



# International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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## Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### Concluding observations on the combined twenty-first to twenty-third periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland\*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-first to twenty-third periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (CERD/C/GBR/21-23), submitted in one document, at its 2454th and 2455th meetings (CERD/C/SR.2454 and 2455), held on 4 and 5 August 2016. At its 2473rd and 2474th meetings, held on 18 August 2016, it adopted the present concluding observations.

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-first to twenty-third periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the information presented therein. The Committee appreciates the open and constructive dialogue that it had with the delegation of the State party, which included representatives of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as representatives of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and of the Crown dependencies.

3. The Committee also appreciates the input to its proceedings by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Human Rights Commission, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and various non-governmental organizations.

4. The Committee notes the complex structure of the State party, with devolved governments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as the responsibility of the State party with regard to the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies. The Committee reiterates that, as the duty bearer at the international level, the State party has the duty to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are implemented effectively in all territories it is responsible for, including the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies, notwithstanding the specific governance arrangements that it may have adopted.

5. The concerns and recommendations contained in the present concluding observations therefore apply to all of the aforementioned jurisdictions, and the Committee

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its ninetieth session (2-26 August 2016).



calls upon the State party to ensure that the recommendations contained herein are effectively followed up on and implemented by the appropriate governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, including at the local authority level, and by the governments of the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies.

## **B. Positive aspects**

6. The Committee welcomes the following legislative and policy measures taken in the State party to combat racial discrimination:

(a) Reduction of the marriage visa age for the purposes of family reunification from 21 to 18 years, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (see CERD/C/GBR/CO/18-20, para. 26);

(b) Action Against Hate: the Government's plan for tackling hate crime in England and Wales, in July 2016;

(c) Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights, in December 2013; New Scots, the strategy for 2014-2017 to support the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland, in December 2013; and the Race Equality Framework for Scotland 2016-2030, in March 2016;

(d) The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025, for Northern Ireland, in December 2015;

(e) The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme, across the United Kingdom; and the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Delivery Plan, in Wales, in March 2016;

(f) The "2020 Vision" policy, aimed at increasing the number of black people and people from ethnic minority groups in employment, apprenticeships, universities, police forces and armed services.

## **C. Concerns and recommendations**

### **Implementation of the Convention**

7. The Committee notes that the State party maintains its position that there is no obligation to incorporate the Convention into domestic law. The Committee reiterates its concern that the provisions of the Convention have not been given full effect in the State party and throughout the overseas territories and Crown dependencies. In particular, it expresses concern that several provisions of the Equality Act 2010 have not yet been brought into legal effect, including section 9 (5) (a) on caste-based discrimination and section 14 on dual discrimination. It also reiterates its concern that the Equality Act 2010 does not apply to Northern Ireland, where comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation has yet to be adopted (arts. 1 and 2).

**8. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the principles and the provisions of the Convention are directly and fully applicable under domestic law in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as in the overseas territories and Crown dependencies. In particular, the State party should:**

(a) **Invoke section 9 (5) (a) of the Equality Act 2010 without further delay to ensure that caste-based discrimination is explicitly prohibited under law and that victims of this form of discrimination have access to effective remedies, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 29 (2002) on descent;**

(b) **Taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, ensure that equality legislation in all jurisdictions of the State party provides effective protection to victims of dual or multiple discrimination, including, in the case of England, Scotland and Wales, by bringing into force section 14 of the Equality Act 2010 on dual discrimination;**

(c) **Ensure that the authorities of Northern Ireland act without further delay to adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting racial discrimination, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.**

#### **Bill of rights**

9. The Committee is concerned that the proposal to replace the Human Rights Act of 1998 with a new British bill of rights may lead to decreased levels of human rights protection in the State party, which would negatively affect the situation of individuals protected under article 1 of the Convention. The Committee also reiterates its concern that no progress has been made to adopt a bill of rights in Northern Ireland, despite the terms of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement of 1998 (arts. 2 and 6).

