

Third General Assembly

Implementing measures to eradicate xenophobia

África do Sul
STOP XENOFOBIA



Forum	General Assembly Third Committee
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Introduction

In recent years xenophobic attacks have increasingly escalated, becoming a significant area of concern. The ever-swelling entry of foreigners has enlarged xenophobic rhetoric and hate speech. Several elements are responsible for the attacks witnessed; the interactive and cultural factors together with the vast globalization being the main influences.

Hate-crimes motivated by xenophobia are enlarging and forming an even bigger threat to its persons of concern (PoC). The xenophobic sentiments have been factors for brutal violence and mistreatment for a long period of time, including verbal and physical abuse, arson, exclusion and xenophobic bias. The perpetrators, however, are discharged from any punishments. Most xenophobic actions go unreported and unnoticed, only major hate-crimes are reported to the media. Xenophobia's consequences can lead to deterioration of the quality of life, creating less opportunities as well as limiting people's abilities and potential.

Xenophobia can occur from factors such as: fear of the unknown, a person's upbringing being focused on xenophobic practices, fear of strangers and insecurity of one's own values. The effects that it has on minorities and the cultural atmosphere in a society are degenerating. Xenophobic hate-crimes are common all over the globe, regardless of the international status of the nation. Xenophobic-led attacks are an important concern as people are being targeted brutally, being a direct violation of human rights.



Definition of Key Terms

Hate-crime

A hate crime (also known as a bias-motivated crime or bias crime) is a prejudice-motivated crime which occurs when a perpetrator targets a victim because of their membership (or perceived membership) of a certain social group or race.

Xenophobia

Xenophobia is the fear or hatred of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. This results in exclusion, violence and condemnation. Xenophobia and racism often overlap, as people can be xenophobic of others from their color and ethnicity. However, racism and xenophobia are in fact two distinct terms.

General Overview

The rise of populist, nationalist governments has resulted in an increased amount of hate speech and xenophobic eloquence. A number of political figures have turned to anti-immigrant stances promoting fear and distrust of foreigners. Xenophobia threatens the lives of economic migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other locally defined 'outsiders' such as domestic migrants and ethnic minorities. Several leaders are denying the need to take action and are disregarding the basic notion that one has the right to flee for safety.

The United Nations (UN) is working to increase accountability sharing within states and further respondents to xenophobic situations. Acknowledging the threats xenophobia raises to its persons of concern (PoC), the UN has launched diverse activities aiming to protect the PoC.

Police brutality led by xenophobia

In recent years, police brutality has rapidly increased and major protests have taken place all over the world to fight against it. While these attacks are mostly led by racism, police brutality led by xenophobia has also occurred in the past years. Regarding the role of a police officer, unjustified police brutality seems counterintuitive; however, this does in fact take place. The main cause being the insufficient guidance and bad training environment.



Studies say that subconscious xenophobic bias is a second factor for the attacks, leading to police negligence during sincere crimes.

Xenophobic violence

Various people face xenophobic threats and suffer from xenophobic violence. Furthermore, numerous PoC encounter these attacks on a daily basis. One of the main causes is that the victims are outnumbered and seen as a minority within their society. Repeatedly the perpetrator has remained unharmed and free, while the victim is left brutally injured or even dead. The ones responsible for this violent oppression are often obsessed with consistency and very close minded to change.

Xenophobic violence against internal migrants

Internal migrants form a big part of the people facing xenophobic violence. These attacks are not based on ethnicity or skin color, however on the fact that they are strangers and new to the neighborhood, community, society, etc. The migrants initially are not welcomed into their new residence and experience exclusion. Subsequently, this xenophobic behavior can lead to physical and verbal abuse, arson and xenophobic bias.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

European commission against racism and intolerance

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) monitors human rights issues such as xenophobia, racism, intolerance and different forms of discrimination. The ECRI presents suggestions on how to deal with xenophobia and an analysis of the situation in states. The ECRI additionally cooperates with other NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, organizing thematic meeting to discuss solutions to xenophobia. The conferences establish connections between international groups and ensure that everyone is on the same page with the issue. Furthermore, the ECRI uses their own research from NGOs to make yearly report per country. Each of these reports provide the countries with insight into their issues and its effects on the society.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe



The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) develops monitoring systems and consistently collects data and reports on hate crime by working with government officials. The information provides insight on the effect of xenophobic hate crimes on communities and raises awareness for the issue. Furthermore, the OSCE helps promote a relationship between the law enforcement, ensuring victims feel comfortable reporting hate crimes. In addition to that, they assist states with developing resolutions on hate crimes. The OSCE works together with several organizations in order to encourage and promote educational programs on the issue. It has collaborated with the Council of Europe (COE) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Besides this cooperation, the OSCE has also created the Training against Hate Crime in Law Enforcement (TAHCLE) and the Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training (PAHCT). These trainings help identify hate crimes and protect the community from them.

France

France is actively participating in conferences to combat xenophobia and intolerance. The state participated in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, assessing the current progress to combat the issues. France has also been supporting the OSCE's battle against xenophobia.

