

Sensitization Session on Training Approaches for Tackling Racial Discrimination and Strengthening the Protection of Minorities

Addressing Racial Discrimination and Strengthening the Protection of Minorities, Indigenous Peoples and other Population Groups in UN Programming Processes

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Susana Gomez, WHO
Claude Cahn, OHCHR

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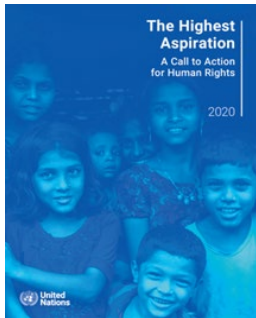
Content

- ✓ Context.
- ✓ Strategic vision.
- ✓ Snapshot of the UNCTs course (4-28 October 2021).
- ✓ Implementation - Country examples.
- ✓ Overview of the online course material.
- ✓ Accessing the course/how to use the material.
- ✓ Follow up actions and support from the UN Network.

Context

- “Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 between and within countries mirrors colonial hierarchies borne out of failures to redress the effects of racism rooted in slavery, colonialism and apartheid.” – [CERD Committee Statement \(2022\)](#)
- “Poverty, inequality and inadequate social protection disproportionately affects people of African descent due to deeply entrenched structural barriers to racial equality. The eradication of structural discrimination is a key driver for attaining the SDG Goals, requiring the dismantling of the structural and systemic barriers to sustainable development...” – [Report WGEPAD \(2022\)](#)
- “Eliminating racism and disparities in health status resulting from racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance is central to global efforts to advance the right to health and other human rights,” – [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health \(2022\)](#)
- “The global ecological crisis is simultaneously a racial justice crisis...the devastating effects of ecological crisis are disproportionately borne by racially, ethnically and nationally marginalized groups—those who face discrimination, exclusion and conditions of systemic inequality because of their race, ethnicity or national origin.” – [Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism \(2022\)](#).

Strategic vision

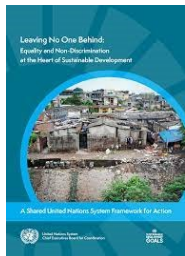


The Our Common Agenda Report indicates that:

- Renew Social contract for a new era – 3 foundations: Trust, Inclusion and Accountability.
- As a start, the adoption of comprehensive laws against discrimination, including based on race or ethnicity and intersecting grounds of discrimination, is long overdue.
- New approaches to proactively support the participation in public affairs of those who have traditionally been marginalized, including minority and indigenous groups, are also necessary.

The Call to Action for Human Rights includes the thematic area - Rights at the core of sustainable development.

“Design policies that support the most vulnerable and/or excluded groups, recognizing and responding to multiple and intersecting deprivations and sources of discrimination...”



Shared Framework on Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development

Operationalizing the commitment to LNOB at the country level requires a comprehensive approach with a series of steps, including identifying who is being left behind and why; identifying effective measures to address root causes.

Snapshot of the UNCT course (4 -28 October 2021)

Organizers:

Pillar LNOB/UN Network:
Coordinated by WHO with ILO,
OHCHR, OSAPG, UNESCO, UNHCR,
UNICEF, UNODC, and UNPFA.

Audience

13 UN Country Teams and
Humanitarian Country Teams'
technical staff.

Purpose

Enhance capacity of UNCTs staff on
measures to combat racial
discrimination, identify possible
interventions for addressing these
issues in programming and to
improve the integration of this
focus for their daily ongoing work.

Modality/format:

A combination of self-directed
training material with global
sessions and working group
reporting back sessions.

Components

- Syllabus
-
- Weekly assignment
-
- Course programme

**11 UN Global
facilitators**

Format/Methodology

- Weekly pre- reading material
- 8 global meetings (two per week)
- 4 working groups sessions (one per week)

Examples of Country Application

- Elaboration of a UNCT Hate Speech Action Plan.
- The incorporation of a racial discrimination lenses in the new national strategies – gender, health and youth strategies.
- Consulting those left behind in the Common Country Assessment and planning, programming and implementing.
- Application of “knowledge dialogues” to ensure meaningful participation processes.