10. **The Committee recommends that the State party undertake meaningful and broad public consultation on its proposal to revise its human rights legislation and that it ensure that any changes to the current human rights framework strengthen the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of individuals protected under article 1 of the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party expedite the process of adopting the bill of rights for Northern Ireland, and ensure that it is in line with the provisions of the Convention and with other international human rights standards.**

#### **National human rights institutions**

11. The Committee expresses concern at the reduction of the role of the Equality and Human Rights Commission following the adoption of the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, as well as at the reduction in the resources of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. It is also concerned at the overlapping competencies of the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission, and at the lack of power of the Scottish Human Rights Commission to support individuals in claims or legal proceedings (art. 2).

12. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that any spending cuts and legislative amendments relating to the mandates of the national human rights institutions should not restrict their independent and effective operation in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). The State party should also ensure that there is a clear division of areas of responsibility between the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission and that both are able to support persons seeking effective remedies in the areas falling within their respective fields of competence.**

#### **Data collection and policies to tackle racial discrimination**

13. While commending the collection of detailed disaggregated data in some of the devolved administrations of the State party, the Committee expresses concern that data are neither collected systematically in all fields where racial discrimination exists, nor uniformly across the State party's jurisdiction, with gaps occurring most notably in Northern Ireland, the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies. It is also

concerned at the lack of systematic and effective use of data to develop policies to tackle racial discrimination, and notes that initiatives such as “2020 Vision” are not based on objective baseline assessments. The Committee also notes the concern that a shift of the State party’s policies away from special measures that are targeted specifically towards vulnerable groups may, in the present circumstances, exacerbate the inequalities that already exist on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin (art. 2).

**14. Given the importance of collecting accurate and updated disaggregated data to develop effective policies to combat racial discrimination and to monitor the impact of measures taken, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies systematically collect and publish disaggregated data on the enjoyment of rights by members of ethnic minorities in all fields of life, and that it include such information in its next periodic report. The Committee also recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Carefully review the impact of existing policies and programmes aimed at promoting integration so as to ensure that they do not constitute indirect discrimination;**

**(b) Consider adopting a detailed action plan that has concrete targets, monitoring mechanisms and sufficient resources, and that includes temporary special measures, to secure the adequate advancement of certain ethnic groups to ensure that persons belonging to such groups are able to enjoy their rights on an equal footing, taking into account the Committee’s general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.**

#### **Racist hate speech and hate crimes**

15. The Committee is seriously concerned at the sharp increase in the number of racist hate crimes, especially in England, Northern Ireland and Wales in the weeks prior to and following the referendum on the membership of the European Union that was held on 23 June 2016. In particular, the Committee is deeply concerned that the referendum campaign was marked by divisive, anti-immigrant and xenophobic rhetoric, and that many politicians and prominent political figures not only failed to condemn such rhetoric, but also created and entrenched prejudices, thereby emboldening individuals to carry out acts of intimidation and hate towards ethnic or ethno-religious minority communities and people who are visibly different. The Committee remains concerned that despite the recent increase in the reporting of hate crimes, the problem of underreporting persists, and the gap between reported cases and successful prosecutions remains significant. As a result, a large number of racist hate crimes seem to go unpunished. The Committee also remains concerned at the negative portrayal of ethnic or ethno-religious minority communities, immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees by the media in the State party, particularly in the aftermath of terrorist attacks, and at the rise of racist hate speech on the Internet. Notwithstanding these challenges, the Committee regrets that the State party continues to maintain its interpretative declaration on article 4 of the Convention (arts. 2, 4 and 6).

**16. The Committee recommends that the State party, including the governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the British overseas territories and the Crown dependencies:**

**(a) Investigate all reported racist hate crimes, prosecute the perpetrators and punish them with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the offence, and provide effective remedies to the victims;**

(b) Systematically collect disaggregated data on hate crimes, ensure that measures to combat racist hate crimes are developed with the meaningful participation of groups affected, and undertake a thorough impact assessment of the measures adopted, in order to ensure their continued effectiveness;

(c) Adopt concrete measures, in consultation with groups affected, to increase the reporting of racist hate crimes, by ensuring that the reporting mechanism is transparent and accessible and that victims have trust in the police and the justice system;

(d) Taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, adopt comprehensive measures to combat racist hate speech and xenophobic political discourse, including on the Internet, particularly with regard to the application of appropriate sanctions, and ensure that public officials not only refrain from such speech but also formally reject hate speech and condemn the hateful ideas expressed, so as to promote a culture of tolerance and respect;

(e) Take effective measures to combat racist media coverage, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, and ensure that such cases are thoroughly investigated, and where appropriate, that sanctions are imposed.

