nowadays, there are child corpses discovered under these schools, states the BBC. The latest discovery shows 751 dead bodies, but there have been other discoveries too. Moreover, there are hundreds of these residential schools that have not been searched for more corpses. With this being the history of Canada with racism, this still continues today. The government is not eager to admit their mistakes of the past, and they are trying to cover up the things they've done. This shows that the government has not changed their attitude towards racial discrimination in a more peaceful manner.

Chile

Chile has been enacting racial discrimination in a systemic manner to many backgrounds of people. These begin with indigenous people of Selk'nam, then continue with black Haitians, and lastly; Jewish migrants.

Augusto Pinochet, who was ruling Chile during the Selk'nam genocide, where European, Argentinian and Chilean settlers killed the Selk'nam people, an Amerindian tribe, who inhabited the Isla Grande de Tierra del Fuego.

In 2014, Chile faced a great amount of migration from Haiti, taking in a huge population of black people to the country. Neo-Nazi movements directed at black people were recorded in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Although the target mainly consisted of LGBT, homeless, and punk people, there were still racist and fascist movements back then. The people migrating in 2014, still faced racism, but thankfully it was not like how it was in the Augusto Pinochet regime.

The first case of anti-semitic movements in Chile was the "Andinia Plan" of the 19th century related to the extreme Jewish migration from the Russian Empire to the Americas. The Chilean population was afraid of the Jews stealing their lands to form their own state. According to the Anti-Defamation League, uncountable cases of disrespect and racism to Jews and Jewish areas are seen in Chile.

France

As one of the most powerful colonists in history, France is also one of the countries dealing with discrimination. Although racism in France could be elaborated on in many aspects, starting with the discrimination in France, moving on with their old colonies in Africa, and ending with the French Caribbean Islands.

Since this year's TIMUN sets its focus region as the Americas, the French Caribbean Islands will be discussed. France, after getting control of the Caribbean Islands such as Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Saint Martin, brought black people, whom they had forced to adopt French culture and language from their colonies in Africa, to these Islands. These people were not like white French people, but they were just used so that the region could be easily introduced to the French influence and get settled. Now, people living on those islands have French passports, they speak French, and the African influence is assimilated into history. Moreover, as time passes by, the black people on those islands are faced with racism. This is because the French government was successful at impacting the culture at a great rate. So now people of color face



poor living conditions compared to the population belonging to other racial backgrounds widespread on these islands.

Brazil

Today, Brazil holds nearly 75 million people of African descent in its population. Despite these huge numbers, Brazil was the last country to abolish slavery back at the end of the 19th century. After the abolishment of slavery, the country gradually started to improve on the matter. According to Ivanir dos Santos (the former Justice Ministry's specialist on race affairs), "There is a hierarchy of skin color: where blacks, mixed-race and dark-skinned people are expected to know their place in society." (dos Santos, Ivanir) As years passed by, the government started to acknowledge racial discrimination. Consequently, racism was classified as a punishable offense between the 1980s and the present. Nowadays, racial discrimination rates decreased.

The graph (Picture 7) the quality of life indicators according to the races. As can be clearly seen, Black and Multiracial Brazilians were in a bad place when compared to the white Brazilians.

Argentina

In Argentina, the black population was being racially discriminated against. The country has favored the supremacy of white Europeans. With a large population of Jewish people migrating to Argentina, anti-semitic movements have risen. The main reaction was that these Jews married people of other ethnic origins here.

In addition, the ideology they have adopted supports that cultural influences from minorities such as the Aborigines, Africans, or Asians are not respected. The government has been participating in this White-European supremacy act. The chart below proves the aforementioned "white-European supremacy" ideology. The ideology has a legal foundation. The article, Article 25 of the National Constitution, establishes the difference between European and non-European immigration.

Article 25: The Federal Government will encourage European immigration; and will not restrict, limit, nor tax the entry of any foreigner into the territory of Argentina who comes with the goal of working the land, bettering industry, or introducing or teaching sciences or the arts. (*Article 25 of the National Constitution of Argentina*)

