



Forum: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)

Topic: Preventing the Use of Cultural Identity as a way of Enforcing Ethno-Nationalist Ideologies

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PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Joanna Marossi and I am a 10th grader in the German School of Athens. It is a true privilege to be serving as one of the Co-Chairs of the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Committee in this year's SCMUN. MUN holds profound significance in my life, representing a multifaceted experience that has had a tremendous impact on my personal and intellectual growth. During this journey, I have not only expanded my knowledge on numerous vital issues the world is combatting but also enhanced my critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling me to support my arguments more strategically and informatively.

In the upcoming conference, we will be tackling the topic of: "Preventing the use of Cultural Identity as a way of enforcing Ethno-Nationalist Ideologies". In today's societies, where identity plays a key role in shaping communities, we unfortunately continue to witness its wrongful use as a means of enforcing prejudice and causing division.

This study guide aims to provide you with all the necessary information you need to construct effective clauses for your resolution, such as significant treaties, previous attempts to resolve the issue as well as possible solutions. Aside from reviewing the study guide, I recommend conducting your own personal research, particularly on the policy of the country you have been assigned. This will help you participate more effectively in the debate. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study guide or the topic in general, feel free to email me at johannamarossi@gmail.com.



Kind regards,

Joanna Marossi

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

It is of utmost importance to contend with the problem of cultural identity being misappropriated to advocate for an ethno-nationalistic ideology. Ethno-nationalism can be defined as “an ideology that associates a person's identity with the nation of their ancestral lineage, asserting that the rights to govern and inhabit specific territories derive from genetic heritage”¹. In its essence, ethno-nationalism refers to the harmful belief that ethnicity grants citizens rights to inhabit or govern a nation or territory, and is associated with racial superiority. Ethno-nationalistic beliefs contribute significantly to the systemic marginalisation of minority ethnicities within various nations.

The misinterpretation of the quintessential pillars of ethno-nationalism such as language, culture, ancestry, historical legacy and political aspiration, leads to the marginalisation of vulnerable minorities. Historical evidence grants us plenty of examples where cultural identity has been misused as a political instrument and where such ideologies have intensified xenophobia, through the marginalisation of minorities, such as the atrocities committed during World War II by the German Nazi-party. The Ipsos Populism Report 2025 states that nearly 57% of the world's populations feel that their societies are divided due to the prevalence of ethno-nationalist movements. The study's findings also display the issue of cultural identity being misused by political groups, which, in turn, diminishes the core democratic principles of diversity and peaceful co-existence.

Ethno-nationalistic actions often exploit cultural identity as a means of promoting exclusion, marginalizing racially and nationally underrepresented groups by devaluating their languages and cultural practices and thus contributing to social injustice and xenophobia. In contemporary societies, ethno-nationalism is reflected in nationalist political discourse, anti-immigration policies and demands to forcefully integrate migrants/people of different ethnicities other than the prevailing one in the respective nation to “maintain” its heritage. This ideology, which portrays foreigners as threats to ethnic identity and social harmony, drives social severance with the support of political coalitions in the Western World. Other studies, such as “Religious Nationalism Around the World”, conducted by the Pew Research Center, actively indicate that the

¹ “Ethnic Nationalism | EBSCO.” EBSCO Information Services, Inc. | [Www.ebsco.com](http://www.ebsco.com), 2021, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/ethnic-and-cultural-studies/ethnic-nationalism.



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prevalence of nationalist opinions based on either ethnicity or religion reaches a staggering 40% in a number of states².

The recent trend of right-wing populist ideologies gaining support across Europe and the Western World and the rise of ethno-nationalistic sympathizers should be regarded as issues that surpass individual borders : The marginalization of minorities, discrimination against vulnerable groups and the racial prejudice that stain modern society need to be tackled holistically and immediately.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Cultural Appropriation

“The act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture.”³

Cultural Identity

“The perception of belonging to a group culture, defined by shared notions, principles, behaviours and traditions.”⁴

Cultural Preservation

“The act of keeping something , here a culture, the same or of preventing it from being damaged.”⁵

Deprecation

“The act or process of expressing earnest disapproval.”⁶

Discrimination

²https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2025/01/pg_2025.01.28_comp-rel-nat_report.pdf

³ Cambridge Dictionary. “CULTURAL APPROPRIATION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 2019, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cultural-appropriation.

⁴ “Cultural Identity.” @CambridgeWords, 13 Mar. 2024, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cultural-identity.

⁵ “PRESERVATION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 2020, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/preservation.

⁶ “Dictionary.com | Meanings & Definitions of English Words.” *Dictionary.com*, 2023, www.dictionary.com/browse/deprecation.



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“Treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their race, gender, sexuality, etc.”⁷

Ethnic Cleansing

“The organized, often violent attempt by a particular cultural or racial group to completely remove from a country or area all members of a different group.”⁸

Ethno-Nationalism Deprecation

“The advocacy of or support for the political interests of a particular ethnic group, especially its national independence or self-determination.”

Nationalism

“A nation's wish and attempt to be politically independent and a great or too great love of your own country.”⁹

Ethno-Nationalism Deprecation

“The advocacy of or support for the political interests of a particular ethnic group, especially its national independence or self-determination.”

Stratification

“The arrangement or classification of something into different groups.”¹⁰

Ethno-Nationalism Deprecation

“The advocacy of or support for the political interests of a particular ethnic group, especially its national independence or self-determination.”

Xenophobia

“A fright, detestation and prejudice against foreigners, their customs, their religion ect.”

⁷ “DISCRIMINATION | MEANING in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/discrimination.

⁸ “Ethnic Cleansing.” @CambridgeWords, 4 Jan. 2023, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ethnic-cleansing.

⁹ “NATIONALISM | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Dictionary.cambridge.org*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/nationalism.

¹⁰ “STRATIFICATION | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary.” *Cambridge.org*, 15 Jan. 2020, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stratification.