17. The Committee also reiterates its recommendation that the State party withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 4 of the Convention.

#### **Counter-terrorism measures**

18. The Committee expresses concern that the new counter-terrorism measures adopted by the State party, including the Counter-Extremism Strategy and the creation under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 of a statutory duty for public authorities in a broad range of fields to have due regard for the need to prevent individuals from being drawn into terrorism (the "prevent duty"), have created an atmosphere of suspicion towards members of Muslim communities. In particular, the Committee is concerned at: (a) the ambiguity of terms such as terrorism and extremism, which creates a wide scope of interpretation and leads to increased profiling of individuals based on their ethnicity and/or religion; (b) the negative impact on the rights to freedom of expression, education, and freedom of religion, given the uncertainty as to what can legitimately be discussed and worn in academic settings; (c) the collection, retention and sharing of information on individuals, particularly children, without their consent or the consent of their parents or guardians (arts. 2 and 5).

19. The Committee urges the State party to review the implementation of and evaluate the impact of existing counter-terrorism measures, in particular the "prevent duty" under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, in order to ensure that there are effective monitoring mechanisms and sufficient safeguards against abuse, and that they are implemented in a manner that does not constitute profiling and discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, in purpose or effect.

#### **Access to justice**

20. The Committee is concerned that the reforms to the legal aid system and the introduction of employment tribunal fees have restricted access to justice for individuals belonging to ethnic minorities in areas such as employment, housing, education and social welfare benefits. It notes with particular concern the significant reduction in the number of

cases concerning racial discrimination in employment since the introduction of fees in employment tribunals (arts. 5 and 6).

21. **The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that individuals belonging to ethnic minorities in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, as well as in its overseas territories and Crown dependencies, have fair and effective access to legal aid to seek justice. It recommends that the State party undertake a thorough assessment of the impact of the reforms to the legal aid system to ensure that individuals belonging to ethnic minorities are not affected disproportionately.**

#### **Discrimination against persons of African descent**

22. The Committee expresses concern at reports that persons of African descent face institutional racism in their enjoyment of rights, including the specific areas of concern mentioned in the present concluding observations, such as health, employment, education, stop and search practices and the criminal justice system. It also regrets that the State party does not intend to adopt any activities or plans for the 2015-2024 International Decade for People of African Descent (arts. 2 and 5).

23. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent, the Committee recommends that the State party consider adopting a national action plan to combat discrimination against persons of African descent, in partnership and consultation with communities of African descent, with concrete targets, implementation mechanisms and adequate resources. The Committee also encourages the State party to prepare and implement a suitable programme of measures and policies for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/237, taking into account General Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities.**

#### **Gypsies, Travellers and Roma**

24. While noting the efforts made by the State party to improve the situation of Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, the Committee reiterates its concern that their condition has not substantially improved. These communities continue to face exclusion and discrimination in the fields of health, education, housing and employment, and are subject to negative stereotypes and stigmatization in the media. The Committee is also concerned that the change in the definition of Gypsy or Traveller in the planning policy for Traveller sites in England, adopted in August 2015, may adversely impact the enjoyment of rights by those who have stopped travelling permanently due to factors such as illness or old age, and may further restrict the ability of Gypsy and Traveller communities to access culturally appropriate accommodation and stopping sites (arts. 2 and 5).

25. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Develop a comprehensive strategy, in consultation with members of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, to ensure a systematic and coherent approach in addressing the challenges that members of these communities continue to face in the fields of health, education, housing and employment, and ensure its effective implementation by adopting specific action plans, putting in place effective oversight and monitoring mechanisms to track progress, and providing adequate human and financial resources;**

(b) **Ensure the provision of adequate and culturally appropriate accommodation and stopping sites as a matter of priority throughout the State party**

and regularly publish the net increase of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers created through the Traveller Pitch Fund;

(c) Ensure that representatives of Gypsy and Traveller communities are adequately consulted before any measures that affect their situation, such as the Housing and Planning Bill 2015, are implemented;

(d) Ensure that any changes in the definition of Gypsy or Traveller, including for planning purposes, are made with effective consultation with the Gypsy and Traveller communities and that their views are duly taken into account, and that such changes do not adversely affect their rights, including the rights of people who have stopped travelling permanently.

