

How to Stop Racial Discrimination

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2006 was observed by AGHE Northern Areas Pakistan under the theme Fighting against Everyday Racism in Gilgit City (head quarter of the Northern Areas). A debate was organized on this occasion. The debate was conducted under the forum named Gilgit Citizen Opinion Forum which is a venture of AGHE Pakistan aimed at bringing together intellectuals, politicians, opinion leaders, policy makers, social activists, and citizens of different communities, and to provide an opportunity for the citizens to think about and share their social problems and issues that might lead toward progress and development.

Observing the *International Day against Racial Discrimination*, is part of a continuous effort of AGHE to eliminate prejudices like religious, sectarian, political, regional, racial, ethnic, and cultural from the society and AGHE struggle for implementation of **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** in its real spirit in the region.

The debate remained very successful as it was the first attempt of AGHE to raise voice against racial discrimination and xenophobia which is suffering the society and everyday life like an unknown and unrealized disease. Many high officials from government sector, politicians from regional and national political parties, representatives of the nationalist groups, religious scholars, university teachers, social activists, legal experts (lawyers), and local writers were among the participants of the debate. The debate ended with the following recommendations and suggestions to eliminate racial symptoms from the society:

- Political system and institutions must be stabilized in the region which is being administered without proper political rights and constitution.
- The educational curricula must be liberal and should include human rights and civic education.
- Police and Judicial systems need a review to ensure quick justice and impartial decisions.
- Religious leaders and intuitions are playing their vital role to set the minds so they are required to be sensitized to eliminate issues based on cast and creed system and racial decimations prevailing in the society.
- Merit should be the fundamental principle in all walks of life and institutions. There should also be affirmative action schemes to ensure increased employment opportunities for members of traditionally disadvantaged communities like *Sonawal* and *Kameen* and regions like *Districts Diamer* and *Ghancha* in both the public and private sectors and to advance the social, political, economic, and educational status of members of the communities.
- NGOs and the Government must work together at the grass root level to build an awareness of human unity, to render unacceptable, behaviour based on any sense of racial superiority or separation. Local NGOs and the government intuitions must be encouraged to initiate training and educational programmes to eliminate the racial discriminations.
- Racial discrimination can have diverse effects on children and students which cause a negative impact on their performance at educational institutions. The education policy should be developed to promote interracial and intercultural education with the objective of promoting tolerance and understanding between all races, casts, and societies. [Picture Gallery](#)