Propaganda

"Information, ideas, opinions, or images, often only giving one part of an argument, that are broadcast, published, or in some other way spread with the intention of influencing people's opinions." ¹¹

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ethnonationalism

Ethno-nationalist politics deny citizenship or certain rights to individuals residing within a nation, that do not share the same ethnic characteristics or culture as the vast majority¹². Political leaders have historically used cultural identity to gain power, discriminate against others and distance minorities from their own communities and distinct culture¹³. Propaganda is an essential tool used by political groups to persuade public opinion and spread ethno-nationalistic ideals¹⁴. State sponsored propaganda uses cultural symbols, history, art, public rituals and celebrations to create a sense of pride amongst the majority population and to portray minority populations as threats to the nation¹⁵.

Governments control media and education systems to indoctrinate citizens and children with a sense of "us versus them". This creates a cultural climate in which governments can pass discriminatory laws and social policies that affect minority populations. For example, the Rohingya in Myanmar lost their citizenship¹⁶, the Chinese government has been suppressing Uyghur and Tibetan cultures for decades¹⁷ and indigenous peoples in

¹¹ "PROPAGANDA | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." [Cambridge.org, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/propaganda](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/propaganda).

¹² Fisher, Netanel. "Dynamic Ethnonationalism: The Ongoing Changes in the Ethnonational Borders—Israel in a Global Perspective." *Religions*, vol. 13, no. 12, 23 Nov. 2022, pp. 1130–1130, <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13121130>. Accessed 5 Jan. 2024.

¹³ Gmu.edu. (2025). *Nationalism, Ethnicity and Democracy: Contemporary Manifestations - Peri Pamir; The International Journal for Peace Studies*. [online] Available at: https://www3.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/vol2_2/pamir.htm

¹⁴ Wikipedia Contributors (2025). *Ethnosymbolism*. Wikipedia.

¹⁵ Guo, Xiaobo, and Soroush Vosoughi. "Multi-Modal Identification of State-Sponsored Propaganda on Social Media." *ArXiv (Cornell University)*, 10 Jan. 2021, pp. 10576–10583, ieeexplore.ieee.org/abstract/document/9412672?casa_token=X8GUT7kqOYsAAAAA:7laWJZU_5M-6YzQmcn82M3XRnOXUb0jELQIXxZLZf0AFA7Phn43Q5rh7cvjVIAlfqhPmtKdL_QMH, <https://doi.org/10.1109/icpr48806.2021.9412672> . Accessed 16 Oct. 2024.

¹⁶ Minar, Sarwar J., and Abdul Halim. "The Rohingyas of Rakhine State: Social Evolution and History in the Light of Ethnic Nationalism." *Social Evolution & History*, vol. 19, no. 2, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.30884/seh/2020.02.06>.

¹⁷ Tobin, David. "Genocidal Processes: Social Death in Xinjiang." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, vol. 45, no. 16, 22 Nov. 2021, pp. 1–29, <https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2021.2001556>.



Mexico were denied their right to speak their native languages¹⁸.

The results of the spread of ethno-nationalist ideologies are devastating. Minority populations lose access to citizenship, political rights and basic human rights¹⁹. They become divided socially, they experience increasing levels of polarization and hate/xenophobia. Fueled by the ethno-nationalistic rhetoric, these can lead to violence and genocide in extreme cases. Examples include Nazi Germany, Rwanda and the Balkans during the 1990s. When governments support ethno-nationalistic ideologies, they begin to erase the cultural identities of minority populations. Minority languages, religions, customs and traditions are either oppressed or disappear entirely²⁰.

In some cases, the erasure of these cultural identities occurs through overt means. For example, Mexican indigenous languages are erased on the basis of the theory "Raza Cosmica" developed by Jose Vasconcelos. In other cases, this kind of erasure occurs when governments label minority movements and practices as illegitimate, including in Brazil, where the movement of Afro-Brazilians was labeled a "racial democracy."

Examples of how this exploitation has manifested in various regions throughout history and the present day can be presented. Mussolini in Italy promoted Roman history to justify his totalitarian regime and to suppress dissenting voices. Today, conservative and nationalist parties in Europe and the U.S. continue to exploit the fear of immigrants and minority groups to promote a narrow ethno-nationalist agenda. The humanitarian consequences of ethnonationalist ideologies can be observed in stateless and marginalized populations around the world, particularly in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Current Situation

Communities derive their strength from their culture, encompassing shared practices, language, and beliefs. This shared heritage fosters belonging, preserves history, and builds social bonds. However, those seeking power, particularly groups fueled by intense nationalism, have often twisted this sense of belonging into harmful practices. Rather than celebrating diversity, culture has been used to divide nations, foster

¹⁸ Alexandra, Denisse, et al. "Evaluación de La Fuente de Incertidumbre En La Curva de Descarga de La Microcuenca "Las Flores", San Sebastián, Manabí, Ecuador." *Dilemas Contemporáneos Educación Política Y Valores*, 1 Mar. 2021, <https://doi.org/10.46377/dilemas.v8i.2603>. Accessed 12 Apr. 2025.

¹⁹ Kothari, Nikhil. "Analysis of the Uyghur Cultural Genocide." *Journal of Student Research*, vol. 13, no. 1, 29 Feb. 2024, <https://doi.org/10.47611/jsrhs.v13i1.6425>. Accessed 7 Nov. 2024.

²⁰ Han, Enze. "National Identity Contestation among the Uyghurs." *Oxford University Press EBooks*, 22 Aug. 2013, pp. 41–64, academic.oup.com/book/12110/chapter/161489548?login=true, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199936298.003.0003>. Accessed 29 Nov. 2024.



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hostility, incite prejudice and spark conflict²¹. In today's fast paced, interconnected world, discussions about identity and culture are more prominent than ever. While migration and globalisation maintain ties across borders they can also amplify the rhetoric emphasizing "us versus them," often leaning into populism or nationalism, since leaders exploit fears of outsiders threatening jobs, culture, or social cohesion to gain support.

Even today, politicians use a shared ethnic past to marginalize individuals, close borders, and support predominant ethnic groups, like when Hungary's government highlighted the Magyar's, a group native to Hungary, identity to limit immigration²², U.S. limiting migrants and emphasizing the need of putting "America First, or India advocating Hindu nationalism to marginalize religious minorities²³.