### Stop and search

26. While welcoming the range of measures adopted by the State party to ensure that stop and search powers of the police are used fairly and effectively, as well as the reduction in the use of stop and search against people of African and Asian descent by some police forces in England, the Committee remains concerned that the use of stop and search powers continues to have a disproportionate impact on persons belonging to ethnic minorities, especially young men (arts. 2 and 5).

27. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales regularly review the impact of stop and search powers on persons belonging to visible ethnic minority groups, and take effective measures to ensure that such powers are used in a lawful, non-arbitrary and non-discriminatory manner on the basis of reasonable suspicion, with rigorous monitoring and review mechanisms.**

### Criminal justice

28. While welcoming the measures taken by the State party to examine the extent of institutional racism in the criminal justice system, the Committee remains concerned that persons of African and Asian descent continue to be disproportionately targeted throughout the criminal justice system. Additionally, while the Committee welcomes some progress in improving the ethnic diversity of some police forces, it is concerned that the ethnic composition of the majority of the police forces in the State party is not representative of the communities that they serve, particularly in Scotland. It also expresses concern at reports that black police officers and police officers from ethnic minority groups face discriminatory treatment within the police and are underrepresented at senior decision-making levels (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the overrepresentation of black people and people belonging to ethnic minority groups at all stages of the criminal justice system in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is thoroughly investigated, and that it take concrete measures to effectively address racial prejudice and bias in the criminal justice system, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system.**

### Health

30. While welcoming the acknowledgement by the State party that there are long-standing inequalities in access to health services, in the quality of care and in the health outcomes of patients, the Committee is concerned at the lack of evidence to indicate that

the measures adopted have led to improvements in the above-mentioned areas for individuals belonging to ethnic minorities, particularly Gypsies, Travellers and persons of African descent. The Committee remains particularly concerned at reports of overrepresentation of persons of Afro-Caribbean descent in psychiatric institutions and of a higher likelihood of persons of Afro-Caribbean descent being subjected to restraint, seclusion and overmedication (arts. 2 and 5).

**31. The State party should take effective measures to ensure the accessibility and availability of quality health-care services to persons belonging to ethnic minorities, throughout its jurisdiction. The Committee stresses the particular importance of adopting measures to address effectively the overrepresentation of persons of Afro-Caribbean descent being treated in psychiatric institutions and the disproportionate use of restraint, seclusion and medication.**

#### **Employment**

32. While welcoming the increased rate of employment of individuals from ethnic minority groups, the Committee remains concerned at: (a) the higher rate of unemployment among persons of African and Asian descent; (b) occupational segregation, with a concentration of persons from ethnic minorities in insecure and low-paid work; and (c) discriminatory recruitment practices by employers (arts. 2 and 5).

**33. The Committee recommends that the State party collect disaggregated data on employment, unemployment and activity rates of individuals from ethnic minority groups, throughout its jurisdiction, and that it adopt and implement targeted measures to address unemployment, occupational segregation, and discriminatory practices with regard to recruitment, salaries, promotions and other conditions of employment.**

#### **Education**

34. While noting the adoption of guidance on bullying and exclusion, the Committee remains concerned at continued reports of racist bullying and harassment in schools across the State party, as well as at the disproportionate rate of exclusion from school of pupils belonging to Gypsy, Traveller, Roma or Afro-Caribbean communities. The Committee also expresses concern at the lack of balanced teaching in the State party's schools about the history of the British Empire and colonialism, particularly in regard to slavery (arts. 2 and 5).

