

DRAFT THEMATIC REPORT OF NEGATIVE RACIAL  
STEREOTYPES

PREPARED BY

WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN  
DESCENT

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- This report reviews the ongoing prevalence of racial stereotype in everyday life, including in advertisements in the media, in social media, in the operation of the criminal justice system, and elsewhere. In politics, the deployment of racial stereotypes for political gain is becoming increasingly common and is particularly toxic. In many areas throughout society, we continue to witness the denigration people of African descent as well the impulse to control Black bodies that is licensed by the imagery we see and tolerate.



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- Racial bias has such systemic impact on the enjoyment and exercise of fundamental rights that *even in different countries* people of African descent face similar challenges. This suggests, of course, that a key underlying factor is white supremacy, or a construction of whiteness that relies on toxic negative stereotypes about people of African descent to preserve the value of whiteness and to afford lesser opportunity and rights to people of African descent.

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- We have yet to dismantle the ideological infrastructure of hate. Longstanding prejudices, the rise of far-right nationalism, ethno-populism and nativism have resulted in growing incidents of racial discrimination, racial prejudices, Afrophobia and xenophobia, resulting in strong anti-immigration backlash and the scapegoating of migrants, and violence against people of African descent, often in plain view and with institutional and political endorsement.

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- Racism, racial prejudices, and racial discrimination are deeply embedded in our historical past. Manifestations of racism are indelibly linked to periods of conquest, the trafficking and enslavement of millions of Africans, the imposition of racial exclusionary laws, colonialism, and imperialism.

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- Negative racial stereotype can have profound personal impact on people of African descent. Racial profiling has a harmful effect on one's dignity. Victims sometimes lose their liberty, their connection with their families and communities, and in the most tragic cases, their lives. Racial profiling is associated with negative effects, including effects on individuals' mental and physical health.
  - Racial profiling severely diminishes trust in public institutions. This eroded trust undermines the effectiveness and authority of many of these institutions.

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- Matteo Salvini: “I believe that I’m in government in order to see that our young people have the number of children that they used to a few years ago...rather than bring in modern-day slaves to replace the children we’re not having”
  - Steve King, US Congressional Representative “...culture and demographics are our diversity. We can’t restore our civilization with somebody else’s babies.”

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- “When I grabbed him, the only way I can describe it is I felt like a five-year-old holding onto Hulk Hogan...And then after he did that, he looked up at me and had the most intense aggressive face. The only way I can describe it, **it looks like a demon**” Officer Darren Wilson
  - When police officers were asked, “who looks criminal?” they chose more Black faces than White faces. “The stereotypically Black a face appears, the more likely officers are to report that the face looks criminal.” Jennifer L. Eberhardt, Valerie Purdie (2004)



# *ZWARTE PIET*

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- Zwarte Piet as an expression of racism and discrimination is related to enslavement. The image stereotypes Africans and people of African descent in image and behavior, not unlike the tradition of blackface and minstrelsy of the past era. Furthermore, it reinforces the unequal power relations between the characters of Zwarte Piet and Sinterklaas



# BLACKFACE IN ALCOY, SPAIN

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- There can be no justification for the use of blackface. Its use is steeped in centuries of racism. Blackface was used, and continues to be used, to denigrate people of African descent. Its use “allows a society to routinely and historically imagine African Americans as not fully human.” Its continued use, whether on college campuses across the globe, at Halloween parties, by politicians, professional athletes, and celebrities, or during cultural events, is part of a toxic culture of racism.



# THIS IS (*NOT*) AFRICA!

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# MARK KNIGHT'S RACIST CARICATURES



# ADS INVOKING BLACKFACE





# ADS INVOKING STEREOTYPES ABOUT CLEANLINESS AND PURITY

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## THE IMPACT OF RACIAL STEREOTYPE ON THE EXERCISE OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

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- Negative racial stereotypes, and the cumulative impact of racially motivated discrimination are defining factors for many people of African descent worldwide. The individual and institutional racism faced by people of African descent impacts their enjoyment of basic human rights, including their rights to education, health, housing and employment, and other economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.



## Focus on Diversity and Culture Cultural Differences in Response to Pain

A client's culture influences their response to and beliefs about pain. Some common cultural differences related to pain are listed here.

### Arabs/Muslims

- May not request pain medicine but instead thank Allah for pain if it is the result of a healing medical procedure.
- Pain is considered a test of faith. Therefore Muslim clients must endure pain as a sign of faith in return for forgiveness and mercy. However, Muslims must seek pain relief when necessary because needless pain and suffering are frowned upon.
- Arabs and Muslims prefer to be with family when in pain and may express pain more freely around family.

### Asians

- Chinese clients may not ask for medication because they do not want to take the nurse away from a more important task.
- Clients from Asian cultures often value stoicism as a response to pain. A client who complains openly about pain is thought to have poor social skills.
- Filipino clients may not take pain medication because they view pain as being the will of God.
- Indians who follow Hindu practices believe that pain must be endured in preparation for a better life in the next cycle.

### Blacks

- Blacks often report higher pain intensity than other cultures.
- They believe suffering and pain are inevitable.

- They believe in prayer and laying on of hands to heal pain and believe that relief is proportional to faith.

### Jews

- Jews may be vocal and demanding of assistance.
- They believe that pain must be shared and validated by others.

### Hispanics

- Hispanics may believe that pain is a form of punishment and that suffering must be endured if they are to enter heaven.
- They vary widely in their expression of pain: Some are stoic and some are expressive.
- Catholic Hispanics may turn to religious practices to help them endure the pain.

### Native Americans

- Native Americans may prefer to receive medications that have been blessed by a tribal shaman. They believe such a blessing allows the client to be more at peace with the creator and makes the medicine stronger.
- They tend to be less expressive both verbally and nonverbally.
- They usually tolerate a high level of pain without requesting pain medication.
- They may pick a sacred number when asked to rate pain on a numerical pain scale.

# STRUCTURAL IMPEDIMENTS TO THE SDG

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- Given the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs, the goals and targets will not be met without acknowledging that racism, racial discrimination, Afrophobia, xenophobia and related intolerance function as structural and systemic barriers to sustainable development.
- Furthermore, the reluctance in some countries to disaggregate data based on race and ethnicity in order to identify the most marginalized and most impacted groups in society, calls into question once more, the attainability of the SDGs.