

STATEMENT OF CORE PRINCIPLES FOR WCAR FOLLOW UP

In 2001, more than three thousand people participated in the Non-Governmental Forum of the United Nations third World Conference against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR) to chart a course for future generations to eradicate racism, discrimination and intolerance. Participants pledged to adhere to established international human rights standards and operate with transparency and respect for democratic discourse.

Many civil society representatives were disappointed, when the NGO process, which raised the profile of important contemporary racism problems and the historic wounds of slavery and discrimination, was discredited. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson spoke out against what she called the “hateful, even racist” antisemitic atmosphere that plagued the NGO forum. She refused to commend it to governments for their consideration. Leading international human rights organizations called some of the human rights language in the declaration inaccurate, inappropriate and even counterproductive. They regretted that progress on vital issues such as discrimination against Roma and caste discrimination was thereby diminished. Observers were shocked by violations of procedure in the preparatory and drafting processes, the racist treatment including violence, exclusion, and intimidation against Jewish participants, and the misuse of human rights terminology in the document related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

With a few notable exceptions, the vast majority of groups was silent or refused to speak out. In the years since, many have reflected that the result was a regrettable vacuum of moral leadership.

The organizations below pledge to reject hatred and incitement in all its forms, including antisemitism, to learn from the shortcomings of the 2001 WCAR, and to work together in a spirit of mutual respect.

1. We are united in our deep commitment to the goals of the WCAR to chart a course for future generations to eradicate racism, discrimination and intolerance in all its forms.
2. Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance afflict peoples in many Member States. We are committed to the important mission of NGOs to monitor and hold accountable those responsible for policy failures and for lack of implementation of measures to prevent and punish such acts.
3. However, the global effort to eradicate racism cannot be advanced by branding whole peoples with a stigma of ultimate evil, fomenting hateful stereotyping in the name of human rights.
4. The UN and its human rights fora must not serve as a vehicle for any form of racism, including antisemitism, and must bar incitement to hatred against any group in the guise of criticism of a particular government. We pledge to prevent this from happening again.
5. We pledge to uphold language and behavior that unites rather than divides. As NGOs we commit to use language in accordance with international human rights standards and conduct ourselves with civility and with respect for human rights standards.

1. Magenta Foundation
2. Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
3. International League for Human Rights
4. Human Rights First
5. Anti-Defamation League
6. ENAR – European Network Against Racism
7. European Jewish Congress
8. LICRA - Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisemitisme
9. B'nai B'rith International
10. Simon Wiesenthal Centre
11. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
12. The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (USA)
13. CRARR - Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (Canada)
14. CAERS - The Canadian Anti-racism Education and Research Society
15. Citizens' Watch (Russia)
16. AFRICAN UNION Social organization of St.Petersburg (Russia)
17. NEVER AGAIN Association (Poland)
18. CIDI (Netherlands)
19. ACP - "Culture of peace" Association (Romania)
20. CCDN - Celebrating Cultural Diversity Network (UK)
21. MAPP (France)
22. European Council of WIZO Federations
23. AJC - American Jewish Committee
24. Hadassah
25. World Jewish Congress
26. Canadian Jewish Congress
27. Jewish Labor Committee (USA)
28. ILGA-Europe, International Lesbian and Gay Association
29. Human Rights Without Frontiers International
30. DACoRD - Documentation and Advisory Center on Racial Discrimination (Denmark)
31. Movimiento contra la Intolerancia (Spain)
32. International Institute for Education and Research of Antisemitism (Germany/UK)
33. Amadeu Antonio Stiftung (Germany)
34. RADAR (Netherlands)
35. CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe
36. B'nai B'rith Europe
37. NIK - Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands
38. United Nations Watch (Switzerland)
39. International Council of Jewish Women
40. Rabbis for Human Rights (Israel)
41. SOVA Center for Information and Analysis (Russian Federation)
42. Association ESTER (Slovakia)
43. Na'amat (Belgium)
44. Le Conseil des Femmes Juives de Belgique - CFJB (Belgium)
45. Bund Schweizerischer Jüdischer Frauenorganisationen - BSJF (Switzerland)
46. The Citizens Accord Forum between Jews and Arabs in Israel – CAF
47. Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations (EU)
48. Civitas Bosnia and Herzegovina
49. ZARA - Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (Austria)

50. United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA)
51. Roma Virtual Network (RVN)
52. Roma National Congress (RNC)
53. Israeli Association for Immigrant Children
54. National Roma Centrum (Macedonia)
55. The Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights (Kyrgyz Republic)
56. Union of Balkans Egyptians (Macedonia)
57. Observatorio sobre Conflictos Etnicos en la Argentina – OSCEA
58. UNITED for Intercultural Action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees
59. Roma National Centre (Moldova)
60. New Israel Fund – NIF
61. National Campaign for Nomadic Tribes Human Rights – NCNTHR (India)
62. Freedom House (USA)
63. Association of citizens Sumnal (Macedonia)
64. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly of Moldova
65. Defence for Children International (Czech section)
66. Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Justice Office – SCP (Ireland)
67. Centro de Cultura e Pesquisas Axé – CCPA (Brazil)
68. Athinganoi, the Romani Student Association (Czech Republic)

**NGOs that want to support and endorse this statement, please send your endorsement to info@magenta.nl
You can find the updated signatories list at www.magenta.nl**