Southern Poverty Law Center



Response to Call for Input for Report of the UN Secretary-General pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/234

Promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers through transformative change for racial justice and equality

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**The Southern Poverty Law Center** was founded in 1971 with the purpose of ensuring that the goals of the US civil rights movement would be realized for everyone. SPLC seeks to achieve its purpose through litigation, policy advocacy, education and community organizing, and is a catalyst for racial justice in the Southern US and beyond.

In connection with the report of the UN Secretary-General pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/234, the Southern Poverty Law Center writes to share the following resources relevant to the issues specified in the call for input:

* The SPLC recently published its annual report, [The Year in Hate and Extremism](https://www.splcenter.org/resources/year-hate-extremism-2023), which provides our findings based on calendar year 2023 monitoring of the activities of hate and extremist groups in the United States, our analysis of trends, and forward-looking policy recommendations. (Hate speech, incitement to racial discrimination, hostility and violence (preambular paragraph 6).)
* The SPLC’s April 16, 2024, response to the High Commissioner’s call for input pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 47/21, provides an overview of the impact of systemic racism in the areas of voting rights and political participation, poverty, hate and extremism, mass incarceration, the child protective system, and the situation of Black migrants. (Attached.) (Extent and impact of systemic racism and effective legal, policy and institutional measures that address racism beyond a summation of individualized acts (paragraph 26); Racial discrimination and inequality experienced by children and youth of African descent in all areas of life, including the administration of justice, law enforcement, education, health, family life and development (paragraph 26); Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance targeting migrants and refugees (preambular paragraphs 9 and 10).)
* The SPLC’s June 14, 2024, response to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism’s call for input on special measures details the ongoing assault on affirmative action and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, and attacks on student inclusion and the teaching of accurate history in public schools. All of these are part and parcel of the broader campaign by far right white supremacist forces to erase the existence of historic and current discrimination and oppression, with the aim of eliminating legal protections, policies and programs designed to address them and to bar Black and brown people from access to economic and political power. (Attached.) (Extent and impact of systemic racism and effective legal, policy and institutional measures that address racism beyond a summation of individualized acts (paragraph 26).)
* *Only Young Once*, the SPLC’s series of youth-justice reports, details the racially discriminatory school discipline systems and school-to-prison pipelines in Deep South states. Our reports on [Alabama](https://www.splcenter.org/alabama-juvenile-justice-system-reform), [Louisiana](https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/only-young-once-louisiana.pdf), and [Mississippi](https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/mississippi-only-young-once-report.pdf) have been published, and reports on Florida and Georgia are currently being prepared. (Racial discrimination and inequality experienced by children and youth of African descent in all areas of life, including the administration of justice, law enforcement, education, health, family life and development (paragraph 26).)
* In partnership with American University’s Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL), we have developed a number of [effective resources](file:///C%3A/Users/kognimba/Downloads/to%20enable%20the%20public%20%E2%80%93%20especially%20young%20people%2C%20parents%2C%20and%20educators%20%E2%80%93%20to%20recognize%20and%20be%20resistant%20to%20disinformation%20and%20radicalization) to enable the public – especially young people, parents, and educators – to recognize and be resistant to disinformation and radicalization to race-based and other forms of hate and extremism. Similarly, engaged in a multi-year partnership with the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) to adapt its [Learn2Discern](https://www.irex.org/project/learn-discern) program to American middle school contexts to help young people build resilience against manipulative ideologies while providing them with the skills to navigate a rapidly changing online landscape. The curriculum has proven successful in helping young people improve their ability to discern fact from fiction. When considered alongside SPLC’s [Learning for Justice](https://www.learningforjustice.org/) program’s educational approaches that are grounded in anti-bias, social justice and inclusion, these resources provide a systematic approach to media, information and civic literacy that governments should promote in schools. Our Learning for Justice resources have been used by thousands of educators to teach about race and civil rights in the U.S. (Participatory and inclusive design and implementation processes that contribute to halting, reversing and repairing the lasting consequences and ongoing manifestations of systemic racism; and the role of people and communities of African descent and young people in these processes (paragraph 25).)