

Antiracist Research & Policy Center

“Universal, Indivisible, Interdependent, and Interrelated” Human Rights Work at the ARPC in the 25th Year of the Durban

Antiracist Research and Policy Center Colloquium
Battelle Atrium, American University, Washington, DC
9 September, 2026



11:00–11:15

Dean Linda Aldoory, American University, College of Arts and Sciences
Opening remarks.



11:15–11:45

Groups in civil society play an important role in promoting the public interest, especially in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance and ensuring universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated human rights. —From Declaration No. 117 & Action Item 195

Sarah J. Trembath, EdD, ARPC director & AU writing professor
The Durban Declaration and the ARPC.



11:45–12:30

Dialogue among civilizations can promote the inherent dignity and equal rights of all human beings, dispel racist and intolerant notions of cultural superiority, and facilitate the building of a reconciled world for the human family. All conflicts and disputes should be resolved through peaceful means and political dialogue, and young people should plan and participate in programs promoting intercultural exchange and dialogue. —From Declaration Item No. 82 & Action Items 149, 216, & 217

David Trachtenberg, MS, ARPC doctoral fellow
Community building, mindfulness, and cross-cultural dialogue.



12:30–12:50

Certain media, by promoting false images and negative stereotypes of vulnerable individuals, particularly of migrants and refugees, have contributed to the spread of xenophobic and racist sentiments and in some cases have encouraged violence by racist individuals and groups. However, States should take all possible measures to promote the full enjoyment by all migrants of all human rights and respect for their cultural identity. —From Declaration No. 89 & Action Item 30

J-Lin De Los Santos, undergraduate Sonia Sanchez Social Justice Scholar
Humanizing the undocumented, original film.

(over)

12:50–1:20

Slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were crimes against humanity. They were appalling and abhorrent tragedies in the history of humanity due to their barbarism, magnitude, organized nature, and negation of the essence of the victims. Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, and indigenous people were victims of these tragedies and continue to be victims of their consequences. —From Declaration No. 13

Guatham Rao, PhD, ARPC affiliate & AU history professor
Policing American slavery.



1:20–2:00

All States should ensure that education and training, especially teacher training, promote respect for human rights and the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. Educators and educational institutions should play an effective role in human rights education, including as a means to combat racism. —From Action Item 136

Samantha Cohen, EdLD, ARPC advisory board member & AU School of Ed. professor
Nakeesha J. Ceran, ARPC community partner & deputy director, Teaching for Change
Antiracist program design & educator support.



2:00–2:40

Cultural diversity is a cherished asset for the advancement and welfare of humanity and should be embraced as a permanent feature which enriches our societies. However, people of African descent have for centuries been victims of racism, racial discrimination, and enslavement. Recognition should be given to their rights to culture and their own identity. States, NGOs, and members of the private sector should use public education to reduce intolerance toward them and any other victim of racism and related intolerance. —From Durban Introduction, Declaration No. 34, & Action Item 74

Shané Weaver, PhD, ARPC postdoctoral fellow and AU writing professor
Public scholarship & Black beauty culture.



2:40–3:30

States should recognize that sexual violence has been systematically used as a weapon of war, which is a serious violation of international humanitarian law that, in defined circumstances, constitutes a crime against humanity and/or war crime. The intersection of discrimination through race and gender makes women and girls particularly vulnerable to this type of violence. States should establish and strengthen effective partnerships with and provide holistic support, as appropriate, to all relevant actors of civil society working to promote gender equality and the advancement of women. —From Action Items 74 & 212

Ngolela Omekongo, undergraduate, Sonia Sanchez Social Justice Scholar
Women's healing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Historical injustices have undeniably contributed to poverty, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparities, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world. There is a need to develop programs for those populations within the framework of a new partnership based on the spirit of solidarity and mutual respect, in the areas of education, training, and cultural development. —From Action Item 158

Noah Green, undergraduate, Sonia Sanchez Social Justice Scholar
Toward a pedagogy of the familiar.

Thank you for joining us today.

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