

Racism Xenophobia and Islamophobia

Introduction

Racism is described as “the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.” Xenophobia and Islamophobia are defined under the encompassing umbrella that defines racism. Xenophobia is similar just limited to prejudice against people from another state. Neo- Nazism refers to the general Ideology which includes of White Supremacy, Racism, Xenophobia, Islam phobia, and anti-Semitism. The term Nazism is used, to imply how the Nazis discriminated the Jews, thus a Xenophobic Mentality.

History of Xenophobia and Islamophobia

The history of the term, rather the ideology stems from the denigration of foreigners in ancient Greece. The belief that the Greek people and culture were superior to all others, and the subsequent conclusion that barbarians were naturally meant to be enslaved. Ancient Romans also held notions of superiority over other peoples. A similar ideology was adopted by other nations, the most notable being the Anti Sematic approach adopted by the Nazis after the first world war. Islamophobia became largely widespread especially after the 9/11 attacks, where “Muslims” had hijacked planes and crashed it into the Two World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. The fact that this was done by Al-Qaeda terrorists however, fueled the anger within people against Muslims. It soon became evident that the anger of people was directed towards the religion Islam, rather than the few individuals responsible for the heinous act.

The various sects of Racism are as follows:

White Supremacy

White supremacy is perhaps one of the oldest forms of Racism, fuelled by events in our history such as colonialism. People born with a fairer skin tone, consider themselves superior, or of more importance than others, especially those with a darker skin tone. This type of Racism became quite widespread in the 19th and 20th century, where people of African Ethnicity came to the US for better Job opportunities, or also in areas such as the Indian Subcontinent where the British had established their Colonies. As portrayed by the inhumane murder of countless innocents, even the most sophisticated and advanced societies are not sheided from such forms of racism . The most recent case, which caused the eruption of massive protests all around the world, was the Ruthless murder of Gorge Floyd, an African American, by the Police, for simply using a counterfeit 20 dollar bill. The Police officer however did not hesitate in grounding him, and placing his knee with full force upon his neck. This started the Black Lives Matter Protest, which

involved mass demonstrations and peaceful protests all around the world. This Ideology is also massively prevalent in the general society where darker toned people are looked down upon, as being inferior, or a parasite to the society. This ideology is prevalent through thoughts, even if actions have been suppressed by the growing awareness. Countless studies have shown the ideology exists within the minds of individuals who are born with fairer skin.

Islamophobia

Islamophobia is considered a recent form of Racism, created due the acts of a few individuals who were considered to be portraying the views of a whole religion. Scholars and muslims all around the world have put their blood, sweat and tears into showing that Islam is a religion of peace as indicated by its name which translates to peace. According to many researchers, there has also been a role of the media in spreading Islamophobia. According to Elizabeth Poole in the Encyclopedia of Race and Ethnic Studies, the media have been criticized for perpetrating Islamophobia. She cited a case study examining a sample of articles in the British press from 1994 to 2004, which concluded that Muslim viewpoints were underrepresented and that issues involving Muslims usually depicted them in a negative light. Such portrayals, according to Poole, include the depiction of Islam and Muslims as a threat to Western security and values.

A report from the University of California Berkeley and the Council on American–Islamic Relations estimated that \$206 million was funded to 33 groups whose primary purpose was "to promote prejudice against, or hatred of, Islam and Muslims" in the United States between 2008 and 2013, with a total of 74 groups contributing to Islamophobia in the United States during that period.

Stop Islamization of America (SIOA) and the Freedom Defense Initiative are designated as hate groups by the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center. In August 2012 SIOA generated media publicity by sponsoring billboards in New York City Subway stations claiming there had been 19,250 terrorist attacks by Muslims since 9/11 and stating "it's not Islamophobia, it's Islamorealism. It later ran advertisements reading "In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad." Several groups condemned the advertisements as "hate speech" about all Muslims while others defended the ad as a narrow criticism of violent Jihadism. In early January 2013 the Freedom Defense Initiative put up advertisements next to 228 clocks in 39 New York subway stations showing the 2001 attacks on the WTC with a quote attributed to the 151st verse of chapter 3 of the Quran: "Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers." The New York City Transit Authority, which said it would have to carry the advertisements on First Amendment grounds, insisted that 25% of the ad contain a Transit Authority disclaimer. These advertisements also highly were criticized

Homophobia

Homophobia encompasses a range of negative attitudes and feelings toward homosexuality or people who are identified or perceived as , bisexual or transgender (LGBT). It has been defined as contempt, prejudice, aversion, hatred or antipathy, may be based on irrational fear and ignorance, and is often related to religious beliefs. Homophobia is observable in critical and hostile behavior such as discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientations that are non-heterosexual. Recognized types of homophobia include institutionalized homophobia, e.g. religious homophobia and state-sponsored homophobia, and internalized homophobia, experienced by people who have same-sex attractions, regardless of how they identify. Negative attitudes toward identifiable LGBT groups have similar yet specific names: lesbo phobia is the intersection of homophobia and discrimination directed against lesbians, bi phobia targets bisexuality and bisexual people, and trans phobia targets transgender and trans sexual people and gender variance or gender role nonconformity. According to 2010 Hate Crimes Statistics released by the FBI National Press Office, 19.3 percent of hate crimes across the United States "were motivated by a sexual orientation bias. Moreover, in a Southern Poverty Law Center 2010 Intelligence Report extrapolating data from fourteen years (1995–2008), which had complete data available at the time, of the FBI's national hate crime statistics found that LGBT people were "far more likely than any other minority group in the United States to be victimized by violent hate crime. This too is a problem in the society, and has caused massive distress in people.

