Call for Inputs: The impact of COVID-19, and the response to the pandemic, on the human rights of people of African descent (Deadline: 17 May 2020)

Background

In its statement on COVID-19: Racial equity and racial equality must guide State action, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent has called on member states to commit to racial equity and equality in the current public health crisis. Structural racial discrimination may further exacerbate inequality in access to health care and treatment leading to racial disparities in health outcomes and increased mortality and morbidity for people of African descent. The 2001 Durban Declaration recognizes that "social biases and discrimination prevailing in public and private institutions" continue to create barriers for people of African descent, including in the realization of human rights, a particular concern in the global coronavirus response. Full statement available here: <https://ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25768&LangID=E>

The Working Group of experts on people of African descent will focus its annual report to the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council on the impact of COVID-19 and the response to the pandemic, on the human rights of people of African descent.

Call for inputs

The Working Group would appreciate receiving views from all interested stakeholders on the impact of COVID-19 and the response to the pandemic, on the human rights of people of African descent They would also welcome any positive measures that have been undertaken by Member States, national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society, and UN agencies, funds and programmes. In addition the WGEPAD would welcome any specific recommendations you would like to make to further the protection of human rights of people of African descent in this context.

This information may be sent to the WGEPAD Secretariat at the Anti-Racial Discrimination Section of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva (e-mail: africandescent@ohchr.org). Please note that in order for all inputs to be considered during the drafting of the WGEPAD annual report to the UN Human Rights Council, inputs should be submitted by 17 May 2020.