

U.S. Intervention at the Third Session of the UNPFPAD
Main Session on:
Education: Overcoming Systemic Racism and Historic Harm
2 minutes, 240-270 words

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Wednesday, April 17*

Thank you, [Mr./Madam Chair.] One of the main ways the United States seeks to improve the livelihoods of people of African descent is by ensuring that Black Americans – and indeed all Americans – have equal access to education, and that the U.S. education system meets the demands of today's global economy. In 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration reestablished the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans. The Administration also delivered a historic investment of over \$7 billion to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities and championed the largest increase to Pell Grants in the last decade – benefiting the more than 60 percent of Black undergraduates who receive these needs-based, federal grants to pursue higher education.

Education is one of many areas in which the United States continues to confront challenges resulting from the long, lingering legacies of the enslavement of Africans and their descendants. We are striving to close the gap between our stated ideals and the lived experiences of many Black Americans, including students.

The 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act remains the bedrock of our country's protections against racial discrimination in schools. Through its Office for Civil Rights, the Department of Education enforces this and other federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in schools. We investigate allegations of racial harassment, share policy resources to bolster racially inclusive school communities consistent with federal law, and collect and share civil rights data on equity from every public school in the country.

The United States is committed to continuing its efforts to ensure that education advances racial equity, both at home and around the world. Thank you.