

Committee: The Human Rights Council

Issue: Ensuring the human rights of those who experienced xenophobia within member nations

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Introduction

Within the various issues and disputes happening in the world, the interactions between people who come from different backgrounds are clashing. This is far away from global peace. Xenophobia, defined as the dislike and prejudice towards foreigners, is constantly treated as an issue for the typical human race and backgrounds. Since xenophobia could harm dignity and equality and fracture the fabric of individual societies, safeguarding the human rights of those who are experiencing or who have endured xenophobia stands out as an urgent issue to resolve and demands solutions and regulations among member nations.

Member nations must acknowledge that in the global interconnected network, diverse communities exist, and xenophobia manifests this in dangerous ways, leading to mass killing, suicide, and mental problems. Recognizing and regulating this issue through legal protections, educational initiatives, and public awareness could bring changes to this critical issue. This agenda requires member nations to discuss and address severe problems that happened due to xenophobia. It encourages the member nations with a high percentage of citizens considered as a ‘minor’ in the global world to secure their rights.

By issuing xenophobia head-on and fostering inclusive societies, member nations not only could fulfill their legal responsibilities but also build a baseline where all individuals are guaranteed basic rights. Through collaborative efforts and cooperation, we can draw a future where human rights are strictly defended, and xenophobia no longer exists.

Definition of key terms

Prejudice

Prejudice is defined as opinions or attitudes held to certain groups of people that are not based on reason or experience. It shows up as discriminatory opinions against specific people or groups because of their gender, social background, race, ethnicity, or religion. This can obstruct productive discussion and compromise, and hinder particular points of view. To create a setting where everyone cannot view each other with eyes of prejudice, issues regarding prejudice should actively be addressed and discussed. To address the issues, member nations must cooperate encourage diversity, and foster civil discourse to preserve the values of human rights and understanding.

Nationalism

Nationalism is defined as an ideology based on the argument that the individual's loyalty and devotion to the nation-state surpass other group interests. It also shapes international relations and conversations on identity and sovereignty. The strong bond people have within their nation promotes harmony and a shared purpose. The bond is formed by ethnicity, race, religion, and ideology. Nationalism may also have exclusive borders that promote the hatred of people who are left out. Global governance continues to have significant difficulty in measuring a balance between the beneficial aspects, such as cultural pride, and the negative effects, such as conflict and separation. Therefore, navigating the complex process of international collaboration and diplomacy requires a thorough understanding of nationalism.

Ethnocentrism

Ethnocentrism is the practice of regarding one's own ethnic, racial, or social group as the center of things. Ethnocentrism is a global phenomenon, that emphasizes the tendency of individuals to judge other cultures with one's standards and traditions. The viewpoint results in a biased view that focuses on one's background, which mostly ignores the depth and legitimacy of other's customs and beliefs. By changing the point of view on prejudice and misunderstandings, ethnocentrism can accelerate cross-cultural interaction and cooperation. By acknowledging and resulting in a solution for ethnocentrism, member nations could build an essential understanding that builds international bonds with respect, and could promote inclusive rhetorics and cooperation.

Xenocentrism

Xenocentrism is considered in a similar sense to ethnocentrism, but it is an opposing term that refers to the need to engage in the elements of other cultures rather than one's own. This styles and ideas, products could be the elements of preference by an individual's xenocentric viewpoints. In psychological terms, xenocentrism is a type of deviant behavior because it sways from the norms of society. Although xenocentrism could encourage tolerance and respect for diversity, it could also result in negative effects such as the mistreatment of one's traditions, and the undervaluing of the cultural background. In international relations, xenocentrism is highlighted for how crucial it is for countries to learn from each other and engage in balanced cultural exchange. Member nations should build a more accepting and self-respected global society that appreciates the beneficial elements of both native and alien cultures.

History

Xenophobia, the dislike and stereotypes among foreigners, has a longstanding history that went through various eras and civilizations. The word xenophobia came from Ancient Greece, when 'xenos', meaning guest or visitor, and 'Phobos', meaning fear were combined to express the concerns of strangers. Through the invention of this term in ancient Greece, people could estimate how the Nongreeks were treated in Greek society.

The concerns were linked to the ideas of cultural or racial supremacy. During the periods of religious conflicts in medieval Europe, at the time of the Crusades, the Christians held Muslims in disrespect and rivalry, and xenophobia became prominent. During the period when Europeans encountered the indigenous people in the new lands discovered during the Age of Exploration and Colonization, there was an action of marginalization of the Europeans due to racial and cultural differences. This worsened xenophobic consequences as well.

