

In Mexico the racism is present

In Mexico, light-skinned people have more opportunities in areas like education or employment, as revealed in data on the National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS)

On March 21 we commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Unfortunately, in Mexico indigenous and afro-Mexican people are victims of segregation; as mentioned by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which gave some recommendations to the Mexican government to take actions in order to stop it.

An evaluation was performed in Mexico in 2019 by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which revealed that in this country, racial discrimination against indigenous and afro-Mexican people still persists.

“The Committee is worried because despite the state made some decisions, a big amount of indigenous people is still being affected by racial discrimination, which causes high indexes of poverty and margination, and also on difficulties to get a job, education, and suitable health services” mentions the analysis made by the CERD.

The Mexican government was given recommendations to intensify its efforts to eradicate institutional and structural discrimination against indigenous communities, in addition to that, effective participation of indigenous communities is necessary to design and implement social programs that may give them support.

The report details that the Committee is aware of the efforts made by the state to give the afro-Mexican population more visibility, but it is worried about the lack of specific information about the concrete measures that the government takes so as to guarantee the exercise and effective enjoyment of their rights.

“The Committee is concerned because the afro-Mexican communities are still the target of discrimination, with a high level of margination and social exclusion”, as indicated in the evaluation.

Due to that, Mexico was suggested to take all the necessary measures to guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the afro-Mexican population, with the objective of promoting their social inclusion and their active participation on the public and political issues, including positions to make decisions.

Moreover, it is necessary to increase efforts to eradicate racial discrimination against the afro-Mexican population, and to guarantee their protection against any act of discrimination made by any institution, public official, person, group, or organization.



Victims of racism suffer affectations on their possibilities to have a better life, health, employment, education or personal development; affectations are caused by prejudices of people who lack education and culture, and make judgements based on skin color, physical aspect, clothing, or the language they speak.

The National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED) was created in Mexico as an institution to guarantee the protection, respect, accomplishment and promotion in favor of rights and against discrimination. It is in charge of spreading information and documents to know and visualize different dimensions, as well as the kinds of discrimination, attitudes and perceptions of the Mexican population about this social phenomenon.

Sharpeville massacre

On March 21, 1960; police officers who were members of the racist police in South Africa opened fire against a group of people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” that controlled the displacements of African communities in urban and rural areas in South Africa, which ended up with 69 dead people. The anniversary of this massacre is remembered around the world on March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Photo: Britannica.com



Photo: Vice.com



Photo: Afrofeminas.com

Sharpeville massacre took place in a moment when South Africa denied rights and freedom to any people who was not considered as white by the apartheid system.

Apartheid means separation in Afrikaans language. The concept was supported, legalized and promoted by an ultra-conservative party which was elected in South Africa by a minority of mainly white people.

CMT and racial discrimination

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT) does not tolerate any kind of racial discrimination, and it combats it through its Welfare Ecosystem and its different networks.

CMT is also aware that the problem is real in Mexico, and that the victims of discrimination do not have access to a better life-quality, health, employment or education; issues where we work hard in order to offer protection to vulnerable groups.

As a local civil society in Oaxaca, which is one of the states with the highest number of indigenous communities whose groups are vulnerable to discrimination, the commitment of CMT intensifies to combat racial hatred and poverty.



CMT supports groups of migrants in Mexico and the USA, where they suffer discrimination because of the color of their skin so, we create integral solutions with the purpose of providing a better quality of life to migrants.

The numbers about racial discrimination in Mexico

53.8 percent of Mexican people mentioned that in 2017, they were victims of discrimination due to their appearance or the color of their skin.

16 percent of the dark-skinned population in Mexico completed their high school studies, which represents a difference of 14 percentage points compared to light-skinned people as 30.4 percent of them completed their high school studies.

2.8 percent of the population with dark skin reported that they worked as public officials, directors, or they were in charge of areas, while people with brown skin reported 4.4 percent, and people with light skin reported 6.1 percent.

Source: INEGI. National Survey on Discrimination (ENADIS).

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In 1996, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in the resolution A/RES/2142 (XXL), decided to establish March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, by making a call to its members to fight against discriminatory practices, to eradicate prejudices and wrong beliefs, and instead, to be more oriented to education and culture; so that media could be closer to community and literary activities.

Racial discrimination affects every democracy and every society, because it is a common phenomenon that impedes the progress of millions of people around the world, mentions the UN. Racism is undoubtedly an expression that hurts the dignity of people.

