

Research report

GA4 - Special Political and Decolonisation

Issue: Eliminating the social and political neglect and exclusion of minorities

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I. Introduction:

All people have the right to be treated equally regardless of ethnicity, race, sexuality, or religion. Yet all around the world minorities are neglected and excluded from communities. Minorities are not only discriminated against based through law and policy but also socially through prejudice built into societies. Especially during

the COVID19-Pandemic, we have seen the inequalities against minorities. The UN has already started the fight to end discrimination against minorities, but not enough has been achieved yet.

II. Key terms

A. Social and political neglect

A vague definition of neglect is when someone's needs persistently are not met or they fail to receive care that is viewed as ethical and appropriate. An example of social and political neglect of minorities is leaving out minorities in policymaking. However, not all discrimination is legal discrimination, it can be social discrimination based on differences in culture.

B. Minorities

A small group of people that are different from the rest of society for reasons such as their ethnicity, religion, or disability. Most often, a minority group refers to people who face a disadvantage compared to the majority based on noticeable characteristics. Different countries have different minorities, therefore it is difficult to create one joint approach.

C. Mechanisms of exclusion

Mechanisms of exclusion are ways in which minorities are discriminated against. These mechanisms cover a range of ways in which social exclusion is practiced, like geographical segregation or intimidation.

D. Intersectional discrimination

Intersectional discrimination is the combination of different forms of discrimination. For example, women are frequently discriminated against in terms of pay, however, this discrimination often impacts women of color more. Therefore, certain parts of minority groups are also suffering due to additional discrimination.

E. Xenophobia

Xenophobia is a broad term used to describe the fear of people who are different. In this sense, xenophobia is caused by prejudice against different races, different nationalities, the LGBTQ+ community, etc.

III. General Overview

Minorities are typically subject to different treatment than the majority of the people due to their difference in appearance or beliefs. They are discriminated against in a number of ways. Minority neglect, exclusion, or different forms of discrimination are usually divided into many categories. In order to actively work for equality, we need to tackle it all regardless of the different forms.

Firstly, direct discrimination is when someone is treated unfairly because of a distinction of race, disability, etc. For example when someone is not offered a job promotion because of their ethnicity. Indirect discrimination takes place when there is a law or practice in place that despite being the same for everyone, disadvantages a certain group. For example, when a job requires a certain type of education that is unavailable to a certain group. This way it makes the job unreachable for an entire group.

Most commonly affected minorities are racial and ethnic minorities. Racism can be found in every country in the world, however, all countries have different minorities. For example, European countries systematically discriminate against the large Roma minority, however, some countries have a Roma population made up of only a few individuals, and there the discrimination typically isn't as strong. Another example of common mistreatment of minorities due to race or ethnicity is the treatment of refugees. Other discrimination can be based on religion, which is often caused by misinformation and fear.

Eliminating the social and political neglect and exclusion of minorities

IV. Major parties involved

A. OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is a department of the United Nations working to guarantee and promote human rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

B. UN Independent Experts

C. NGOs

Many NGOs collaborate with countries and support minorities all around the world. Noteworthy examples are for example:

1. **Amnesty International**, is a nongovernmental organization primarily focused on supporting human rights. They also make reports on countries evaluating them, including an evaluation of discrimination in the country and the social standing of minorities.
2. **Human Rights Watch** primarily investigates and monitors human rights abuses. It is made up of lawyers, journalists, and volunteers to protect minorities and people most at risk.

D. United States of America

With the rise of support for the Black Lives Matter Movement in the year 2020, the USA has shown support for the improvement of the rights of minorities. However, with a long history of segregation, slavery, and genocide, the USA still has discrimination and exclusion engraved in its culture and legislation.

V. Previous and possible solutions

The OHCHR works to advance the protection and empowerment of minorities and help them to realize their human rights. Their objectives are:

- To develop and promote standards, policies, guidelines, and solution-orientated research and analysis in relation to indigenous peoples and minorities;
- To contribute to all stages of country engagement including needs assessment, design, and implementation in relation to indigenous peoples

and minorities, in particular in relation to the recommendations of the Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, and Universal Periodic Review;

- To strengthen partnerships with United Nations and regional organizations and civil society through inter-agency cooperation and human rights training for indigenous peoples and minorities, through grants administered by the Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Populations to enable indigenous representatives to participate in UN meetings and processes; and
- To work to ensure indigenous and minority issues are addressed in UN bodies and human rights mechanisms in particular the Human Rights Council, the Treaty Bodies, and Special Procedures mandate holders through proactive cooperation.

A. Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities: <https://undocs.org/a/RES/47/135>

B. Security Council resolution 2475 (2019) <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2475>

C. Initiatives

- Minorities Fellowship Programme
- UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

D. Current issues in progress

- advancing Roma inclusion
- combating intolerance against persons based on religion or belief
- minorities, statelessness, and discrimination in access to nationality
- the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on minority rights

VI. Questions to consider

In what ways can we integrate minorities into society?

What is the cause of this exclusion?

How can we prevent the exclusion of minorities in the future?

How does culture affect the exclusion of minorities?

How do decrease people's fear of minorities?

VII. Further reading sources

[Minorities | United Nations](#)

[OHCHR and minorities](#)

[Minorities and their rights matter in conflict prevention - UN expert | OHCHR](#)

» [Stateless minorities and their search for citizenship](#)

[a/RES/47/135](#)

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/MinorityRights_en.pdf

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law>

[Definition, Mechanisms and Impact of Social Exclusion](#)

Sources

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