Greece South Africa

In Greece the amount of xenophobic violence against foreigners has increased over the past years and migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are being targeted. In 2011 nationalists invaded communities with migrant populations, attacking hundreds of citizens. The origin of the attacks was the increased crime rate and unemployment, which the nationalists blamed the migrants for. These xenophobic patterns are also to be found in children's behavior, as an incident was recorded involving kids punching, kicking and chasing migrants. Many attacks by extremists have occurred in Greece since 2009, injuring and murdering hundreds. The non-profit human rights organization Human Rights First has reported several other incidents in Greece. The Human Rights Commission of Greece is working on combatting xenophobic attitudes and forming proposals to do so. These solutions are highly necessary as the xenophobic behavior in Greece is severe.

South Africa

Several different immigrants reside in South Africa coming from the Great Lakes region, Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa. Refugees from Zimbabwe have relocated in South Africa as well. These migrants and refugees face a high rate of xenophobic violence, as reported by the Human Rights Commission. These attacks resulted in the displacement of



thousands of people and hundreds of deaths. In 2010 attacks were reported during the World Cup, spreading fear among visitors and migrants. After this the government responded by using more resources to prevent crime and creating a zero-tolerance policy.

The United States of America

In the United States of America (USA) xenophobic violence on mostly Hispanic immigrants has rapidly increased. The Southern Poverty Law Centre (SPLC) monitors and addresses harassment against immigrants by extremists. The SPLC reported an increase of 54% since 2000 on hate crime on immigrants. The government is taking measures to combat xenophobia by importing a monitoring and reporting system.

Timeline of Events

You can include a small paragraph to explain the timeline. Otherwise you should follow the format specified below:

Date	Description of event
1885	Chines laborers in Wyoming were attacked after being accused of taking away jobs from other inhabitants.
1942	Japanese in the US were sent to prison-like camps after the Pearl Harbor attack
2016	Mass execution of Rohingya Muslims by Burmese
2017	Increased acid attacks on Muslims and South-Asians
2018	Migrants from Niger and Mali attacked in their homes in Algeria

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, General Assembly 1981
- Article 15, International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- United against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (2001)



Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Previous attempts to solve the issue of xenophobia and reducing violence include the previously mentioned resolutions. The UN has held several world conferences creating and adapting many resolutions and declarations. One of these conferences was the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance which took place in Durban, South Africa. This is where the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA) was adopted. The DDPA delivered constructive and efficient measures combatting xenophobia, however recognizing the difficulty to completely eliminate the issue. NGO's and governmental organizations have also tried to fight the issue; however, the lack of awareness and insufficient action have contributed to the increase of xenophobic attacks.

Possible Solutions

Firstly, it is important to approach the realization that xenophobic sentiments are hardly ever to become fully overturned, following from the instinctive feeling that one's identity and culture are more important than another person's identity and culture. This has also been described as 'ego drives discrimination'. Therefore, the solution to xenophobia is difficult to achieve and certainly demands cooperation between states. While we can rarely reduce superior feelings, and this is impractical, reducing violence and brutality led by xenophobia is possible.

The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) has recommended stating the minimum standards in a national legislation, which should not go below the international levels. This will result in a higher protection for people prone to xenophobic attacks. The arrangements should support a positive ambiance and development that fits within the legal boundaries of xenophobia. These regulations should also ensure that PoC can live without social stigmas, protecting them within the political and cultural world. Another possible solution is that states could change current laws evoking the xenophobic sentiments, reducing prejudice and unequal treatment, omission and deprecation. The legislations should give citizens an equal privilege to healthcare, social protection and security, good education, diversion, employment, accommodation, availability to supplies and product and further necessities. Moreover, special bodies could be implemented, serving to prevent xenophobic actions.



Additionally, penalties could be implemented, which will help decrease the amount of xenophobic people willing to take action. Besides penalties, monitoring the victims and perpetrators, together with implementing rights for victims to support themselves at court, are possible legislations. One of the reasons nations are falling behind to meet their commitments, as reported by the OSCE, is the negligence to adopt and enforce proper regulations.

While regulations have the potential of severely decreasing violence led by xenophobia, they will probably not change a person's inner sentiments and prejudice. Therefore, it is essential to raise awareness and implement education around this issue in communities. It is necessary to instill cosmopolitanism, principally in a culturally unvarying society. Especially introducing the issue to young children is important, as they are still developing and being introduced to their global surroundings. Potentially, this could make them a more open-minded generation and lead to less xenophobic acts in the future. Children should be taught about intolerance and different cultures and lifestyles, encouraging them to stay open-minded all the time.

It is also important to educate all age groups, not only the future, as the xenophobia is a current issue. Therefore, a solution for the current xenophobic violence that has a quicker outcome is necessary. Moreover, it takes older people more time to change their perception, as they have believed what they know for a large amount of time. Hence, a further way to raise worldwide awareness is by utilizing communication, media and the internet to their full potential. With technology being used by billions, it is possible to portray the issue through different lenses, and constantly motivating people to speak up against xenophobia and raise people's awareness of xenophobia.

Lastly, the OSCE has reported that there is a lack of broad and complete data in the collection on xenophobic hate crimes. This adds to the reason that states are not succeeding to elaborate xenophobic actions. By collecting and providing sufficient data, governmental organizations and groups would be able to examine and evaluate the issue more openly. This way, intergovernmental organizations and groups can regulate fitting solutions and legislations to eradicate xenophobia.

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Appendix or Appendices

- I. Understanding the situation in Europe
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/xenophobia-eastern-europe-refugees/410800/>
- II. Testimony Details Concrete Steps U.S. Should Take to Address Global Hate Crime
<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/testimony-details-concrete-steps-us-should-take-address-global-hate-crime>

