

Racial Equality, Human Rights and Migration: Centering Cities

E. Tendayi Achiume

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION,
XENOPHOBIA AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

racism@ohchr.org

Assistant Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

Scope of Mandate

- ▶ Incidents of contemporary forms of racism and racial discrimination against Africans and people of African descent, Arabs, Asians and people of Asian descent, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, as well as other victims included in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA);
- ▶ Situations where the persistent denial of individuals belonging to different racial and ethnic groups of their recognized human rights, as a result of racial discrimination, constitutes gross and systematic violations of human rights;
- ▶ The scourges of anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Islamophobia in various parts of the world, and racist and violent movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas directed at Arab, African, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other communities;
- ▶ Laws and policies glorifying all historic injustices and fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and underpinning the persistent and chronic inequalities faced by racial groups in various societies.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Article 1.1

“In this Convention, the term ‘racial discrimination’ shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

(emphasis added)



US Customs and Border Patrol



Salerno, Italy



Intersectionality

“The idea of ‘intersectionality’ seeks to capture both the structural and dynamic consequences of the interaction between two or more forms of discrimination or systems of subordination. It specifically addresses the manner in which racism, patriarchy, economic disadvantages and other discriminatory systems contribute to create layers of inequality that structure the relative positions of women and men, races and other groups. Moreover, it addresses the way that specific acts and policies create burdens that flow along these intersecting axes contributing actively to create a dynamic of disempowerment.”

(UN 2010)

76% of the global refugee population under UNHCR's mandate comes from the following 10 countries:

1. Syria
2. Afghanistan
3. Somalia
4. South Sudan
5. Sudan
6. Democratic Republic of Congo
7. Central African Republic
8. Myanmar
9. Eritrea
10. Colombia

Where are refugees located?

- 86% in the global south