Introduction

With racial and ethnic discrimination occurring on a daily basis, number of victims are increasing around the world. From the refusal of individuals basic principles of equality to a radical action of genocide, the struggle against racism has become an issue that the international community now prioritizes. Numerous conventions and documents have been held and formed in order to produce the most comprehensive yet authoritative programs to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Racial discrimination has been used as a powerful weapon to arouse fear and hatred among the public in our society at times of conflict and war, and as scapegoats during economic downturns. Although some argue that support of racial discrimination is simply an exercise of freedom of speech, we have seen in the past that the simple exercise of freedom of speech could lead to dire consequences – Nazi German government’s former policies, Rwandan Genocide of 1994, Apartheid Act in South Africa.

Definition of Key Terms

Racial Discrimination

Taking forms of social actions, practices or beliefs, it consists of both prejudice and discrimination. The United Nations define “racial discrimination” as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin that 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 fields of public life.
Racial Segregation

Segregation typically means separation of people into categories of ethnicity. Although it is outlawed in most countries, it exists through social norms. Racial segregation also means the maintenance of the economic advantages and superior social status of the politically dominant group. Which numerous African Americans and Asians are facing in the Western hemisphere.

Institutional Racism

Racism can often occur in institutions like the government, corporations, and schools. Institutional racism restricts access to goods, services, and opportunities of society to certain ethnicities. South Africa, notably, was a nation which the government institutionalized racism with the practice of Apartheid. The Chinese Immigration Act passed by the Canadian government levied a head tax of $8000 in 2003, to prohibit Chinese immigration to Canada.

Background

Racism exists everywhere – in Europe, Australia, Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and North America. Racism has existed throughout human history. Defined as the hatred of one person by another or the belief that another is inferior to another because of skin color, language, customs, place of birth, racism continues to expand. From the enslavement of Africans in the New World, the enslavement was only possible because of the belief that Africans were inferior than the white Europeans and their descendants. When the theory of Darwinism kicked in in the 19th century, the phrase “survival of the fittest” kicked in. But as the world becomes globalized, intertwining different communities, inequality accompanies the expansion of globalization. With expanding globalization, the demands for more skilled people resulted in increase of foreign workers, which then led to increase of resentment by those in nations who are not benefitting from globalization but rather suffering from unemployment.

Despite the fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights explicitly states it "shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and organized and all other propaganda activities, that promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offense punishable by law;" practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance seems to be inherent in society.
Even as nations increase their effort to uphold human rights and condemn racial discrimination, the rights of racial minorities are often overlooked. Consisted of both prejudice and discrimination, racism has been integrated into our society and has become even more transparent over the course of the past few centuries. And to change this, the United Nations drafted and signed numerous conventions in hopes of securing the rights and dignities of these people. However, nations are still failing to institute these conventions and carry them into action. Although the UDHR declares all racial discriminatory action illegal, numerous nations have not integrated laws prohibiting such actions into their legal system. With the ending of the World War II, numerous organizations arose with racial prejudices such as the White Power Skinheads, Neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan, and American Nazi Party.

Aside from the commonly known organizations aforementioned, racist practices are often integrated in many countries like the Indian Caste system which now became a part of Hinduism allows space for racism to coexist with the outcaste or the Untouchables. These untouchables are denied with the access of public facilities (well, schools, post officers, roads, and courts), restrictions of lifestyle (unable to ride horseback, bicycle, umbrellas, footwear), and were faced with residential segregation (requiring them to reside outside of the village).

The Rwandan Genocide of 1994 which led to the mass slaughter of Tutsis by the members of the Hutu majority led to the death of 500,000-1,000,000 Rwandans death. During 1948-1994, racism was institutionalized in South Africa with the enactment of apartheid law. The initial goal of apartheid was to maintain white dominance, however it later stretched to the restriction of all political rights of Africans. The Canadian government passed The Chinese Immigration Act since 1885 up to 2006 in order to deter Chinese immigration levying head tax up to $8,000 in 2003.

Racial minorities are often faced with poor living conditions due to such institutionalized racism and certain practices that contribute to contemporary forms of racism. Because of its problematic nature, numerous nations and organizations have been holding conventions, signing documents in order to eradicate or even to lower discrimination and most institutionalized practices as such were abandoned.

The United Nations, especially the United Nations Human Rights Office have continuously showed its support to activities of Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) which oversees the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Special Rapporteurs, independent experts, are sent to publish reports and transmit urgent appeals and communications to States concerning cases of racial discrimination. And through advisory services, the international community comes together to conduct researches and analyze racism and
serve intergovernmental to address the situation of victim groups and engage with the wider community forging partnership.

**Major Parties Involved**

**Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

As an inter-governmental body of the United Nations, OHCHR works to promote and protect the human rights of individuals which are stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. OHCHR continues to maintain the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance as one of the priority activities of her office. It has sent numerous Special Rapporteurs on such issues which are sent to transmit urgent appeals and communications to States on alleged violations.