UN Action

During the last fifty years, since the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the international community has made some important advances in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. While the UDHR does not address racism or xenophobia by name, they are explicitly implied and the elimination of any form of overt and practiced discrimination and racism is the tacit goal of the UDHR. Article 1 of the UDHR states that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Article 7 of the UDHR addresses discrimination specifically: “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

At its twentieth session, in 1965, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and requested the Secretary-general to submit to it reports concerning the 4 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Convention

entered into force on 4 January 1969. At its fifty-third session,¹⁷⁹ the General Assembly urged those States that had not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or accede thereto, and decided to consider at its fifty-fifth session the report of the Secretary General concerning the status of the Convention (resolution 53/131, sect. III). As at 1 May 2000, 156 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

The most controversial resolution on racism came in 1975, when the General Assembly passed United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379, by a vote of 72 to 35, with 32 abstentions. This resolutions—with support from the Member States of the Arab League and some Member States of the Non-Aligned Movements (NAM), famously stated that, "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination". Since Zionism is the official doctrine justifying the return of Jews to Israel, the resolution was an explicit attack on the legitimacy of Israel as a Jewish state. Thirty three years later, the resolution was officially repealed by the General Assembly.

In 1997, the General Assembly decided, in resolution 52/111, to hold the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The World Conference which will be held in Durban, South Africa from 31 August to 7 September 2001, will be a landmark in the struggle to eradicate all forms of racism "requiring a strong follow-up mechanism to examine whether Governments have delivered on their promises made," according to the High Commissioner. She promised "to make it a conference of actions not just words." The World Conference is a unique opportunity to create a new world vision for the fight against racism in the twenty-first century.

UN Resolutions, 66th UN General Assembly, 19 December 2011, 89th Meeting 2011: The Assembly also adopted a new text on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, and incitement to violence against persons, based on religion or belief, which was tabled by the United Arab Emirates, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). By that text, it strongly deplored all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law.

The 2001 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance was a historic opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing challenges faced by people of African descent as a result of the legacies of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism. Despite efforts to mobilize political will at the national, regional and international levels, 13 years after the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, Related Intolerance, discrimination faced by people of African Descent continue to manifest in situations of insufficient access to quality education, employment, and security as well as vulnerability to violence based on colour, nationality or ethnicity.

"This World Conference has the potential to be among the most significant gatherings at the start of this century," the Secretary-General of the Conference and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, stated. "It can be more: it can shape and embody the spirit of the new century, based on the shared conviction that we are all members of one human family."

Global Situation regarding Racism

The 28 Member States of the EU are united in opposition to all forms of racism and intolerance. The EU leads or supports most efforts to eliminate discrimination. The EU is especially supportive of measures to create opportunities for repressed ethnic groups and women. Many EU states have a colonial past, and are especially interested in affairs within their former colonies. The EU stresses restrictions of the ability of states to use their government institutions in ways that hurt particular groups, and insists that governments treat all their citizens equally. The EU also supports measures to require higher levels of participation by repressed groups in government, business and education, such as requiring that half the members of all private corporate boards or members of parliament be women, and that members of under-performing minorities be assured access to education and employment.

The Non Aligned Movement lead UN efforts to combat all 14 forms of racism and discrimination, especially discrimination against their people at the hands of their former imperialist and colonial rulers. For the UN Member States of the NAM, efforts to combat racism are viewed above all as part of the anti-colonial struggle. They expect resolutions to place the greatest responsibilities on former colonial and imperialist states. And they expect the financial cost of efforts to redress the painful legacies of the past to be borne by them also. The Member States of NAM are less enthusiastic about measures under the topic of racism or intolerance that focus on their domestic affairs. They generally regard their domestic affairs as sovereign from international interference.

Another major concern for the global community is the religious hate taking place within Pakistan and India. There has been a lifelong rivalry between Indians and Pakistanis, mainly concerning the two different religions practiced in both areas. People in India are majorly Hindu, while in Pakistan there is a majority of Muslims. However due to this Hindu-Muslim Conflict Muslims in India are majorly suffering while Hindus in Pakistan are also victims of the same hate. In India Muslims are treated with general disrespect, which can be seen through the recent citizenship law, which deemed millions of Muslims in India, not rightful citizens.

Hong Kong's protests started in June against plans to allow extradition to mainland China. Critics feared this could undermine judicial independence and endanger dissidents. Until 1997, Hong Kong was ruled by Britain as a colony but then returned to China. Under the "one country, two systems" arrangement, it maintains some degree of autonomy. The bill was withdrawn in

September but demonstrations continue and now demand full democracy and an inquiry into police actions. Clashes between police and activists have become increasingly violent, with police firing live bullets and protesters attacking officers and throwing petrol bombs.