After this specific time frame, xenophobia was still an issue due to the action of segregation of whites and blacks. The discrimination against people with different cultural backgrounds worsened and is still ongoing nowadays. It is essential for people to steadily discuss xenophobia, and member nations must discuss this for future generations to live in a globally peaceful environment with no hatred and bias towards each other.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

International Organizations

European Union (EU)

The European Union(EU) is a political and economic union of 27 European member countries. They come together to enhance the conditions of life within member nations. The EU was founded in 1993, with the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty. The EU supports diversity and inclusive societies, strongly stating against xenophobia. They view xenophobia as a threat to their goals of unity, peace, and human dignity. They have promoted policies that aim to reduce discrimination globally such as the practice ‘Police policy framework for the Prevention, Handling and combating of Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racist crime.’ which came into force in 2013 and is ongoing. The EU also guarantees protection from discrimination and migrations. They conspire in a society where every individual is accepted justly.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is a regional security organization founded in 1995. They aim for stability, peace, and democratic governance within the 57 European member nations. The OSCE mostly participates in strengthening the democratic institutions of States for transparent elections, and the promotion of gender equality and human rights. They also take action for vital issues regarding security in Europe and Central Asia. The OSCE has an opposing view of xenophobia, which is antagonistic to what they pursue. The

conference held since 2018; the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting demonstrates the passion of the OSCE regarding racial discrimination and xenophobia.

Amnesty International (AI)

Amnesty International(AI) is a universal organization that holds campaigns for human rights. Founded in 1961, AI strives with the goals to campaign and protect human rights that are abused worldwide, regardless of ideology. AI castigates xenophobia by reacting to situations from countries globally, discussing and uploading resolutions to develop the vision to fulfill the authorization of racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance. They welcome the opportunity to contribute to this vision, and is raising awareness of xenophobia through different resolutions which are available through the official site of AI.

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is a prominent international non-governmental organization founded in 1978, dedicated to investigating and advocating for human rights globally. HRW documents human rights abuses and presses for accountability in over 100 countries. The organization strongly opposes xenophobia, which undermines their mission of promoting dignity, equality, and justice for all individuals. Through comprehensive reports and campaigns, HRW exposes xenophobic practices and discriminatory policies, urging governments and institutions to adopt measures that safeguard marginalized communities. HRW's work continues to be instrumental in combating racism, xenophobia, and intolerance worldwide.

International Organization for Migration(IOM)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 and serves as the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration, with over 174 member states. IOM promotes humane and orderly migration by providing services and advice to governments and migrants alike. The organization is committed to upholding the rights of migrants, fighting against xenophobia and racism, and promoting social cohesion within diverse communities. Through initiatives such as the International Migrants Day and the Global Compact for Migration, IOM continues to raise awareness about the challenges faced by migrants, addressing xenophobia as a barrier to inclusive societies.

Major countries involved

United States (US)

The United States is a key global player with significant influence on international human rights policies. Domestically, the US has made strides in addressing xenophobia and racial discrimination through civil rights legislation, though it continues to face challenges, including debates over immigration policies and rising xenophobia. Internationally, the US advocates for human rights and condemns xenophobia through organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and participates in global efforts to combat racial intolerance.

United Kingdom (UK)

The United Kingdom has a long history of promoting human rights and equality, both within its borders and internationally. However, in recent years, the UK has seen an increase in xenophobic sentiments, particularly surrounding issues of immigration and Brexit. The UK government continues to implement anti-discrimination laws and works actively in international organizations, such as the European Court of Human Rights, to uphold principles of equality and inclusivity, while condemning xenophobia globally.

Russia

Russia plays a significant role in global diplomacy, but it faces criticism for its domestic policies regarding minorities and migrants. There have been reports of xenophobia and discrimination against ethnic minorities and foreign workers within Russia. Despite these challenges, Russia participates in international platforms that address human rights and security, including the UN and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), where it engages in discussions about combating xenophobia and promoting global stability.

India

India is the world's largest democracy and a country with vast cultural and ethnic diversity. Domestically, India faces challenges with xenophobia, particularly in relation to religious and ethnic minorities. The government has implemented laws to address discrimination, though enforcement remains a challenge. Internationally, India promotes values of tolerance and inclusivity and is active in global efforts to combat racism and xenophobia through organizations like the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

China

China is an influential global power with a growing presence in international diplomacy and trade. However, the country has faced criticism for its treatment of ethnic minorities, such as Uyghurs and Tibetans, which has led to accusations of state-sanctioned xenophobia. On the

international stage, China presents itself as a proponent of multiculturalism and economic cooperation and participates in international dialogues to combat xenophobia, though there is international scrutiny regarding its domestic human rights practices.

