



Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum: Combating Intolerance

Recalling the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all other related international conventions and recalling the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, its commitments to plant the seeds of a better future through education and remembrance, and its pledge to fight the evils of genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia; in support of the preparations for the Durban World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia And Related Intolerance; and also in support of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Compact, we, representatives of governments at the Stockholm International Forum: Combating Intolerance, condemn intolerance in all its aspects and declare that:

1. Racism, racial discrimination, antisemitism, islamophobia, xenophobia; discrimination, violence and murder because of sexual orientation, and all other forms of intolerance, violate basic human values and threaten democratic society. All crimes against humanity, genocide such as the Holocaust, and atrocities such as slavery and apartheid serve as grim reminders of where intolerance can lead if permitted to flourish and of the absolute necessity that it be stopped. We recognize the need and will take steps to protect the weak and vulnerable in our societies, including immigrants and asylum seekers. We pledge to take steps at the national level, and to encourage and support action at the local, regional and international levels, to combat all manifestations of intolerance in our societies.
2. We will develop and encourage participation in networks including all states here assembled and others who wish to join, as well as relevant international organizations. The networks will exchange information about experiences with combating all forms of intolerance, with a focus on best practices and lessons learned, in such fields as education and training, legislation, community strategies, and media. We will draw on these networks in fulfilling our pledge to take action. We will improve existing systems for collecting and analyzing information and monitoring intolerance at the local, regional, national and international levels. Such information is a prerequisite for combating intolerance and establishing inclusive societies.
3. We call on parliamentarians, educators, religious communities, youth associations, corporations, commissions, foundations, employers, unions, local, municipal and regional authorities, and parents in our societies to instill in our youth respect and appreciation for diversity and the conviction that intolerance is an evil that must be fought. We will support education and research to this end, as keys to combating intolerance. We commend and support all efforts directed toward combating intolerance and promoting respect through education. We will support the creation of a research process linking academics and policy makers working to understand and combat intolerance, and will consider the establishment of regional research centers.
4. We will further develop, and where absent consider establishing, legislative measures, including anti-discrimination legislation, in national, regional and international contexts to deny intolerance a place in our societies. We will seek recommendations from the



networks formed here on using legislation to further the aims of this declaration. We will enforce with determination our laws in these fields.

5. In order to provide an infrastructure in the fight against intolerance, we undertake to strengthen, or where necessary establish, independent national, local and municipal specialized bodies to combat intolerance in cooperation with governmental authorities, organizations of civil society and the private sector. We will promote coordination between these bodies and the networks, education and training efforts, legislative measures, and public-private partnerships.
6. Recognizing that respect for freedom of expression and opinion is essential to a democratic society, we invite media in our societies to develop training programs for journalists, editors and producers to positively approach the notion of inclusive societies and to guard against media becoming a platform for those who preach hatred and intolerance. We will commend, publicize and support those who establish such programs.
7. We underline the positive contribution that the Internet can have in combating intolerance. However, we are concerned by its use in the service of the promoters of intolerance. We support international cooperation in the establishment of a voluntary Internet Code of Conduct Against Intolerance and will encourage participation by Internet providers in our countries. In the code's development, we urge Internet providers to draw on recommendations of the networks formed here. We take note of legal instruments restricting the use of the Internet to spread messages of intolerance being considered in a number of countries.
8. We will work to find ways to reach out to those advocating intolerance and will engage them in the building of our inclusive societies.
9. We reaffirm our support for other international contributions on the subject (including the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance, the Final Report of the UN Year for Tolerance, the OSCE's Copenhagen Document, the Political Declaration of the European Conference Against Racism, and the European Union's Council of Ministers for Youth Document on Combating Racism, the Council of Europe's Vienna Declaration on Racism, Intolerance and Antisemitism, among others), and offer this declaration and the proceedings of this Forum for consideration at the Durban World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.
10. As we begin the new Millennium, we offer our support to those affected by and vulnerable to all forms of intolerance. The memory of those killed by violent racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance will remain vivid in our minds as we make a world where intolerance has no place, where all human beings are respected and equal in dignity, and where all societies are inclusive. In the name of justice, humanity and respect for human dignity we pledge to continue combating all forms of intolerance and to do all we can to bring about a world of inclusive societies speedily in our day.