In Eastern nations nowadays, cultural identity is utilized to impose national supervision and subdue minority ethnic groups. In China, for instance, policies in Xinjiang and Tibet encourage a distinct sovereign identity while limiting Tibetan and Uyghur language, faith, worship and cultural practices.²⁴ Although the people in China desire to react to oppressive policies and fight openly against them through protesting, they are frightened by the possibility of severe physical punishment. Thus, they tend to practice their cultural traditions privately and quietly.²⁵ In Myanmar, the Rohingya's status as an ethnic group presents them with challenges stemming from their identity as a stateless Indo-Aryan ethnolinguistic group. As an Islamic community, the Rohingya Muslims experience continuous exclusion and oppression due to their religious and national identity. In the past year, more than 630.000 Rohingya in Myanmar have been denied citizenship²⁶. Furthermore, over 700.000 were obligated to immigrate to Bangladesh

²¹ Smith, Anthony D. "Introduction "Ethno-Symbolism" and the Study of Nationalism." *Oxford University Press EBooks*, 2 Dec. 1999, pp. 3–27, academic.oup.com/book/54589/chapter/422625433, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198295341.003.0001>

Accessed 11 June 2024.

²² Greilinger, Gabriela. "Orbán, Ethnonationalism and Xenophobia." *Social Europe*, 3 July 2023, www.socialeurope.eu/orban-ethnonationalism-and-xenophobia

²³ Varshney, Ashutosh, and Connor Staggs. "Hindu Nationalism and the New Jim Crow." *Journal of Democracy*, Jan. 2024, www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/hindu-nationalism-and-the-new-jim-crow/.

²⁴ Gurung, Tsering Dolka. "How China Is Weaponizing Education to Erase Tibetan Identity." *The Diplomat*, The Diplomat, 14 Mar. 2025, thediplomat.com/2025/03/how-china-is-weaponizing-education-to-erase-tibetan-identity. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025

²⁵ "Religious and Cultural Mentions Removed from Names of China's Xinjiang Villages, Rights Groups Say." *AP News*, 18 June 2024, apnews.com/article/china-human-rights-watch-xinjiang-villages-names-da3152596943e4d5ff9ab232582782e.

²⁶ "Situation Myanmar Situation." *Unhcr.org*, 2021, data.unhcr.org/es/situations/myanmar
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during the 2017 suppression²⁷. In spite of representing 80-98% of the Rakhine State residence²⁸, they remain legally unrecognised by the state.

In Western contexts, cultural differences crumble under political pressure from nationalistic rhetorics. Marginalised groups and immigrants are systemically framed as threats to ethnic homogeneity and cohesion, resulting in expressive changes that impact social behaviour and policies. The rise of conservative and right-wing associations beyond Europe have fuelled and escalated this dynamic, since the aforementioned parties encourage extreme refugee jurisdictions and cultural integration policies. This tactic has led to the expansion of anti-immigrant sensibility and stricter border regulations.²⁹

For example, in several European countries, such as Hungary and France, nationalist discourses grounded in xenophobic movements have appeared sporadically. As far as Hungary is concerned, in its 2024 European Parliament election, Viktor Orban's Fidesz National Conservative Party won 44% of the vote.³⁰ Additionally, in the first round of France's 2024 legislative election the "Rassemblement National", which is a far right party, obtained 33.2% of the vote.³¹ Such activities seek to contain refugees and immigrants by framing them as irreconcilable with "European values". Additionally, in the United States, political controversy around acculturation and immigration frequently highlight the importance of preserving the "American identity", which further marginalizes minorities.³² A good example of that is the 2017 Charlottesville "Unite the Right" was a rally of white nationalist communities which put up a fight against the removal of Confederate statues. This group drew national attention to attempts to guard the "American identity". Due to the division of opinion on the topic, the event led to violent activities which resulted in injuries and even deaths.³³

In Latin America, the use of ethnic and cultural identification has specifically represented and invariably been co-opted as a means for furthering ethno-nationalist ideas focused on unity through assimilation rather than diversity. Following the

²⁷ Duggal, Marium Ali, Hanna. "Rohingya Exodus Explained in Maps and Charts." www.aljazeera.com, 25 Aug. 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/25/rohingya-exodus-explained-in-maps-and-charts

²⁸ Wikipedia Contributors. "Rohingya People." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Mar. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rohingya_people.

²⁹ <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/Mid-year-trends-2023.pdf>

³⁰ "Orban Party Loses Major Support in Hungary's EU Election." *Euronews*, Euronews.com, 10 June 2024, www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/06/10/hungary-orbans-right-wing-party-wins-eu-election-but-loses-major-support

³¹ Monde, Le. "French Elections: Far Right Surges in First Round, Left Comes Second ahead of Macron's Camp." *Le Monde.fr*, Le Monde, 30 June 2024, www.lemonde.fr/en/france/article/2024/06/30/french-elections-far-right-surges-in-first-round-left-comes-second-ahead-of-macron-s-camp_6676225_7.html

³² LeVan, A. Carl. "Liberal Visions of Multiculturalism and Majoritarianism." *Frontiers in Political Science*, vol. 6, 3 Sept. 2024, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2024.1451776>.

³³ Strickland, Patrick. "Alt-Right Rally: Charlottesville Braces for Violence." *Al Jazeera*, 11 Aug. 2017, www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/8/11/alt-right-rally-charlottesville-braces-for-violence



attainment of independence in the 19th century, many governments adopted the concept of multiculturalism known as, wherein the blending of cultures and races established a singular national identity. While this concept was framed as inclusive, in reality disparaged Afro-descendant and native communities as uncivilized, warranting inclusion. Mexican post revolutionary leaders like José Vasconcelos championed the La Raza Cósmica ("The Cosmic Race") theory, which proposed that a new hybrid race would feature ethnic distinctions, while dissuading preservation of, or commitment to, native languages and practices.³⁴ While celebrating ethnic blending, this ideology discouraged the conservation of vernaculars and cultural practices, demonstrating the ways cultural identity can be utilised as means to enforcing a unified national vision at the expense of minority traditions.

