**The Elimination of Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia and the Implementation and Follow-up of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action**

Elizka Relief Foundation welcomes the opportunity to submit this report in order to contribute to the preparation of the 2024 report of the United Nations Secretary-General in implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution contained in document A/RES/78/234 on the elimination, implementation and follow-up of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance Comprehensive of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, which is scheduled to be presented by the UN Secretary-General during the 79th session of the UN General Assembly, the Elizka Foundation report will cover the period from June 2023 to June 2024, guided by some requested questions and adhering to the word limit.

**First: The extent of systemic racism and its impact on the adoption of effective legal and institutional measures to address it beyond mere individual actions:**

Elizka has documented the spread of systemic racism in many countries of the world, and in many areas, most notably education, along with the criminal justice system - including police and court services, and the health care system - including hospitals and other providers of physical and mental health care services, and public health care services. Systemic racism refers to entrenched disparities in systems and policies that negatively affect certain groups of people.

The danger of systemic racism is that it has become dependent on a set of institutional and systemic laws. It is no longer just individual violations committed by a group of people against specific minorities. In the United States of America, for example, systemic racism is widespread in education, and it can be argued that systemic racism is prevalent in almost every aspect of the education system within educational institutions in the United States, and includes inequitable funding, the lack of diverse curricula, and the underrepresentation of teachers from different cultures. Schools developed for black Americans receive less funding than schools with primarily white students. Schools for marginalized groups often face overcrowding, inadequate supplies, and unfair pay, and the obstacles created by systemic racism in the US education system have negatively affected generations of students from underrepresented communities. Many of these obstacles still limit the success of students from marginalized groups, and many of the promises and slogans raised within the United States of America - such as that the path to success begins with good academic achievement - are no longer useful or carry real meaning for some people, especially those who belong to the Underrepresented communities.

Inequitable school funding, resources, and content continue to harm black students' opportunities to gain equitable educational experiences. According to estimates, majority non-white schools across the United States receive $23 billion less in funding annually than majority-white districts, and this is primarily reflected in These schools are understaffed, making them more vulnerable to poor performance than schools serving white students. Students from underrepresented communities also face, especially black students, disciplinary measures are disproportionate compared to their white peers, as 26% of black students are suspended from school for minor violations, compared to only 2% of white students being suspended for similar crimes, which harms the student’s educational experience and has a negative impact. on their future success.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Elizka also documented the spread of systemic racism in the American police forces and the criminal justice system, against people of African descent, which appears in the form of racial profiling and killing at the hands of the police, as blacks in America are three times more likely to be killed by the police compared to whites, and more 4.5 times more likely to be imprisoned, and of the more than 1,000 police killings in the United States each year, only 1 percent of those cases result in charges being brought against the police force.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Elizka urges all American stakeholders, including police departments and police unions, to unite their efforts to combat the prevailing impunity, as if the rules for the use of force in the United States are not reformed in accordance with international standards, many killings will continue and it increases. In France, the mobilization reached its peak in October 2023, when a French woman was arrested after her neighbors reported her after hearing her give the traditional Muslim greeting to some workers in the building where she lives, the woman was detained for some time by the French police on the grounds that the war conditions in Gaza required them to take such measures. The authorities in France also refused to enable the woman to file a report of defamation after her release, which prompted her to seek the help of a law firm.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Also in 2023, the incidents of excluding veiled mothers in France from accompanying their children to school activities increased three-fold compared to 2022, despite the issuance of an opinion by the French Council of State allowing mothers to wear the veil on those occasions. In the same context, the French Minister of Education announced - with the support of President Macron - a ban on wearing the abaya (a long, loose Arab garment), considering that it constitutes an attack on the educational institution and the principles of secularism in France, which Elizka considers to be unacceptable discrimination and a blatant attack on privacy and human dignity.

In Canada, Indigenous and Black women face systemic racism in the health care system, which is reflected in the prevalence of various diseases among them, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, cervical and gallbladder cancer, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, mental illness, and suicide. Many factors impact the health of Black and Indigenous people, including the psychological stress of living in a racist environment, unequal economic opportunities, poor housing and food insecurity; Inequality in access to education and other social resources, employment in dangerous and precarious work, and lack of trust in the health care system. In addition, a low percentage of doctors in Canada are Indigenous or Black, and this contributes to stereotypes and bias in women in all aspects of the Canadian health care system.

Elizka asserts that this underrepresentation is itself supported by systemic racism, which is rooted in systemic racism in the education system, starting in the first grades. Indigenous peoples are also constantly exposed to excessive surveillance by police forces, and Indigenous and black prisoners in Canada constitute the most of one-third of the prison population across Canada, although they represent less than 5 percent of the general population.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Elizka notes that the United Kingdom has failed to address structural, institutional and systemic racism against people of African descent in The United Kingdom, where black people and people of African descent are exposed to ongoing violations and institutional racial discrimination as a routine and normal part of their daily lives, in addition to the failure to address racial disparities in The criminal justice system in the United Kingdom, which has led to impunity and increased incarceration rates for blacks and people of African descent. [[5]](#footnote-5)

**Second: Participatory and comprehensive processes that contribute to stopping the lasting effects of systemic racism and its various manifestations, and the role of populations, communities of African descent, and youth in these processes:**

Elizka has documented many participatory processes that contribute to stopping the lasting effects of systemic racism and its various manifestations. Among the most important of these processes are the following:

1. **Developing the necessary tools to understand and identify how individuals interact with racism in daily life:** Systemic racism is originally a gathering of the racism of individuals within an institution or organization, such that this racism takes a systematic and organized form against certain groups, especially against people of brown skin and indigenous peoples. Therefore, knowing how racist practices interact within people and in their daily dealings will necessarily lead to forming a correct understanding of what systemic racism is in different organizations and bodies. Elizka confirms that populations and communities of African descent have a responsibility to confront racism, as they must combat racism through their convictions. That they deserve an equal life on an equal footing with others.
2. **Changing the way white children are taught about racism:** Systemic racist education methods are one of the most important tools for consolidating systemic racism in any country, because these methods produce individuals who practice racism in all institutions, organizations, and bodies, and because children are the most affected by educational systems in particular in their early education. Changing the way children are taught remains the most prominent participatory and inclusive process that can halt the lasting effects of systemic racism.
3. **The role of business owners and service providers in combating systemic racism within their organizations and institutions:** Business owners and service providers have a prominent role in combating systemic racism within their organizations, and they must realize that organizations and institutions that value diversity and inclusion perform better than their non-diverse counterparts. Companies that are more sexually, racially, and ethnically diverse receive higher financial returns in their national industries than companies that are less diver. [[6]](#footnote-6)

**Third: Compensatory justice initiatives with regard to slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, and apartheid, which contribute to the recognition and development of the dignity of the affected countries and their peoples:**

Elizka has documented some reparative justice initiatives aimed at eliminating racism, especially systemic racism, in various countries around the world. Most of these initiatives came in the form of new action strategies adopted by governments to confront systemic racism in their various institutions, especially public institutions. For example, the Canadian government developed a new strategy. To confront racism, especially systemic racism, and it was called Canada’s Strategy to Combat Racism 2024-2028. This strategy is a continuation of the Strategy to Combat Racism 2019-2022, which was issued in 2019. The new strategy was built on the lessons and achievements learned from the first strategy, and aims to address systemic racism and make society Canadian more inclusive and prosperous.

Canada aims to achieve this by removing barriers and making institutions more comprehensive and diverse through great cooperation between the Canadian federal government and the provincial and territorial governments through more than 70 programs, services and laws in effect or under development. This strategy recognizes the diverse needs and distinct customs and traditions of different peoples and communities by avoiding an equal approach applies to everyone.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Elizka also reported on the adoption of new strategies in some countries to work to combat racism. For example, Australia launched during the year 2023 to combat systemic racism and called it the “Anti-Racism Strategy 2023-2028,” which was dedicated to addressing systemic racism in South Australia specifically, which there are many indigenous people in addition to large numbers of immigrants and refugees.

South Australia's anti-systemic Racism Strategy aims to make public sector organizations safer by improving understanding and awareness of racism, creating a more inclusive public sector workplace culture, ensuring greater safety for Indigenous people and making structural changes to address institutional and systemic racism, in order to Making South Australia more diverse, inclusive and coexistent for all residents. [[8]](#footnote-8)

**Fourth: Racial discrimination and inequality suffered by children and youth of African descent in all areas of life, including the administration of justice, education, health, basic life and development:**

Promoting equity and social justice and eliminating systemic racial discrimination against individuals of African descent, especially youth and children, is a fundamental and central goal of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, especially since young people and children of African descent often face problems. Racism and structural discrimination resulting in inequalities in the areas of health and development, education, employment opportunities, political participation and reparative justice. [[9]](#footnote-9)

Elizka has documented recent reports confirming the escalation of waves of racism and discrimination against people of African descent on the European continent, especially since they are mainly exposed to discrimination while searching for job opportunities or decent housing. Young people, especially those with higher education, are the most affected by these discriminatory measures. 30 percent of people of African origin are exposed to physical attacks and harassment, especially those who wear clothing of a religious nature, and a large percentage of people of African descent have been subjected to harassment or racially motivated violence in about 13 European countries, and it is considered one of the main reasons for increasing rates of racial discrimination and inequality on the European continent, especially against young people and children of African descent. It is that the European Union countries lack a real database, which makes it difficult for them to monitor the progress made in addressing racial discrimination, evaluate the application of legislation related to combating it, and monitor their compliance with international obligations related to human rights, especially with regard to racial discrimination and inequality.[[10]](#footnote-10)

Elizka has noted the widespread spread of racism in Germany, and people of color, Muslims, and Asians are more vulnerable to poverty in that country. Reports have shown that there is significant racial discrimination when searching for a job in Germany, and this increases the risk of living below the poverty line, and the individual is considered in Germany, a person is at risk of living below the poverty line if his financial income is estimated at less than 60 percent of the average income in the country, and in 2023 this amount was 1,310 euros per month, and five percent of Germans - who are not of immigrant origins - had an income of less than This amount is despite them working a full-time job and in return. This percentage among blacks, Muslims and Asians reached 20 percent on average, and even well-educated people of African descent, from those with vocational qualifications to those holding doctorates in universities, are not protected from racial discrimination against them in jobs within various German institutions.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Elizka believes it is necessary to have a real database in European Union countries that would monitor the progress made in addressing racial discrimination, especially against people of African descent, evaluate legislation related to combating it, and monitor compliance with international obligations related to human rights.

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