

Research Report

General Assembly 2



The issue of systemic racism and abuses against Africans and people of African descent in the U.S. and beyond, and the lack of progress to end racial discrimination in the U.S.

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Introduction

Slavery is a condition in which a human being is owned by another. By law, a slave is considered as property, or chattel, and has been deprived of most of the rights ordinarily held by free people. Slaves were mostly Africans or people of African descent. Even though slavery has become less apparent in society over time, it has not fully disappeared. Unfortunately, this part of history has sometimes resulted in people who continue considering people with a darker skin as being less worthy. For that reason, slavery can be seen as one of the causes of racism; the unequal treatment of individuals. Racism influences people, societies, countries, and therefore the entire world. This is for example a big issue in the United States of America.

The Committee

Our committee will be GA2, formally known as the United Nation's General Assembly Second Committee. The Second Committee deals with promotion and protection of human rights all around the globe. In this General Assembly, nations come together to discuss one's (individual) rights and find solutions in a peaceful and respectful manner. This particular issue will focus on racism as stated earlier.

The work of the body is split into three stages: (1) general debate, (2) thematic discussions and (3) action on drafts.

An important fact to note is that the real Second Committee in the UN deals with economic and financial issues and that the Human Rights Council would actually discuss the issues we address in this committee.

Historical fact: GA2's first session took place from 19 to 30 June 2006.

Keywords

Racism = prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Inequality = the unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money, etc. than other people.

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Overview

Racism against Africans or people of African descent is a major problem in the world. People of African descent live in many countries around the world, either dispersed among the local population or in communities. The highest concentration of people of African descent can be found in Latin America and the Caribbean where estimates reach about 150 million people. People of African descent make up some of the most marginalised groups across the globe. This concerns descendants of African people that were displaced to the U.S. during the transatlantic slave trade many generations back, but also more recent migrants who have travelled to the U.S., Europe, Asia, or just within Africa itself. These people frequently belong to a specific victim group that suffers from discrimination that finds its origin in the historic legacy of the transatlantic slave trade. Even Afro-descendants that have not directly descended from slaves face the racism and discrimination that still persists today, generations after the slave trade ended.

Some examples concerning this issue are Mr. A. Arbery (25 years old) who was fatally shot by three white men while jogging near his home. Ms. B. Taylor (26 years old) who was shot in bed when the police raided the wrong house. And Mr. G. Floyd, aged 46, who died after he was apprehended by the police on accusations of using a counterfeit bill in Minneapolis. The video of an officer kneeling on his neck, while three others participated and observed, sparked outrage across the globe.

Arguments

Racism can have a major impact on a country, for instance when the leaders of a country implement a rule stating that African people ought to get paid 20% less in comparison to other people. This has a major impact on opportunities and the future of African people. Also, not all people are being treated equally, which is a violation of human rights.

Social segregations in the US: Africans do not live in the big cities and do not live in the most expansive residences either. These people do not feel welcome or are simply not allowed to feel welcome.

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Timeline of Events

1619 – slavery is introduced in North America.

1831 – Nat Turner’s revolt, the only effective slave rebellion in US history.

1861 – civil war and emancipation, confederate states of America were formed.

1909 – NAACP was founded, National Association for the Advancement of coloured People.

1954 – Brown v. Board of Education, segregation in public schools violated the 14th amendment’s mandate of equal protection of the laws of the US constitution.

1972 – Shirley Chisholm runs for president, first major party African American candidate and the first female candidate for president of the United States.

1992 – Los Angeles riots.

2021 – Kamala Harris becomes the first female and first black U.S. vice president.

Resolution

In order to solve this issue, we must agree upon a resolution. It is therefore your task to write a resolution that could resolve systemic racism and abuses against Africans and people of African descent in the U.S. and beyond. You should also address the lack of progress in ending racial discrimination in the U.S. in general, and specifically towards Africans and people of African descent.

In your resolution you must include an image of your stands of this issue. We would like you to represent your country with its norms and values and not your personal ideas and values.

You must therefore research how your country looks upon this issue on economic, cultural and ethical factors. In case this issue does not immediately affect your country, research all the countries you are allied with and the stance they take on this issue so you know which resolutions to help with and vote on.

Furthermore your resolution must also include possible solutions, which are clearly elaborated.

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Links and sources

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/gashc4307.doc.htm>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Home.aspx>

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<https://www.britannica.com/topic/slavery-sociology/Slavery-in-the-Americas>

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