Objectives of the online material

- Improve understanding of the concepts, principles, and frameworks for addressing racial discrimination and protection of minorities, peoples of African descent and indigenous peoples' rights in programming.
- Improve integration of a focus on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, indigenous peoples, and other population groups for policy making.
- Identify a set of possible interventions to addressing racial discrimination and protection of minorities, indigenous peoples, and other population groups.

Module 1 – Key concepts and manifestations of racial discrimination

Overview of the content

The importance of introducing entry points to addressing racial discrimination in the development of the CCA/CF (UNDCO).

- ❖ Discusses the integration of a Human Rights based approach, Leave no one behind and why it matter now more than even

Master Class on “Race, Racism and Human Genetic Variation: Connections and Disconnections (UNESCO).

- ❖ Presents the historical connections between racism and the centrality of the belief that races are biogenetic, natural, and hierarchically ranked.

Basic concepts, legal frameworks and manifestations of racial discrimination (OHCHR).

- ❖ Discusses the concept of racial discrimination and the international human rights framework that exist to combat it.

Overview of the mechanism of otherings and belonging into the design and preparation of CCA/CF (Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, commissioned by WHO).

- ❖ Discusses the practice of “othering” as one of division, exclusion, denying the full recognition of fellow humans and an attempt to deny our connections. It also presents “belonging” as a solution to “othering”.

Overview of the content

Module 2 – A human rights-based approach, relevant tools and standards

A Human Rights Based Approach to combatting Racial discrimination and protection of minorities in UN Programming (OHCHR).

- ❖ It introduces the key human rights concepts, principles, and frameworks for addressing racial discrimination and protection of minorities in UN programming.

Utilizing the “UN Network Checklist to strengthen UN work at the country level to combat racial discrimination and strengthen the protection of national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority rights, people of African descent, and indigenous peoples’ rights” (OHCHR/ILO).

- ❖ This guide poses a series of questions and provides resources for going beyond analysis to arrive at substantive work to address structural discrimination and exclusion.

Module 3 – Indigenous peoples and other population groups experiencing racial discrimination

Overview of the content

Introduction to measures to strengthen indigenous peoples' rights (UNDESA/ILO).

- ❖ This session explores the situation of indigenous peoples and how the history of colonialism and ethnic discrimination continues to perpetuate inequality and human rights violations. It also discusses how the UN system approaches the issue, including the linkages between the ILO Convention 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Spotlight on People of African Descent (OHCHR).

- ❖ Discusses the international framework to protect and promote the human rights of people of African descent.

Addressing and Countering Hate Speech UN Strategy and Plan of Action (OSAPG).

- ❖ Introduces hate speech, and how hate speech and incitement to hostility, discrimination and violence can be an indicators of risk and trigger of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity (atrocity crimes).

Module 4 – Interventions to tackle racial discrimination, hate crime and hate speech

Overview of the content

Addressing structural racial and ethnicity-based discrimination: key action areas for COVID-19 recovery plans (WHO/UNESCO).

- ❖ Discusses entry points and a package of interventions to support building forward better from COVID-19 in a way that results in more just, equal and resilient societies.

LNOB in the world of work: Human rights and development (ILO).

- ❖ Discusses how the workplace is a strategic entry point to eliminate racial discrimination in society. It discusses how people who are denied equal opportunities based on race or ethnicity often suffer discrimination in other spheres as well.

Ensuring equal access to justice for all in criminal justice systems without discrimination (UNODC).

- ❖ Explores the problems that people who are in contact with the criminal justice system are facing when trying to access to justice services, based on their status as member of a minority, indigenous or other population group.

Module 5 – Promoting monitoring data disaggregation and meaningful participation in CCAs and UNSDCFs

Overview of the content

Promoting monitoring data disaggregation and meaningful participation in CCAs and UNSDCFs (UNDESA).