Brazil's 20th-century construct of "racial democracy" also proposed that the nation was free of racial bias and that all ethnic groups enjoyed full integration and equal treatment. In fact, the "racial democracy" concept obscured existing inequalities, discrimination, and social exclusion of Afro-Brazilians, which effectively trivialized their struggles and discouraged the acknowledgement of cultural difference. By constructing narratives of national unity, "racial democracy" used cultural identity as an alibi for structural injustice that upheld the status quo.³⁵

Historical Background

Back in the 1800s integration meant sharing a single culture and ethnicity. Nationalism and the formation of the European nation-states facilitated the promotion of one language, religion, and culture in order to build on loyalty. The expansion of colonialism imposed the dominant cultures on the colonies in Africa, Asia, and Americas under the guise of the civilizing missions. Social Darwinism and scientific racism were some of the ideas that supported the connection between ethnicity, culture, and political legitimacy. Modern bureaucracy and industrialization demanded that a standard system of education, language, and legal codes be taught and they marginalized the minority cultures. National pride became intertwined with citizenship, excluding anyone different. This ideology fueled harsh colonial policies, compelled individuals to abandon their traditions and sparked conflicts across continents like Europe, Asia and Africa³⁶ Due to power imbalances of the world powers, nationalistic ideas being

³⁴ ThePrisma. "Mestizaje, a Symbol of Identity and National Unity." [ThePrisma.co.uk](https://www.theprisma.co.uk/2023/08/21/mestizaje-a-symbol-of-identity-and-national-unity/), 20 Aug. 2023, [theprisma.co.uk/2023/08/21/mestizaje-a-symbol-of-identity-and-national-unity/](https://www.theprisma.co.uk/2023/08/21/mestizaje-a-symbol-of-identity-and-national-unity/). Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.

³⁵ David De Micheli. "The Racialized Effects of Social Programs in Brazil." *Latin American Politics and Society*, vol. 60, no. 1, 1 Feb. 2018, pp. 52–75, <https://doi.org/10.1017/lap.2017.6>

³⁶ Berger, Stefan. "History and national identity: why they should remain divorced." *History & Policy* <https://historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/history-and-national-identity-why-they-should-remain-divorced>



internalized, no strong international control being over the world and the fact that states attempted to suppress any form of dissent, the world was to a large extent unable to oppose this ideology or even fight it.

Over the past hundred years, a strong sense of “us versus them” persisted, particularly during times of political instability and post-colonial transitions. Leaders exploited shared culture to justify attacking neighbors, mistreating minority groups, and securing their own power. There was the abuse of the shared culture where leaders used it as the text of national identity to represent the neighboring nations and the minority population as being threatening. This rhetoric supported military aggression, discriminatory legislation and social ostracism, strengthening the authority of the leaders themselves and increasing political power. Horrific instances include Nazi Germany, the conflicts in the Balkans during the 1990s and the Rwandan genocide, all fueled by fabricated beliefs about ethnic superiority.³⁷ These incidents increased ethnic superiority by encouraging propaganda, pseudoscientific ideas, and state-sponsored discourses which made one group inherently superior compared to the other groups. These beliefs were used by governments and leaders to dehumanize populations they targeted, authorize violence and support discriminative or genocidal actions and make ordinary citizens a part and parcel or desensitized to atrocities.³⁸

During the period of World War II, the notion of cultural identity turned out to become one of the most useful tools to justify ethno-nationalist ideologies and systematic persecution³⁹. The Nazi regime in Germany demonstrated the way a skewed sense of ethnic identity could be manipulated to generate an incorrect narrative of federal and racial supremacy. Moreover, the German cultural identity was reimagined with the idea of the Volk Gemeinschaft (people community), as it was conceived by the Adolf Hitler government through propaganda, school education, and state-owned media and the way to show Germans as a master race and pinpoint minorities as the cause of social and economic issues into society, making persecution a normalized state of affairs and a way to consolidate the power base. This redefinition promoted the notion that it was only people of a pure Aryan descent who were really within the German sovereign state, with the Aryans being romanticized as racially pure and superior and the rightful carriers of German culture, and Jews, Roma, and other minorities were exterminated, marginalized, and finally persecuted to preserve this concept of a racial community. This

³⁷ “History and National Identity: Why They Should Remain Divorced - History & Policy.” *History & Policy*, 25 Feb. 2025, historyandpolicy.org/policy-papers/papers/history-and-national-identity-why-they-should-remain-divorced. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025.

³⁸ Haslam, Nick. “The Many Roles of Dehumanization in Genocide.” *Semantic Scholar*, 2019, www.semanticscholar.org/paper/The-Many-Roles-of-Dehumanization-in-Genocide-Haslam/6f180820310bef402691e4b7d2ffa2d9747bbda8

³⁹ The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Learn about the Principles and Ideology of National Socialism.” *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11 Nov. 2021, www.britannica.com/summary/Nazism.



ideology eliminated Roma, Slavs, Jews and numerous additional minorities, portraying them as menaces to the virtue and solidity of the German nation.

Cultural icons, ideological manifestations and traditions were reformulated to accord to a racist narrative. Through the reinterpretation of history, art, literature, and public ceremonies to celebrate the “Aryan” race, reinforce racial hierarchies, and foster a sense of loyalty to the Nazi state negating or denigrating contributions of Jews, Roma, and other minorities. Furthermore, literature, art, pedagogy, and scientific research were all used as propaganda tools to support the idea that maintaining both biological and cultural integrity was essential to maintaining national unity. According to the Nazis, the abuse of cultural identity cleared the path for deadly regulations like the 1935 Nuremberg Laws. The Nuremberg Laws in 1935 prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews, stripped Jews of German citizenship, and legally institutionalized racism. Racial discrimination and the planned Holocaust genocide were sanctioned by these laws. One of the most extreme effects of ethno-nationalist ideology was demonstrated on this occasion, when autochthonous, racial, and cultural identity was not only a measure of social standing but also a criterion for survival or death.

Despite Germany, similar motifs were witnessed in other nations as well. In Imperial Japan, the notion of “kokutai”, which means national essence, depicted the Japanese as if they were possessing cultural and racial preeminence, validating royal augmentation across Asia⁴⁰. Finally, Mussolini’s despotism in Italy furthered the proposition of reinstating Roman cultural prestige as means to justify defeat and dictatorial rule, by celebrating antique Roman symbols, rituals, and architecture, promoting myths of Italian superiority, and using education and propaganda to foster devotion to the Fascist state while repressing dissent and regional identities.

