

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Document by Advocacy
INGO Youth Against Racism
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On the 20th Anniversary of WCAR and the Durban NGO Summit, and the International WCAR Youth Summit Against Racism, I would like to speak on behalf of the latter conference. It's importance has long gone under-noticed. As Director of Youth Against Racism, which is an Advocacy INGO who's applied to the ECOSOC classification, I was part of the Youth Summit in Durban, and part of the WCAR and the NGO Summit. I remember personally shaking hands with Tabo Mbeki, talking about improving my speech with the Head of the New York Times, and being escorted around by Yaser Arafat's entourage.

The Youth Summit cranked out its own Declaration and Programme of Action, which Youth Against Racism has been actively lobbying the OHCHR to give life to in a Second International Youth Summit.

Since Durban, the world has gone through many permutations. First it was 9/11, then it was the Recession, then it has become Covid-19, and now maybe the Olympics. Nobody remembers or wants to remember the World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerances? People had 9/11. People had the answer: racism. It was a drug, a prescription, and a remedy.

As a person of color I realized the ugly face of Racism, only days after speaking at this arena (the UN). I got to first see the world from its top, then for 20 years from its bottom. I looked at the shifting moods, and how disgruntled average people were with the rise in imprudent bias.

The news became FAKE and reality itself became fragmented. I said to myself that it would be ok. Then more recently charged with sexual harassment on a public bus, only to have the charges dropped months later because of lack of evidence. From a mere TV screen of 9/11 my life became a target of racial profiling. Which made the Sûreté du Québec an institutionalized racist organization.

As an adult of 39, who shows himself as non-binary, what is to be done with the hopeful speech I made with the help of some side-event at a UN World Conference?
I would recite in my mind every time I'd get pulled over, every time I'd get snubbed at an art galerie, every time I'd walk down a certain street (not far from my house).

Racism was never so close. We have to set things straight: it is not the niggers, or the Jews, or the Chinks, or the keffers, the shit, the garbage, the dirt. This is not Planet Earth we must rename ourselves Planet Family. We are all a family. Humanity first, then our cousins inside and outside zoos.

When it comes to words, The Godfather of my youngest child, Soraya, once told me not to make them complicated. Noam Chomsky knows at word you probably don't about bigotry and

it's linguistic substitutes. In Computational Linguistics for example, we must first start with the plan. Then comes structure. Kinda like, you guessed it, computers.

Computers during the Second World War were humans counting large numbers in their heads. I'd like to write a book about these groups of men and sometimes women. But it was checking the results that took the longest times. Let's skip to the Olympics. How the world was brought out to a bit of truth and harmony. Let us pray. And sing from the Mountain Tops. Free at last?

Maybe. There's always room for improvement. And a Second International Youth Summit would do just that. Imagine a hundred youth speaking from their hearts about something that affects them most.

(Lt.)(Ret.) Saeed Fotohi Nia
Director and Founder
Advocacy INGO
Youth Against Racism