- ❖ This presentation explores and discusses the importance of data disaggregation of SDG indicator for fulfilling the commitments of LNOB

Introduction to targeted universalism (Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, commissioned by WHO).

- ❖ Explores the concept targeted universalism (equity 2.0) and discuss the steps on how to apply it.

Meaningful Participation in CCAs and UNSDCFs (OHCHR).

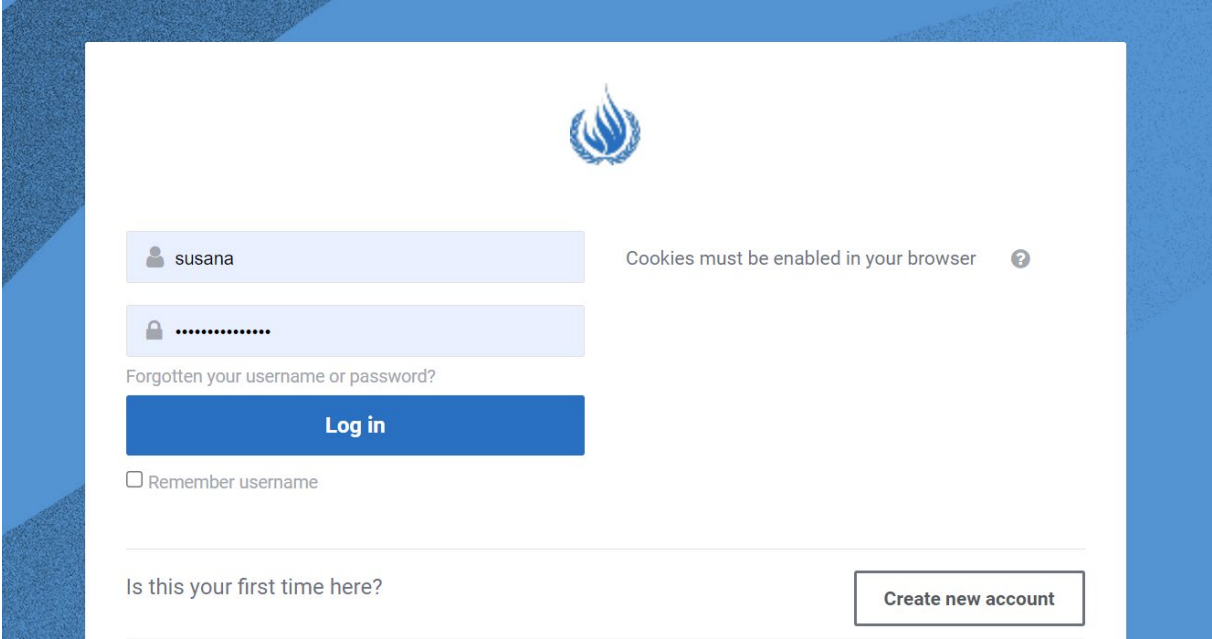
- ❖ How the UN can increase support at field level for the promotion of laws and policies that protect the right to equal participation and civic space.

How can you use this material ?

- Self directed  4 hours presentations (recordings) + reading materials + assignments.
- Replicate the course at the regional or country level  4-hour presentation (recordings) + working groups + assignment + reading materials (40 hours).
- Tailor the course  focus in specific themes to strengthen competencies.

Accessing to the training material

- To register for the platform, please kindly click here and follow the instructions for registration: LINK
- The course can be located at: <https://elearning.ohchr.org/course/view.php?id=65>

The image shows a login page for the elearning.ohchr.org platform. At the top center is a logo featuring a blue flame or torch. Below the logo are two input fields: the first contains the username 'susana' and the second contains a masked password '.....'. To the right of these fields is a message: 'Cookies must be enabled in your browser' with a question mark icon. Below the password field is a link that says 'Forgotten your username or password?'. A large blue button labeled 'Log in' is positioned below the login fields. Underneath the 'Log in' button is a checkbox labeled 'Remember username'. At the bottom of the page, there is a text prompt 'Is this your first time here?' and a button labeled 'Create new account'.

Thank you!

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