Humanitarian Impact

The effects which ethno-nationalism causes have severe repercussions on every individual who is either voluntarily or involuntarily associated with such mentalities. Massive human-rights violations and physical attacks on civilians such as rape, torture, mass killings, ethnic cleansing and genocide lead to tremendous human suffering⁴¹.

Systematic discrimination and exclusion from national and local political decision making, the appropriation of ethnic minorities’ traditional homelands, and policies that marginalise ethnic minorities are common practices accompanying ethnic conflict. ethnic conflicts have very direct effects far beyond their epicenters. Those involve

⁴⁰ Kitagawa, Joseph M. “The Japanese “Kokutai” (National Community) History and Myth.” *History of Religions*, vol. 13, no. 3, 1974, pp. 209–226, www.jstor.org/stable/1061814.

⁴¹ Minar, Sarwar J., and Abdul Halim. “The Rohingyas of Rakhine State: Social Evolution and History in the Light of Ethnic Nationalism.” *Social Evolution & History*, vol. 19, no. 2, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.30884/seh/2020.02.06>.



refugee flows, internal displacement, regional instability, economic failures, environmental disasters, diffusion and spillover effects, and conditions favorable to organised crime and terrorism. Members of racial, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities are often amongst the most marginalised communities, and their vulnerabilities are often exacerbated in situations of conflict and natural disaster. The deprivation of nationality, for instance by excluding entire sectors of a population from nationality, creates social and political tensions that can precipitate conflict, violence, and displacement⁴². Non-citizens, including refugees and stateless persons, have been the most vulnerable as a result of the ethno-nationalism that has accompanied this rise. Racist and xenophobic speech and violence against racial and other minorities and against refugees, migrants in particular escalated. The deprivation of nationality, for instance by excluding entire sectors of a population from nationality, creates social and political tensions that can precipitate violence, conflict and displacement. Owing to its complexities, migration of all types poses a challenge for individual states, regional integration processes and the international community as a whole. Discrimination and refugees as well as ethnic and racial tension can cause refugee flows. Certain forms of repression such as 'genocidal rape' provoke severe psychological and physical harm, forcing the displacement and death of victims in numerous cases. The rising security concerns, intolerance, ultra nationalist sentiments and extremism make it even more precarious, entrapping such populations into a cycle of poverty, discrimination, prejudice, exclusion, abuses, violence, arbitration, arrest or detention, in which their human lives become insignificant. Finally, individuals affected by ethno-nationalism being utilised as means to enforce ethno-nationalist ideologies by any way, carry severe trauma through their lives, developing a sense of constant exclusion and mistreatment.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of the Event	Event
16 September 1810	Mexico declares independence from Spain, marking the start of Latin American independence movements that promote <i>mestizaje</i> as an unifying identity.

⁴² Nations, United. "People without Nationality Face "Stark Realities" of Discrimination and Persecution – UN Report | United Nations." *United Nations*, 2017, www.un.org/en/academic-impact/people-without-nationality-face-stark-realities-discrimination-and-persecution-%E2%80%93-un.



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18 January 1871	Germany is merged under Otto von Bismarck, associating national belonging with shared language, culture and race
1 October 1925	José Vasconcelos, a Mexican philosopher, and educator, published <i>La Raza Cósmica</i> , defending the idea of a mixed-race national Mexican identity.
30 January 1933	Hitler, expressing his radical views of the Volksgemeinschaft ("people's community") ideology, ascends to power in Germany as Chancellor.
15 September 1935	The Nuremberg Laws are accepted in Nazi Germany, thereby legalizing racial discrimination through vested legislation.
7 July 1937	The invasion of China by Japan is accompanied by the justification of their imperial expansion on the basis of the ideology of kokutai ("national essence").
2 September 1945	World War II concludes with the surrender of Japan, which not only shows the extremely negative impacts



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	but also the direct connection of such ideologies to the war.
10 December 1948	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is adopted by the UN General Assembly as a measure to dodge any future racial or cultural persecutions.
5 October 1988	The new constitution of Brazil puts an end to the myth of racial democracy and the suppression of Indigenous cultures by establishing equality after many years.
5 July 2014	China's implementation of strict policies aimed at elevating the status of the Uyghurs and Tibetans through assimilation is most apparent in Xinjiang and Tibet.
25 August 2017	The Rohingya of Myanmar are subjected to military actions, which leads to the escalation of the persecution into a full-blown humanitarian crisis.
5 June 2025	The report released by the EU Joint Research Centre discusses the role of misinformation regarding migration and cultural identity in reshaping the debates in Europe.



MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

China

Due to the great gap between the official “nation” discourse-policy goals of the Chinese regime and the social circumstances of ethnic relations in China, it is obligatory for the leadership, academics, and the public in China to review the historical process involved in creating the “nationality” discourse dynamics of the past century. After the October Revolution, Stalin’s “nation/nationality” theory and practice of the USSR(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) were also introduced into China and have strongly influenced the People’s Republic of China since 1949. In today’s China, the Chinese nation includes 56 ethnic groups, for instance Han, Tibetans, Mongols and Manchu called the official English translation is 56 nationalities. Because the same Chinese term “minzu(民族)” is used at two different levels, this usage has caused much confusion among both Chinese people and foreigners. In order to transfer to a civic society, the “political colors” that favor ‘nation’ (minzu) in relation to status, prestige, advantages in the judiciary system or distribution of welfare benefits should be weakened.⁴³ Moreover, the Chinese authorities have renamed numerous villages and landmarks in order to erase any sign of Tibetan or Uyghur culture, to administrate education through Mandarin language boarding schools and align cultural norms and religious practices with the state mentality.⁴⁴