III. Focused Overview of the Issue

1. The Evaluation of Race as a Broad Term

Before examining the issue of institutionalized racism as a whole in the regional focus, the conceptual difference between institutionalized racism and systematic racism should be shed light on. Regarding this, as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) refers to



institutionalized racism, it is “the racial attitudes found in a ethnic group’s traditions, beliefs, opinions, and myths that are firmly ingrained in the very fiber of the ethnic group’s cultural paradigm, where such traditions, beliefs, opinions, and myths have been practiced and sustained for so long, that they are accepted as common facts, understood to be normal behavioral practices whereas, such practices in effect marginalize, and demonize the human worth of another ethnic group”. On the other hand, again by the OHCHR, systematic racism means “[the] infrastructure of rulings, ordinances or statutes promulgated by a sovereign government or authoritative entity, whereas such ordinances and statutes entitles one ethnic group in a society certain rights and privileges, while denying other groups in that society these same rights and privileges because of long-established cultural prejudices, religious prejudices, fears, myths, and Xenophobia held by the entitled group”. Within this context, In this section of the chair report, the contours of the web of institutional racism will be mapped out by focusing on various types of institutional racism: residential, educational, employment, criminal justice, political, and media.

The term “race” is a social construct. It is created and recreated by how people are perceived and treated in the normal actions of everyday life. Therefore, race is a dynamic concept that changes during the course of an epoch. For example, as far as American history is concerned, some groups which are defined as an “inferior race” within American society at a certain historical moment, may successfully escape racialization and become part of the alleged privileged majority, “white”. Other groups, especially those who are descended from African, Latino, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Asian descent, have found the path for group socioeconomic mobility far more difficult. Regarding this, the unequal and socially constructed boundaries of color have been, sometimes, permanent barriers to the economic development, educational and social advancement of millions of Americans. For them, the given situation was a deeply flawed and often hypocritical democracy.

For several centuries, African-American leaders and civil rights organizations have taken view that racism as a system of structural inequality had to be critiqued globally, in a worldwide context, rather than focusing exclusively on what is happening to minorities inside the United States.

The two central architects of African-American political thought, Frederick Douglass¹ and Martin R. Delany², both in different ways viewed the questions of slavery and the emancipation of black people in a manner that incorporated international issues. During the Second World War, the board of directors of the NAACP, issued a direct challenge to the Roosevelt administration, declaring that the United States should be utterly opposed to any policy which means freedom for white people are any part of the white people of the earth on one hand, and continued exploitation of colored peoples, on the other. We ask that it be made clear that the United States will not in any fashion, direct or indirect, uphold continued exploitation of India.

¹ Frederick Douglass was an American social reformer, abolitionist, orator, writer, and statesman. After escaping from slavery in Maryland, he became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and New York, becoming famous for his oratory and incisive antislavery writings.

² Similar to Frederick Douglass, Martin Robison Delany was also an African-American abolitionist, journalist, physician, soldier, and writer, and arguably the first proponent of black nationalism.



2. The Historical Progress in Society's Perception of Race

Employment has been another major issue within institutional racism. Regarding this, for instance, the 1960s and 1970s witnessed, in many aspects, an unparalleled record of accomplishment and success for African Americans. Racial progress could be measured in many different ways, from the growth of elected officials (from less than 100 in 1964 to nearly 5,000 in 1980), to the expansion of the black consumer market (estimated at \$30 billion in 1960, \$70 billion in 1973, and \$300 billion by 1995). 24 Blacks were increasingly represented in national popular culture, from entertainment to professional athletics. The number of African Americans enrolled in colleges and universities rose from about 200,000 in 1960 to 1.1 million in 1980. Nevertheless, despite these real material advances, the structural foundations of racial inequality had not been dismantled.

As opposed to these improvements, for a variety of reasons, rates of violent crime, including murder, rape, and robbery, increased dramatically in the 1960s and 1970s. The death penalty, which was briefly outlawed by the Supreme Court, was reinstated. Local, state, and federal expenditures for law enforcement rose sharply. Behind much of anti-crime rhetoric was a not-too-subtle racial dimension, the projection of crude stereotypes about the link between criminality and black people. Rarely did these politicians observe that minority and poor people, not the white middle class, were statistically much more likely to experience violent crimes of all kinds. The greatest victims of these racialized processes of unequal justice, of course, are African American and Latino young people. In April 2000, utilizing national and state data compiled by the FBI, the Justice Department and six leading foundations issued a comprehensive study that documented vast racial disparities at every level of the juvenile justice process. African Americans under age 18 comprise 15 percent of their national age group, yet they currently represent 26 percent of all those who are arrested. After entering the criminal justice system, white and black juveniles with the same records are treated in radically different ways. According to the Justice Department's study, 14 among white youth offenders, 66 percent are referred to juvenile courts, while only 31 percent of the African-American youth are taken there.

