

# STATEMENT - DANIELLE ISLER

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Danielle Isler, I am from Zurich, Switzerland. I am an activist and a scholar researching justice and equity, race and racism. I am also a BIGSAS Junior Fellow (Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies).

## STATEMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1- ENSURE VISIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF 'OLD' KNOWLEDGE - NO BANS

My first recommendation is that the Permanent Forum and all of us should ensure that old knowledge, practices and ideas are not lost, that they are protected and visible, and that they are recognized. The generation after us should continue the work for justice and equity, building on the knowledge, practices and actions that countless scholars, activists, writers and civil society groups have produced. They should not make the same arguments or prove the same points that were proven decades ago. In order that there is less back and forth and the journey towards equity is efficient, I recommend that the Permanent Forum institutionally ensures that there is no ban on discourses, academic publications, or books on justice and equity, but that their visibility and accessibility is guaranteed.

### 2- REVERSE THE GAZE AND FOCUS ON THE CAUSES OF STRUCTURAL RACISM

My second recommendation is to reverse the gaze and look at the status quo through a structural lens. It's about questioning structures and thinking about the causes of structural racism, for example by asking questions like: How is it that we still live in a structurally racist world? What are the structures that are constructed, enforced or reproduced that lead to the existence of civil society groups worldwide or scholars working on structural racism, people who dedicate their lives to equity and even the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent exists and is highly important? I believe that a structural perspective and a critical assessment of the ways in which harmful structures are produced and reproduced and how they can be dismantled are important to achieving equity for people of African descent.