**35. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Strengthen efforts to eliminate all racist bullying and harassment in the State party's schools, including by requiring schools to collect qualitative and quantitative data on bullying and exclusions from school on the grounds of race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, and to use the data to develop concrete strategies;**

**(b) Ensure that schools comply with their public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 and section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to challenge racist bullying and to promote respect for diversity, including through the training of educational personnel;**

**(c) Ensure that the school curricula across its jurisdiction contain a balanced account of the history of the British Empire and colonialism, including of slavery and other grave human rights violations.**

### **Racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland**

36. The Committee notes the complex interplay between racism and sectarianism in Northern Ireland and welcomes the adoption in May 2013 of the “Together: Building a United Community” strategy to tackle racism, sectarianism and other forms of intolerance. However, the Committee reiterates its previously expressed concern that measures to tackle racism and sectarianism are kept outside of the framework of the protections against discrimination provided by the Convention and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (arts. 2 and 4).

**37. The Committee recommends that the State party consider the standards, duties and actions prescribed by the Convention and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on intersectionality between ethnic origin, religion and other forms of discrimination in its measures to combat racism and sectarianism. It requests that the State party provide information, in its next periodic report, on concrete measures adopted to address racial discrimination in Northern Ireland, and on the impact of the “Together: Building a United Community” strategy in addressing discrimination experienced by members of ethnic minority groups.**

### **Immigration detention**

38. The Committee expresses concern at the use of immigration detention with no statutory time limit, and that children continue to be held in immigration detention facilities (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

**39. Recalling its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State party establish a statutory time limit on the duration of immigration detention and ensure that detention is used as a measure of last resort, and take further steps to end the immigration detention of children. The State party should also ensure that individuals who are held in immigration detention facilities have effective access to justice, including legal aid.**

### **Forcible eviction of Chagossians from Diego Garcia**

40. The Committee regrets that no progress has been made in implementing the Committee’s previous recommendation to withdraw all discriminatory restrictions on Chagossians (Îlois) from entering Diego Garcia or other islands in the Chagos Archipelago (see CERD/C/GBR/CO/18-20, para. 12), that the State party continues to maintain its position that the Convention does not apply to the British Indian Ocean Territory on the grounds that it has no permanent population and that the State party has not yet extended the application of the Convention to the Territory (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

**41. Taking note of the decision, adopted on 18 March 2015, of the arbitral tribunal constituted under annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the matter of the Chagos Marine Protected Area Arbitration, the Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see CERD/C/GBR/CO/18-20, para. 12) that the State party has an obligation to ensure that the Convention is applicable in all territories under its control, including the British Indian Ocean Territory, and urges the State party to hold full and meaningful consultations with the Chagossians (Îlois) to facilitate their return to their islands and to provide them with an effective remedy, including compensation.**

### **Haitians in the Turks and Caicos Islands**

42. The Committee expresses concern at the information contained in annex C to the State party report concerning the situation of persons of Haitian nationality in the Turks and Caicos Islands, who encounter hostility from the local communities and face discriminatory

treatment, including in regard to access to schools, health care and birth certificates (arts. 2 and 5).

43. The Committee welcomes the commitment expressed by the delegation of the State party to support the local authorities and the Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission in their efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination against persons of Haitian nationality. The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, updated and detailed information on the situation of Haitians in the Turks and Caicos Islands, as part of its report on the situation of the British overseas territories.

#### **D. Other recommendations**

##### **Declaration under article 14 of the Convention**

44. The Committee encourages the State party to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications.

##### **Consultations with civil society**

45. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake meaningful and effective consultations with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, in connection with the preparation of the next periodic report and in the follow-up to the present concluding observations.

##### **Ratification of other instruments**

46. Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying those international human rights instruments that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

##### **Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

47. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention in its domestic legal order, the State party give effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference held in Geneva in April 2009. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report specific information on action plans and other measures taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level.

**Follow-up to the present concluding observations**

48. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 (a) and 16 (e) (racist hate speech and hate crimes), 19 (counter-terrorism measures) and 31 (health) above.

**Paragraphs of particular importance**

49. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 (implementation of the Convention), 10 (bill of rights), 23 (discrimination against persons of African descent), 25 (Gypsies, Travellers and Roma) and 41 (forcible eviction of Chagossians from Diego Garcia) above, and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

**Dissemination of information**

50. The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available to and accessible by the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly publicized in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

**Preparation of the next report**

51. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined twenty-fourth to twenty-sixth periodic reports, as a single document, by 6 April 2020, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session (CERD/C/2007/1) and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.

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