Japan

Japan is known for its economic power and stable political environment. While the country has a homogeneous society, it has been working on policies to address xenophobia and discrimination, particularly in response to increasing immigration. Domestically, Japan has faced challenges related to xenophobia, particularly toward foreigners and ethnic minorities like the Ainu and Koreans. Internationally, Japan supports human rights initiatives and participates in global efforts to reduce xenophobia, working with organizations like the UN to promote social harmony and tolerance

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Time of Year/Month	UN treaties/amendments
1965-1969	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) - The ICERD is a core human rights treaty that mainly addresses racial discrimination, and was entered into action in 1969. The focus of this treaty goes to promoting racial equality worldwide. The ICERD defines racial discrimination and xenophobia broadly and requests the state parties to take intricate measures against prejudice happening in society. This treaty is significant for the approach to effectively approach racial discrimination at the time when the aftereffects of extreme segregation took place
1981	Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion of Belief - This treaty was put into action in 1981, and was due to protect religions, and for people to express their freedom of religion. This was amended due to the discrimination based on religion and beliefs worldwide and therefore affirms the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, and human rights. The declaration mentions its urgent for individuals to get fundamental rights, the importance of education, and awareness to aim for mutual respect understanding, and altruism among people.
2007	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - This resolution was adopted on 13 September 2007 and affirms that there is a right to self-determination, including one's land, properties, resources, and customs. This highlights the importance of decisions affecting the

	Indigenous communities, which are considered as a minor group in society and aims for changes for injustice and discrimination among Indigenous people, and largely, global peace.
2018	Global Compact for Migration - The Global Compact for Migration is considered as a framework for activating international collaboration on migration issues, which is still increasing. The compact promotes measures to reduce the risks and enhance the vulnerabilities related to people who are migrating to other countries, such as human trafficking and inappropriate dealing. This compact requests for strengthened border management, and also addresses the drivers of migration, which are poverty, conflict, and climate change. Overall, the compact aims for a better situation for migrating people, and a well-balanced life for all.
2019	UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech - The UN Strategy and Plan Action on Hate Speech was launched in 2019, which acknowledges the global rise of hate speech and the effects it has on society. Hate speech can lead to people dividing, leading to war, when immense. This plan of action aims for the non-discrimination that is related to hate speech, and better situations for governments, civil societies, and the media. The plan also includes the protection of inclusive societies and promotes the ideology that every community must be respected and understood.
2020	UN Secretary-General's Call to Action to Address and Counter COVID-19-related Hate Speech - This Call to Action is based on the pandemic, COVID-19. During the pandemic, the hate of Asians increased, and the impact of the hate speeches related to the pandemic led to opposing views of public health services. The call to action requests the public and the media to stay informed about this and to support the groups that are being attacked due to the pandemic. The resolution of the Call to Action states that there is an urgent need to build regulations and policies to protect the communities.
2021	UN Human Rights Council Resolution on Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping, and Stigmatization of Persons Based on Religion or Belief - This resolution is based on the intolerance and stereotypes of communities with a certain belief or religion. This resolution combats discrimination between the 'major' group and the 'minor' group. Due to the constant conflict, this resolution urges the member nations to coexist with various religions and backgrounds to promote mutual respect, and implement legislatures.

Possible Solutions

Xenophobia might be considered an issue far away, but it was ongoing in the past. Since Ancient Greece, the word xenophobia has originated. This is proof of the hate and discrimination against foreigners that existed since humans started civilization and formed groups. After that, people started to divide themselves and prejudice and injustice took place, causing historic events such as wars and segregation. The mistreatment the minor community got was constantly acknowledged, but not yet solved. The urgent need to resolve and balance this problem is increasing and the effort of member nations is desperately needed.

The possible solutions to this issue would be mainly categorized as education, legislation, Media, and services. Within a country, there should be a way to obtain education systems that promote equality and peace in the curriculum, so that students could infuse this idea with their ideology. It would also be effective for the students to learn about immigrants and foreigners so they to lessen their boundaries and stereotypes. Legislation and regulations would also be a solution. Enforcing anti-discrimination policies could protect immigrants and people with minor backgrounds who suffer from xenophobia acts.

The active action of the media and service facilitates a solution for small xenophobia actions. The media is where people get access to promotions and articles that could affect one's ideology. Encouraging the media could let people avoid sensationalism and stereotypes. Supporting services could also give subsidies for immigrants and people who are experiencing discrimination. They could get access to healthcare and access to various services.

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