The wrongdoings of the past are unfortunately passed down to this day. One of the many trial cases where institutionalized was apparent is the "1989 Central Park Jogger Case" or "Central Park Five Case" in which 5 underaged teen boys of color were falsely convicted of assaulting and raping a white female jogger, Trisha Meili. As a consequence of the untruthful conviction, the kids have served sentences from six to twelve years in juvenile facilities and adult prisons where they have encountered personal violence. Hence, the terms "race" and "institutionalized racism" are historically significant conflicts and have destructive, polarizing, social impacts that are much beyond and grave than the current mild definitions of today.

IV. Key Vocabulary



Mestizo: According to Britannica Dictionary, “mestizo” (plural mestizos, feminine mestiza) denotes a person of combined Indian and European extraction in Central and South America.

Indigenous: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “indigenous” is a term used to define the ancestry of the earliest known inhabitants of a place and especially of a place that was colonized by a now-dominant group.

Andinia Plan: Andinia Plan is a conspiracy theory about a Jewish state in parts of Argentina and Chile.

Assimilationist: One who is expressing the racist idea that a racial group is culturally or behaviorally inferior and is supporting cultural or behavioral enrichment programs to develop that racial group.

Bigotry: Intolerant prejudice that glorifies one’s own group and denigrates members of other groups.

Colonisation: Colonization can be defined as some form of invasion, dispossession, and subjugation of a people. The invasion need not be military; it can begin—or continue—as geographical intrusion in the form of agricultural, urban, or industrial encroachments. The result of such incursion is the dispossession of vast amounts of lands from the original inhabitants. This is often legalized after the fact. The long-term result of such massive dispossession is institutionalized inequality. The colonizer/colonized relationship is by nature an unequal one that benefits the colonizer at the expense of the colonized.

Ongoing and legacy colonialism impact power relations in most of the world today. For example, white supremacy as a philosophy was developed largely to justify European colonial exploitation of the Global South (including enslaving African peoples, extracting resources from much of Asia and Latin America, and enshrining cultural norms of whiteness as desirable both in colonizing and colonizer nations).

Decolonization: Colonization can be defined as some form of invasion, dispossession, and subjugation of a people. The invasion need not be military; it can begin—or continue—as geographical intrusion in the form of agricultural, urban, or industrial encroachments. The result of such incursion is the dispossession of vast amounts of lands from the original inhabitants. This is often legalized after the fact. The long-term result of such massive dispossession is institutionalized inequality. The colonizer/colonized relationship is by nature an unequal one that benefits the colonizer at the expense of the colonized.



Ethnicity: A social construct that divides people into smaller social groups based on characteristics such as shared sense of group membership, values, behavioral patterns, language, political and economic interests, history, and ancestral geographical base.

Race: Racial categorization schemes were invented by scientists to support worldviews that viewed some groups of people as superior and some as inferior. There are three important concepts linked to this fact:

1. Race is a made-up social construct, and not an actual biological fact.
2. Race designations have changed over time. Some groups that are considered “white” in the United States today were considered “non-white” in previous eras, in U.S. Census data and in mass media and popular culture (for example, Irish, Italian, and Jewish people).
3. The way in which racial categorizations are enforced (the shape of racism) has also changed over time. For example, the racial designation of Asian American and Pacific Islander changed four times in the 19th century. That is, they were defined at times as white and at other times as not white. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as designated groups, have been used by whites at different times in history to compete with African American labor.

Institutional racism: The term refers specifically to the ways in which institutional policies and practices create different outcomes for different racial groups. The institutional policies may never mention any racial group, but their effect is to create advantages for whites and oppression and disadvantage for people from groups classified as people of color.

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
21 Dec. 1965	ICERD was adopted.
1978	UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice (1978)
1992	Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities (1992)
1993	Model National Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation Against Racial Discrimination was adopted.



VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [The International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(ICERD\)](#)

ICERD is a convention against all forms of enactment of racial discrimination. Moreover, this convention aims to promote equality and understanding between all races.

- [UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice \(1978\)](#)

In 1978, UNESCO declared the equality of all races and that superiority of one race to another is unacceptable. This declaration was an eye-opener for a lot of people. It had a huge impact on the elimination of racial prejudice and systemic racism.

- [Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious or Linguistic Minorities \(1992\)](#)

Its key provisions include that "Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (hereinafter referred to as persons belonging to minorities) have the right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and to use their own language, in private and in public, freely and without interference or any form of discrimination"

- [Model National Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation Against Racial Discrimination \(1993\)](#)

The adoption of this legislation was the greatest step ever to be taken in order to tackle systemic racism. The legislation points out and aims to prevent inequalities based by racial differences in many aspects; such as but not limited to employment, education and housing.

VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Since this is a matter of human rights, and the problem that needs to be solved is not a basic issue but a whole concept; there are no specific attempts that can be evaluated in order to banish this concept from life yet. The solution attempts are usually limited with national efforts, and the ones that are available for a wider range, which is presented in the "Past Resolutions and Treaties" part, are not implemented and supervised correctly. That is why systemic racism still cannot be fully eradicated yet.

Eliminating the term "race", which is a social construct, or restricting the usage of certain racism-related terms are not an efficient ways to tackle the global issue as a whole. To illustrate, in countries like the United States, which have enacted prevention laws, changes in social norms have led some commentators to use phrases like "colour-blind racism" and "laissez-faire racism" to capture the challenges of preventing racial discrimination and enforcing laws.

Additionally, racial discrimination is also manifested in practices generally thought to be relics of the past, such as race-based slavery. The majority of victims of racial discrimination are communities (and members of communities) with specific identities based on such factors as ethnicity, culture, nationality,



language and territory. Those who persist in being different and demand to be treated as such are stigmatized in highly diverse ways, in which the attribution of race as a stereotype and of a set of prejudices that devalues them is still prevalent. In this situation, discrimination is based on denial of the right to be different and hence denial of the diversity (multi-ethnic, multicultural) of the society and State as a whole. Recently, Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stated that, together with poverty, discrimination constituted another recurring source of disqualification and deprivation of rights, freedom and dignity and that, despite the many efforts undertaken by the international community, racism and racist practices continued to spread in subtle, vicious and insidious ways and were internalized in everyday life through a variety of processes of socialization. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has also referred to racial discrimination as a dangerous obstacle to national development.

However, some of the global advances made to date deserve to be highlighted. The Preparatory Conference of the Americas against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Santiago, Chile, 2000) was significant in that the States of the region recognized that the identity of the Americas could not be separated from its multiracial, pluriethnic, multicultural, multilingual and pluralistic character, and that this social diversity provided an input to human coexistence and the building of mutually respected cultures and democratic political systems. It also recognized, for the first time, the existence of institutionalized discrimination and the possibility of reparations for suffering and injury caused by institutionalized discrimination. Similarly, the World Conference held in Durban, with its Declaration and Programme of Action, was instrumental in prevailing on a number of countries in the region to establish individual State bodies to implement its recommendations.⁵

VIII. Possible Solutions

Systemic racism is a problem that will take time to solve. However, it's not impossible to do so. There are a few ways to tackle this issue.

First and foremost, education is the biggest aspect of them all to handle. Countries should be willing to change, and change starts with education. Rather than hiding the truths about the countries' history, or current policies, they should educate the public about the issue. If people are educated in the means of understanding the damage of systemic racism to society and life, then they would want to make amends.

Secondly, a conference to collectively take measures would be a step forward in terms of reinforcing anti-racist ideologies within the States. The Preparatory Conference of the Americas against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was significant in that the States of the region recognized that the identity of the Americas could not be separated from its multiracial, pluriethnic, multicultural, multilingual and pluralistic character and that this social diversity provided an input to human coexistence and the building of mutually respected cultures and democratic political systems. It also has



been pointed out for the first time that the existence of institutionalized discrimination and the possibility of reparations for suffering and injury caused by institutionalized discrimination.

Similar to this conference, the World Conference held in Durban, with its Declaration and Programme of Action, was influential in terms of prevailing on a number of countries in the region to establish individual State bodies to implement its recommendations. Hence, conferences have been efficient ways to tackle the issue at hand.

Last but not least, the chair board's advice to tackle this issue is for Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) to preserve indigenous nations, their cultures, languages, lands, and landmarks, in coordination with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). In this way, they will be securing the well-being of people of minorities. This will also establish respect for the ancestry of the indigenous people, wrongfully-alleged invaders in the past.

IX. Useful Links

[International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#)

[Declaration on Minorities](#)

[Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice](#)

[Model National Legislation for the Guidance of Governments in the Enactment of Further Legislation Against Racial Discrimination](#)

[Article 25 of the National Constitution of Argentina](#)

[Racial Equity Tools Glossary](#)

[A Monograph on White Privilege and Community Building](#)

[The Declaration and Programme of Action of World Conference on Racism. Racial Discrimination.](#)

[Xenophobia and Related Intolerance](#)



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