France

The French Revolution reinforced the awareness that a nation constitutes a political community. Shaped by this understanding, the construction of the French nation particularly emphasizes the principles of the civic nation and refuses to define the French nation and its constituents from an ethnic perspective. As a result, the principles of sovereignty by the people and nationalism have slowly taken root in France. In contemporary France, there are intense conflicts that involve both ethnic and religious issues. The continued exacerbation of the ethnic and religious problems is rooted in a range of factors both historical and current. However, the fundamental factor is that certain dominant ideologies and their value claims clash with the diverse and pluralistic nature of contemporary French society. Closely intertwined with ethnicity and religion, these issues predominantly manifest in the Muslim community. As the late of 2025, the right wing has become stronger than anytime in recent history, contributing to

⁴³ Ma, Rong. “Reconstructing “Nation” (Minzu) Discourses in China.” *International Journal of Anthropology and Ethnology*, vol. 1, no. 1, Dec. 2017, <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41257-017-0003-x>

⁴⁴ SEPARATED from THEIR FAMILIES, HIDDEN from the WORLD China’s Vast System of Colonial Boarding Schools inside Tibet. 2021.



intensified political polarisation.⁴⁵ The notion of the “civic nation” in particular persistently excludes the notion of the “ethnic nation”. As a result, Muslims face identity dilemmas as an ethnic minority, leading to ethnic conflicts.⁴⁶

Germany

Beginning in the 1920s, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party emphasized their desire to create a Volksgemeinschaft based on the foundations of race, ethnicity, and social behavior. Once in power, the Nazis aimed to build a nation according to their ideological goals, such as making Germany a racially “pure” nation, bring people together under their ideology, promote Aryan superiority, and get rid of people they thought of as undesirable. They sought to unify the German people under their leadership. They excluded groups and individuals that they considered racially, biologically, politically, or socially “undesirable”, through systematic discrimination, legal restrictions, social ostracism, forced sterilizations, imprisonment, and ultimately, for many, deportation to concentration camps and mass murder. Those excluded from membership included Jews, Black people, and Roma and Sinti as well as ethnic Germans whose political or social behavior did not align with the beliefs of the Nazi regime. The Nazi state offered incentives to Germans who joined the “national community.” It oppressed those who were considered outside it⁴⁷. Today, Germany is still a typical example of a host country in which increasing ethnic and cultural diversity at the individual level collides with institutional homogeneity and restrictive integration policies⁴⁸. Immigrant and minority populations in Germany have faced long-standing systemic impediments to their educational progress (e.g., limited availability of advanced courses and language support⁴⁹) and employment success (e.g., discriminatory practices or lack of credentialed validation for foreign-earned credentials)⁵⁰, which limit their potential for upward social mobility, perpetuate social segmentation, and elicit feelings of

⁴⁵ Gilles Finchelstein. “More French Voters Leaning to the Far Right, Poll Shows.” *Le Monde.fr*, Le Monde, 22 Oct. 2025, www.lemonde.fr/en/politics/article/2025/10/22/more-french-voters-leaning-to-the-far-right-poll-shows_6746677_5.html.

⁴⁶ Tibet Action Institute. “UN Experts Warn a Million Tibetan Children Face “Forced Assimilation” in Chinese Residential Schools - Tibet Action Institute.” *Tibet Action Institute*, 10 Feb. 2023, tibetaction.net/un-experts-warn-a-million-tibetan-children-face-forced-assimilation-in-chinese-residential-schools/. Accessed 19 Nov. 2025.

⁴⁷ “Volksgemeinschaft (People’s or National Community).” *Ushmm.org*, 2024, encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/volksgemeinschaft-peoples-or-national-community

⁴⁸ Baumert, Jürgen, et al. “Cultural Identity and the Academic, Social, and Psychological Adjustment of Adolescents with Immigration Background.” *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, vol. 53, no. 2, 16 Sept. 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-023-01853-z>

⁴⁹ “OECD Report Germany: Status of Immigrant Integration.” *Migration and Home Affairs*, 8 July 2024, home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/publications/oecd-report-germany-status-immigrant-integration_en.

⁵⁰ “BIBB - Integration in Den Arbeitsmarkt Und Fachkräfteeinwanderung.” *Bundesinstitut Für Berufsbildung (BIBB)*, 19 Nov. 2025, www.bibb.de/de/35263.php. Accessed 19 Nov. 2025.



marginalization among immigrant populations, and foster public debate and political discourse regarding what constitutes an effective national identity, how society should be culturally cohesive and the responsibility of both the state and newcomers toward successful integration.⁵¹

Hungary

The initiator of radicalisation in January 2015 was Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his right-wing populist party Fidesz. When mentioning asylum seekers in Hungary, government officials and politicians of Fidesz used the terms "economic immigrants" and "illegal immigrants" intentionally and consistently, suggesting that all migrants left their homeland for economic reasons and they only pretend to be refugees. They did not make any distinction between people coming from the war zone and having a prospect of refugee status and people who do not originate from crisis areas and whose chances of obtaining refugee status were rather low. Thus, the government was guided by political motives, forming an image in the society of a "common enemy" against which the government is taking decisive action to protect the nation. In order to dominate the public debate, the government has done everything possible to split the political spectrum into two camps: those who supposedly serve the national interests, and therefore oppose immigration and refugees, and those who support the migration and, consequently, are "betraying Hungarian interests".⁵²

Myanmar

It is generally believed that Buddhist majoritarian nationalism in Myanmar is a political tool in the hands of its rulers, especially the military who have ruled the country for the best part of more than 60 years. Myanmar staged its latest putsch on 1 February 2021, citing 'election fraud', a few hours before the National League for Democracy (NLD) was due to form a government after winning a second landslide victory in the November 2020 elections. The coup followed turbulent years of transition from military to quasi-civilian rule. In 2015, Aung San Suu Kyi won her first election, ending decades of *junta* rule. However, Myanmar's 'new dawn' was overshadowed by the rapid rise of a xenophobic Buddhist-majoritarian nationalist movement, culminating in the mass expulsion of over 750,000 Rohingya Muslims to Bangladesh in 2017⁵³. This powerful

⁵¹Berg, Miriam. "Refugee Integration in Germany: The Interplay of Othering, Digital Exclusion, and Identity Negotiation." *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, vol. 26, 19 Feb. 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-025-01238-0>.

