

Research Report

GA4 – Special Political and Decolonisation committee

Issue: "Eliminating the social and fiscal neglect of marginalized demographics"

I. Introduction:

Minorities and people with low incomes are two examples of different groups who have historically faced discrimination and hardship. Progress has been made in addressing this inequality and helping those in need, but much more needs to be done to guarantee that everyone has access to fundamental human rights and is not subjected to unfair treatment based on any factors. The UN has consistently sought out novel approaches which are supposed to guarantee the implementation of change on a global scale and offer a framework for various civilisations to be able to accomplish an equitable society.

II. Key terms:

A. Social Neglect

refers to a situation in which certain groups are given inadequate support, care or assistance. It can also often be linked to social discrimination or persecution.

B. Fiscal neglect

is a type of disregard for money-related issues, particularly those involving the distribution of funds and resources. It can happen on various levels, including by government agencies, businesses, and private residences. Fiscal neglect can take many different forms, including underinvesting in public services, infrastructure and social programs, which prevents people from having enough access to basic necessities and opportunities.

C. Marginalised demographics

refers to groups of people who have experienced disadvantage or exclusion from society due to things such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, handicap, or other traits.

D. Protected characteristics

are as follows: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

III. General overview

Social and fiscal neglect of certain marginalised demographics most often stem from discrimination. There are 4 prevalent kinds of discrimination. Firstly, there is direct discrimination, this is visible in instances when people are mistreated due to their protected characteristics. Secondly, there is indirect discrimination. This can occur when a company implements a regulation, policy, or method of operation that negatively affects those with protected characteristics more than people without them. The other two kinds of discrimination are harassment and victimisation.

Actual constitutional measures that aim to prohibit judicial neglect or discrimination of minority groups have been put into place by numerous different governing organisations of various states. For instance, in 1965, the United States of America approved the Voting Rights Act, establishing equal voting rights for everyone. To start a discourse about these pervasive and important concerns, however, a united worldwide framework is of the utmost necessity.

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When thinking about this subject, it's crucial to distinguish between direct discrimination and neglect. Neglect is a complete lack of care and assistance based on prejudice, whereas discrimination is a direct act of persecution, violence, or prejudice.

IV. Major parties involved

A. OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is an organisation under the United Nations that works to advance and defend human rights all over the world. The agency's duties include keeping an eye out for and compiling information on human rights violations occurring anywhere in the world, assisting governments and civil society organisations in building their capacities, and promoting the advancement and defence of human rights through international forums and mechanisms.

The OHCHR also promotes the ratification and application of international human rights treaties and instruments and strives to enhance national human rights institutions. It also offers legal and policy analysis on human rights-related topics.

The OHCHR also strives to make sure that human rights issues are taken into account when creating UN policies and initiatives.

B. NGOs

NGOs are non-governmental organisations which work to tackle a certain issue. Thanks to their non-governmental nature and the relative freedom that stems from that, they are not tightly bound by country policies and can focus solely on separate issues. Furthermore, they have the ability to cooperate with other organisations, agencies or nations with relative autonomy. Some examples of NGOs which deal with the social and fiscal neglect of minorities:

1. Amnesty International

is a non-governmental organisation with a mission to advance and defend human rights throughout the world. Researching and recording violations of human rights, arguing for the release of political prisoners, promoting justice and holding violators accountable, and enlightening the public about these concerns are all part of its activities.

2. Human Rights Watch

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is a non-governmental organisation that looks into and publishes information about global violations of human rights. Researching and documenting violations of human rights, arguing for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, fighting for justice and holding those responsible for such violations accountable, and advancing respect for human rights and international law are all part of HRW's mission.

3. Civil Rights Defenders

is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that focuses on protecting civil liberties and human rights worldwide. In addition to encouraging respect for civil and political rights, civil rights defenders seek to safeguard human rights defenders, assist those whose human rights have been legally infringed, promote gender equality and LGBTQ rights, and protect human rights defenders.

C. States

1. USA

Communities of colour, low-income individuals, women, LGBTQ+ people, and persons with disabilities are just a few of the marginalised categories that have historically suffered from social and fiscal neglect in the United States. There are notable differences in health outcomes, educational achievements, economic opportunities, and access to basic services as a result of institutional impediments, discriminatory legislation, and unequal resource allocation.

In terms of fiscal neglect, areas which are inhabited by marginalised demographics (such as black "ghettos" in big cities) frequently experience underinvestment in social programs and infrastructure, such as affordable housing, healthcare, and education, leading to unequal access to opportunities and resources. Inequality in income, unemployment, and poverty are frequently worse in these places.

Socially marginalised groups experience prejudice, bias, and discrimination, which results in unfair treatment, stigmatisation, and exclusion. Lack of access is one manner in which this may appear. The afore mentioned lack of access to healthcare, impede individuals' ability to function in society without fear of injury. Consequently, areas inhabited by minorities are often more dangerous due to the lack of governmental oversight and can be areas of frequent gun violence.

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That aside however, the USA has historically made great strides in providing constitutional provisions which attempt to eliminate the neglect of minorities. The Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment are just two examples of such constitutional provisions.

2. United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The population of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is varied, including a sizable number of immigrants and foreign workers from many nations and backgrounds. Nevertheless, there are legitimate concerns about the social and financial marginalisation of minority communities in the UAE, despite its status as a wealthy and advanced country.

Fiscally, some minorities, particularly low-income foreign employees, are subjected to lax labor laws, low pay, and unfavourable working conditions. This may lead to financial exploitation, debt servitude, and challenges in getting access to essential services like healthcare and education. Human trafficking and labor violations have been reported, especially in the construction and domestic work industries.

Socially, minorities, including ethnic and religious minorities as well as foreign workers, experience stigmatisation, exclusion, and discrimination. This might show up in a variety of ways, such as limited access to healthcare, education, and housing, as well as limited political representation and participation.

There have been several measures to promote inclusivity and tolerance as well as labor law revisions to address these challenges. To ensure that everyone has access to fundamental human rights and protections, further framework should be set to alleviate the social and financial neglect of minority communities in the UAE.

V. Previous and possible solutions

- A. **Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues – resolution of the HRC 34/6**
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1290081?ln=en>
- B. **European Parliament resolution of 10 November 2022 on racial justice, non-discrimination and anti-racism in the EU** https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0389_EN.html
- C. **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – UN General Assembly Resolution 2106** <https://www.ohchr.org/en/>

[instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-elimination-all-forms-racial](#)

VI. Questions a resolution should answer

How can we ensure social and fiscal integration of marginalised demographics into societies?

What kind of international framework can we provide, to eliminate social and fiscal neglect worldwide?

How can governments actively hold themselves accountable?

VII. Useful resources

https://www.ohchr.org/en/ohchr_homepage

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6406315/>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2018/03/bourguignon>

<https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/stateless-minorities/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/minorities>

Sources

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3. *Human rights in United Arab Emirates* (no date) Amnesty International. Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/united-arab-emirates/report-united-arab-emirates/> (Accessed: 01 May 2023).
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