**White Power Skinhead**

A group which originally had great interest in fashion, music, and lifestyle later became associated with politics and race standing on the political spectrum of far right to far left. However by the late 1970s, the skinheads had became a group which promotes racism and Neo-Nazism. The racist subculture spread to North America, South America, and Europe and other parts of the world. They have been associated with violence against innocent Pakistanis, Asian immigrants and homosexuals.

**Neo-Nazis**

Neo-Nazism has been continuing from World War II which includes elements of ultranationalism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia, and antisemitism. Organized in countries all around the world, Neo-Nazism is now becoming a global phenomenon.

**Nazi Germany**

Under the control of Adolf Hitler, Germany became a fascist totalitarian state with antisemitism as its central feature of the regime. The Nazi regime promised a centralized government with the formation of a national community based on racial cleansing.

**Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)**
The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is consisted of independent experts and Special Rapporteurs that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The committee monitors the problem with three steps: the early-warning procedure, the examination of inter-state complaints, and the examination of individual complaints.

**Timeline of Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description of event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 31-September 8, 2001</td>
<td>World Conference against Racism 2001 took place in Durban, South Africa to discuss the unfair treatment of one ethnic group against another.</td>
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<td>April 20-24, 2009</td>
<td>The Durban Review Conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland to evaluate the progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 27, 2010</td>
<td>The UN anti-racism panel called on Iran to counter racism and ethnic discrimination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13, 2013</td>
<td>A resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on the issue of Glorification of Nazism: Inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance (A/RES/67/154).</td>
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**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

- Elimination of racist, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance – Report of the Third Committee (A/69/486)
- Resolution adopted by the General Assembly – Glorification of Nazism: inadmissibility of certain practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance (A/RES/67/154)
• Durban Declaration and Durban Review Conference: The conferences condemned the resurgence of Neo-Nazism, Neo-Fascism, and violent national ideologies based on national and racial prejudices. Durban Declaration was written in 2001 at the World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa and was reviewed at the Durban Review Conference in 2009 to evaluate the progress made for the past eight years. And the anti-racism Durban Review Conference concluded with a successful outcome.

• International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: As a United Nations convention, it commits member states to eliminate racial discrimination and promotes understanding among all races. It outlaws hate speech and states that it may not be justified as exercises of the rights to freedom of peaceful expression. And the convention is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).

• Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): The UDHR written by the United Nations states that “all are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination,” in Article 7 of the document.

• International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Human Rights Day is now a public holiday celebrated on March 21st in South Africa, a day when the police openly fired and killed 69 innocent civilians at a peaceful demonstration. Every year UNOHR and CERD decide one specific theme for the International Day and the theme for year 2014 was “The Role of Leaders in Combatting Racism and Racial Discrimination.”

• United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination: On March 6th, 2012 the United Nations Network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities was established by the OHCHR to enhance cooperation between relevant UN Departments, Programs, and Funds. Over 20 UN Departments, Agencies, Programs, and Funds take part in this network to enhance dialogue.

Possible Solutions

• Encourage the exchange of information with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and further strengthening of the existing network on racial discrimination to identify the problems in order to respond towards to both political and economic crises occurring to the victims.
• Increase the integration of programs dealing with raising awareness of racial discrimination with the support of both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Increasing public awareness and changing stereotypical viewpoints, are of utmost importance in solving this issue.

• Incorporate education programs to allow young children to experience the hardships that racial minorities face whether it'd be through workshops or holding talks led by victims of racial discrimination to expand children's understandings of the issue. Also for the establishment and maintenance of youth mechanisms by setting up youth organizations in the spirit of combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through activities such as disseminating and exchanging information and building networks.

• Encourage the strengthening of cooperation between NGOs and other sectors of the civil society to harness their experience and expertise through promotion and sponsoring of dialogue and partnership to bring about reconciliation through the development of legislation, policies and other governmental initiatives as well as involving more closely in the elaboration and implementation of policies designed to combat racial discrimination.

• Strengthening of the already existing international legal framework to provide a constructive and transparent dialogue and to effectively implement the instruments concerned with the issue of racial intolerance.

• Urges states to promote the facilitation of access to all legal procedures, legal assistances victims of racial discrimination. Furthermore further devise programs that provide minimum health care for the victims.

• Further promote national action plans to promote diversity, equity, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation all through affirmative or positive actions and strategies.

• Encourage member states to further strengthen their legal system dealing with the prosecution of perpetrators of racist acts accordingly to both the international and domestic legal frameworks.

Bibliography


Appendix or Appendices

The declaration prohibits organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination and recognize participation in such organizations.

II. http://www.un.org/en/events/racialdiscriminationday/ (Durban Declaration and Programme of Action) The declaration was adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and underlines the responsibility that each