⁵² "Xenophobic Rhetoric." *Civic-Nation.org*, 2015, civic-nation.org/hungary/government/rhetoric_of_governmentOfficials/xenophobic_rhetoric/. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025

⁵³ "Rohingya Emergency | UNHCR Europe." *UNHCR Europe*, 2017, www.unhcr.org/europe/emergencies/rohingya-emergency. Accessed 19 Nov. 2025.



nationalist movement, led by monks, has been successful in shaping the political agenda and stirring hate against the country's Muslim minority⁵⁴.

Identity Evropa

Identity Evropa was an American far-right, neo-Nazi, neo-fascist, and white supremacist organization established in March 2016. It was rebranded as the American Identity Movement in March 2019. In November 2020, the group disbanded. Leaders and members of Identity Evropa, such as former leader Elliot Kline, praised Nazi Germany and pushed for what they described as the "Nazification of America". The white supremacist slogan "You will not replace us" originated from the group. In an attempt to boost its numbers, Identity Evropa allied itself with the broader alt-right and identitarian movements and the group targeted college campuses and students in particular by distributing slogans on fliers, posters, and stickers. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Identity Evropa was one of several groups which contributed to the growth of white supremacism in the United States during the 2010s, with the organization being designated by it as an influential hate group during its four-year existence⁵⁵. Currently, U.S. Government agencies take an openly critical view of such organizations and the ethno-nationalistic views they espouse⁵⁶. Additionally, both federal and non-federal agencies are engaged in monitoring of extremist groups⁵⁷; civil rights organizations are actively tracking and exposing their actions⁵⁸; and the general public is increasingly viewing them as threats to democratic values and social cohesion. Although the fractured or splintered groups continue to exist and continue to function through on-line forums, they are being widely opposed by social institutions, legal systems and government agencies.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ Tent Bo, Minn. "Buddhist Majoritarian Nationalism in Myanmar." *South Asia@LSE*, 18 Dec. 2023, blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/12/18/buddhist-majoritarian-nationalism-in-myanmar/

⁵⁵ Wikipedia Contributors. "Identity Evropa." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Oct. 2025, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Identity_Evropa.

⁵⁶ "Worldwide Threats to the Homeland | Federal Bureau of Investigation." *Federal Bureau of Investigation*, 2023,

www.fbi.gov/news/speeches-and-testimony/worldwide-threats-to-the-homeland-111523.

⁵⁷ The White House. "FACT SHEET: National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism Strategic Implementation Update | the White House." *The White House*, 27 June 2023, bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/27/fact-sheet-national-strategy-for-countering-domestic-terrorism-strategic-implementation-update/.

⁵⁸ "Frequently Asked Questions about the Southern Poverty Law Center." *Southern Poverty Law Center*, 5 Feb. 2025, www.splcenter.org/press-center/media-faqs/.

⁵⁹ Peters, Gary. "Peters Investigative Report Shows DHS and FBI Are Not Adequately Addressing Domestic Terrorism Threat." *Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs*, 16 Nov. 2022, www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/dems/peters-investigative-report-shows-dhs-and-fbi-are-not-adequately-addressing-domestic-terrorism-threat/.



RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Fundamental civil and political rights like equality before the law, freedom of expression, and freedom of religion are safeguarded by the ICCPR. These safeguards are necessary to stop political actors or governments from abusing cultural identity to support discriminatory, exclusionary or ethno-nationalist policies. The ICCPR directly addresses the abuse of identity for political or nationalist purposes by guaranteeing that everyone can engage fully in society, irrespective of their cultural or ethnic background.

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)

States are required by ICERD to end racial discrimination and advance equality among all ethnic and cultural groups. ICERD gives states a legal framework to stop the abuse of cultural identity, which frequently entails discriminating against particular groups in order to uphold ethno-nationalist beliefs. Additionally, it pushes states to enact laws that shield marginalised and minority groups from persecution, exclusion and marginalisation.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Indigenous people have the right to preserve their cultural identity, language, and customs, as acknowledged by the UNDRIP. It demonstrates that cultural identity encompasses more than just nationalism or politics. This prevents others from manipulating it for their own benefit. UNDRIP opposes ethno-nationalist attempts to eradicate, appropriate or exploit minority identities for political purposes by defending Indigenous cultures.

UNESCO Conventions on Cultural Heritage Protection

The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage is a UNESCO treaty adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 17 October 2003. The convention entered into force in 2006, after thirty instruments of ratification by UNESCO Member States. Romania was the 30th state, ratifying the agreement on 20 January 2006. As of October 2022, 180 states have ratified, approved or accepted the convention. Unlike other UNESCO conventions, this convention begins with stating its purposes, which are to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned, to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of



the intangible cultural heritage, and of ensuring mutual appreciation thereof and finally to provide for international cooperation and assistance⁶⁰

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Project Aladin

Legal challenges, to an extent, increased awareness of the systemic nature of the race-based profiling issue and forced those responsible to admit there was an issue, as well as generate public pressure for authorities to take responsibility for their actions through the courts. The lawsuits also produced a documentable history of the issue that can be used for additional data collection, advocacy efforts and research, thus providing partial relief from the problem.

Although this approach was beneficial in addressing the issue of racial profiling it did not provide an adequate solution to address the problem as a whole because racial profiling has become an ingrained part of policing practice and police department institutional culture. Legal remedies cannot change entrenched and ongoing structural practices such as cultural values within institutions or long-term practices; nor can they change societal attitudes toward different races. Ultimately, enforcement of new anti-discriminatory policies will depend upon the willingness of government officials to support the creation of new laws, as well as to ensure that those new laws are enforced with continued monitoring and oversight. Further, law enforcement agencies may respond to the legal action with minimum responses that will satisfy the court or media, while failing to address the underlying reasons for the issue, which would indicate that the problem still exists, even though there is legal action against them.

While Project Aladdin has had a significant, yet somewhat limited contribution toward preventing ethno-nationalist ideologies from using cultural identity to shape nationalistic ideologies, it has been able to help counterbalance ethno-nationalism through increased cross-cultural awareness and exposure to common histories between Jews and Muslims, and by offering civil society individuals with alternatives to exclusive identities based upon co-existence⁶¹. Project Aladdin has provided many civil society actors with tools to counteract extremist ideology and prevent Holocaust denial and propaganda. However, Project Aladdin was unable to eliminate the underlying causes of

⁶⁰ Wikipedia Contributors. "Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 8 Aug. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_for_the_Safeguarding_of_the_Intangible_Cultural_Heritage.

