

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OHCHR

Handbook B

**THE WARRANTABILITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS F
OR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

Chairwoman

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Moderator

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Conference Officer

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TAEMUN 2015

Dear delegates,

Welcome to TAEMUN 2015 and to your committee Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This committee represents the world's commitment to universal ideals of human dignity. Our mission is to protect and promote all human rights. The chair expects to see a debate full of ideas that attend the position of each country, in order to achieve an accurate resolution for our topics; Topic A: Action for the Protection of Journalist: Middle East and Topic B: The Warrantability of Human Rights for Racial and Ethnic Minorities. During the debate, we hope to see delegates who are able to analyze and to be conscious about the current worldwide situation, and to look for the most viable solutions to the subjects here present. Also, it is important to remind you that it is necessary to be respectful and tolerant with the ideas and proposes of other delegates. We want you to work together as a team in order to make the most of these three days. Do not hesitate on sharing your doubts with any of the members of the Chair during the debate. Thank you for attending TAEMUN 2015 and this committee. We wish you the best of lucks, delegates!

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

TAEMUN 2015

“No democracy can long survive which does not accept as fundamental to its very existence the recognition of the rights of minorities”.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Topic B: The Warrantability of Human Rights for Racial and Ethnic Minorities



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Every person should be treated equally; this is one of the main principles of the United Nations and a basic Human Right. Although differences do exist in a single society, it must be guaranteed that the values of tolerance and respect are always present in the interactions among people, and most importantly, between authorities and civilians. That is why every person in the world has the right to be protected by laws which purpose is that of giving the security they deserve as human beings.

Sadly, one of the biggest problems that human rights face all around the world is racial and ethnic discrimination. Although time has passed, our society has changed and we are on the eve of entering a developed society, the right to equality is still a major problem. Not everyone has the same rights as others, and certainly not the same governmental support, and even though there are laws that prevent discrimination and protect social minorities, these are still in danger of social and political abuses. In consequence, actions have to be taken in order to support and include all social minorities worldwide.

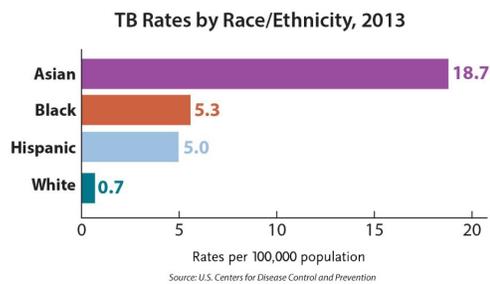
First of all, we understand that a social minority is a group of people that share culture, ideology, religion or language in a determined region and that has a considerably low percentage of followers compared to the rest of the population in the same area. There are different types of minorities, for example indigenous, racial, religious, gender or sexual-orientation groups, among others.

Minorities enrich the diversity of cultural background, historical context and linguistic roots in most countries; and that is why it is urgent to give them the protection and resources they require to develop as a part of a society.

Nowadays, the places where the gap between society and social minorities is more present are in continents such as America, Asia, and Africa; where they suffer due to globalization, intolerance and segregation, mainly because of the low importance that is given to them. For example, in America and Africa the indigenous groups are segregated, and their rights are often violated due to lack of communication and the differences in language. In Middle East, women are the minority group and religion often represents a barrier for their protection and the safeguard of their human rights. The past are just a few examples of how social minorities are seen and treated all around the world, and how it affects their development.

Ethnic and racial minorities have the right to be protected from discrimination, hatred and violence; right to equal protection by law; right to practice their own culture, their own religion and use their own language; right to benefit from positive steps taken by the state to promote racial harmony; and the rights of racial minorities would include the right to seek asylum for reasons of well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion affiliation.

Ethnic minorities are free to receive education, employment, access to health care, housing and social services. Also, they have equal recognition, equality before the courts, and equal protection of the law. The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights gives protection to the rights of minorities that are provided under article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Personal Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities is the document which establishes essential standards and offers guidance to States in order to adopt appropriate and legislative measures to secure the rights of persons belonging to minorities.



http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/images/2014/TB_Rates_HighRes.jpg

Questions to guide you:

- What is the importance of racial and ethnic minorities in your country?
- What are the laws established in your delegation to protect these minorities?
- How have these laws been working in your country?
- What does your delegation propose to eliminate racial and ethnic discrimination?
- Give your delegation's official position on racial discrimination and say what your delegation can do to prevent it.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/waltercallens/5496919731/in/pool-1076753@N21/>

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