**Programme of Work**

17th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues

*"Minority representation and self-representation in public spaces and discourses"*

(28-29 November 2024 - Geneva, Room XX)

**THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER**

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM (local time in Geneva)**

**Opening Meeting**

1. Statement by the President of the Human Rights Council, H.E. Omar Zniber
2. Statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Volker Türk (pre-recorded video)
3. Statement by the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Mr. Nicolas Levrat
4. Statement by the Chair of the Forum

**10:30 AM – 11:00 AM (local time in Geneva)**

**Item 1: Minority representation in public spaces**

Under this agenda item, the Forum will analyse how representations of minorities in public spaces reflect and shape national narratives and identities. The discussion will be focused on the representation of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in public spaces, including in street names, monuments and architecture and in the context of symbolically important celebrations and holidays. The role and place of minorities in memorial policies and practices will also be examined, as will the representation of prominent figures, including historical figures, from minority groups. Specific emphasis will be placed on the participation of minorities in decisions relating to such representation and on the incorporation of a gender perspective. In addition, the Forum will review legislation, policies and practices that either permit persons belonging to minorities to display religious or cultural symbols in public spaces or restrict such displays.

1. Ms. Ildikö Török, Programme Manager, Roma Rights and Citizenship Programme, Tom Lantos Institute.
2. Ms. Ivonne González. Artist, Director of Association Noircir.
3. Prof. Frédéric Giraut, Professor, UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Toponomy "Naming the World", University of Geneva.

**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Interactive dialogue**

**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Lunch break**

**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Item 2: Minority representation in education**

This panel will be focused on the portrayal of minorities in education, which plays a crucial role in shaping how minorities see themselves and how they are perceived by society. The Forum will highlight the key role of education in ensuring that all students learn about the existence, unique characteristics and contribution to society as a whole of minority groups, with an emphasis on promoting a curriculum that reflects diversity. The Forum will also explore how minority students can effectively exercise their right to learn about their own history and culture, highlighting the significant role of education in ensuring intergenerational transmission and reducing intercommunal tensions. A central theme will be the need for the active participation of minorities in shaping educational policies, ensuring that their perspectives are taken into account throughout the process.

1. Ms. Jacqueline Hatch, UNESCO
2. Prof. David Smith, Professor, Alex Nove Chair in Russian and East European Studies, University of Glasgow.
3. Mr. Ignasi Grau Callizo, General Director, OIDEL.

**3:30 PM – 6:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Interactive dialogue**

**FRIDAY 29 November**

**10:00 AM – 10:30 AM (local time in Geneva)**

**Item 3: Minority representation in the media, including social media**

In this panel, the Forum will explore the role of traditional and social media in shaping public perceptions of minorities. The panel will be focused on both challenges and opportunities that minorities face in portraying themselves in the media. The Forum will examine how minorities are often misrepresented through scapegoating, polarizing rhetoric, hate speech and disinformation campaigns. Examples of inclusive and positive media discourse will also be highlighted. A key focus will be on addressing algorithmic biases in social media to prevent the marginalization and stereotyping of minority groups. The Forum will also explore multilingual and minority language media, showcasing how media platforms can preserve and promote minority cultures and traditions. Participants will reflect on good practices that foster diversity and encourage a more inclusive and accurate representation of minorities in the media.

1. Ms. Nayat Karaköse, Director of Programs, Hrant Dink Foundation.
2. Mr. Dimas Novais, Journalist, Content Researcher and Screenwriter, Globo.
3. Prof. John Nguyet Erni, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Chair Professor of Cultural Studies, The Education University of Hong Kong.

**10:30 AM – 1:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Interactive dialogue**

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Lunch break**

**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Item 4: Minority representation in art and culture**

Under this agenda item, the Forum will address the representation of minorities in various forms of art and culture, including the visual arts, dance, music, literature, theatre, cinema and other areas of artistic and cultural production. The Forum will evaluate the biases and prejudices that may be conveyed through these representations and their impact on shaping a collective imagination that fosters discrimination. The Forum will also assess the opportunities for minorities to engage in their own cultural and traditional activities, as well as the importance of self-portrayal in empowering minorities and

preventing cultural appropriation, ensuring that their voices and stories are authentically represented.

1. Ms. Bianca Battle Nguema, Artist, Laureate of the 2023 International Contest for Minority Artists.
2. Dr. Gülsah Stapel, Co-Founder, TAM Museum.
   Ms. Müge Avar, Co-Founder, TAM Museum.
3. Ms. Fatma Serag, Secretary-General, Kandaka Heritage and Comprehensive Development Association.

**3:30 PM – 5:45 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Interactive dialogue**

**5:45 PM – 6:00 PM (local time in Geneva)**

**Concluding remarks**

Concluding remarks by Mr. Nicolas Levrat, Special Rapporteur on minority issues
Concluding remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum on Minority Issues (Name TBC)