⁶¹ "Using the Lessons of the Holocaust to Counter Hate and Radicalization - Aladdin Project." *Aladdin Project*, 18 Feb. 2022, projectaladdin.org/work/using-the-lessons-of-the-holocaust-to-counter-hate-and-radicalization/. Accessed 19 Nov. 2025.



ethno-nationalist ideologies, which are based upon deep-seated political, social, and economic grievances that can only be addressed by changes in structures that are outside of the reach of education. Project Aladdin has no mechanism to address systemic radicalizing factors, such as state promoted ideologies, online disinformation networks, and nationalist political movements. Project Aladdin also faced challenges in maintaining its presence over time in areas where there were strong oppositions to western affiliated organizations, or censorship, or distrust of western affiliated organizations. Educational materials distributed by Project Aladdin were often unable to result in lasting behavioral or ideological changes, unless supported by institutions, or formally integrated into national school curriculums.

NGO class action legal challenge and Conseil d'Etat decision

Two years ago, in October 2023 six Human Rights organizations, including the Open Society Justice Initiative and Amnesty International France took legal action against the French state, by submitting regular racial profiling claiming that the authorities purposely targeted black and Arab teenagers and young adults that were from working-class neighbourhoods and violated anti-discrimination laws. This violation was shown through numerous background checks the police did based on skin color and national background rather than actual, existent evidence⁶². Legal action has, to a certain extent, raised awareness of the systemic nature of the racially motivated profiling problem and forced those responsible to acknowledge the existence of a problem, as well as generating public pressure for the authorities to fulfill their responsibilities through the courts⁶³. The lawsuits have also created a documented history of the problem, which can be used for additional data collection, advocacy efforts, and research, thus offering some relief from the problem.

While this approach has been helpful in addressing the issue of racial profiling, it has not provided a sufficient solution to resolve the problem as a whole, since racial profiling has become a deeply entrenched part of police practice and the institutional culture of law enforcement agencies⁶⁴. Legal measures cannot alter deeply entrenched and ongoing structural practices, such as institutional values or long-standing procedures, nor can they change societal attitudes toward different ethnic groups. Ultimately, the enforcement of new anti-discrimination policies depends on the

⁶² d'Etat, Le Conseil. "Conseil D'Etat." *Conseil D'Etat*, 16 Oct. 2023, www.conseil-etat.fr/ja/le-conseil-d-etat/Pages-internationales/english/news/discriminatory-identity-checks-determining-public-policy-is-not-the-role-of-the-conseil-d-etat. Accessed 26 Oct. 2025

⁶³ "France: Class Action Lawsuit against Ethnic Profiling Filed over Systemic Racial Discrimination." *Amnesty International*, 22 July 2021, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/07/france-class-action-lawsuit-against-ethnic-profiling-filed-over-systemic-racial-discrimination/.

⁶⁴ "Top French Court Rejects Police Racism Complaint." *Justiceinitiative.org*, 2023, www.justiceinitiative.org/newsroom/top-french-court-recognizes-police-discrimination-but-decline-s-to-act.



willingness of government officials to support the creation of new laws and to ensure that these laws are implemented with continuous monitoring and oversight.⁶⁵ Furthermore, law enforcement agencies might respond to legal action with only minimal measures sufficient for courts or the media, without addressing the underlying causes of the problem, suggesting that the issue persists despite legal action being taken.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Regulation of Political Parties and Campaigns

One effective possible solution to tackle the issue of cultural identity being manipulated in enforcing ethno-nationalist ideologies is the governance of alliances and their campaigns. Member States could initiate or reinforce legislative framework which forbid hate expression, prejudiced as well as intolerant rhetoric and discriminatory propaganda during the time of elections. Guaranteeing transparency in financial support for campaigns and furthering responsibility among political figures would to a greater extent, restrict the effect of extremist groups. The best way to ensure transparency in campaign financing is through a combination of; mandatory public disclosure of all campaign contributions and expenditures, strict enforcement of penalties on those who fail to comply with financial disclosure laws, and audits of campaign finance by independent auditors to verify compliance, as well as the ability of an impartial election commission or other government agency that oversees elections to monitor and investigate allegations of improper or illegal fundraising practices.

Measures identical to such, would contribute to a more firm and fair political domain, where identity is honoured rather than exploited.

Enforce anti-discrimination and prejudice law

Strict enforcement of anti-discrimination and prejudice laws can prevent cultural identity from being exploited to advance ethno-nationalist agendas. By holding individuals and institutions accountable for biased actions, these laws ensure that cultural expression is exercised responsibly, safeguarding minority communities and maintaining social cohesion. The governments and the U.N. can ensure compliance through the implementation of targeted legal mechanisms to prevent the politicization

⁶⁵ France: Council of State Admits Racial Profiling but Orders No Action | Human Rights Watch. 12 Oct. 2023, www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/france-council-state-admits-racial-profiling-orders-no-action.



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of culture; creation of independent bodies to monitor compliance with international law; and education of the public and awareness campaigns in opposition to ethno-nationalist narratives, as well as enforcement against political and institutional leaders and entities that exploit a nation's cultural identity. In this way, cultural identity becomes a source of shared respect rather than a tool for exclusion or division.

Urge Intercultural education

The promotion of intercultural education works as means to provide young individuals with the awareness and comprehension required to value and cherish different cultures while also acknowledging the perils of ethnonationalist ideologies. By fostering insightful analysis skills, compassion and appreciation for diverse traditions, analogous, equivalent education lessens the odds of cultural identity being misused to give a jurisdiction for rejection and bigotry. These types of abilities may be enhanced via the use of formalized curricula, professional development for teachers, workshops, community-based programs, and availability of culturally-inclusive education materials. The United Nations can provide equal opportunity for children across the world to take advantage of these benefits as well as international education opportunities, support in disadvantaged regions, creation of international standards regarding cross-cultural learning and oversee compliance with standards to allow children to have an equal chance at benefiting from their education, which could help to counteract the exploitative nature of ethno-nationalism.

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