

Dear Permanent Mission representatives,

Youth for Human Rights Denmark is a Danish public-benefit civil society organization working with human rights education since 2006. We are member of the Danish UPR Coalition and member of the European Network Against Racism.

This statement will focus on the subject of discrimination, racism and the inadequate National Action Plan Against Racism in Denmark.

As of January 2025, Denmark is home to **977,000 immigrants and descendants**, representing **16% of the total population**. These communities form an essential part of Danish society—yet they continue to face disproportionate levels of discrimination.

A 2023 report from the Danish Institute for Human Rights found that **84% of ethnic minority individuals** in Denmark have experienced discrimination or prejudice. This includes discrimination based on ethnicity, appearance, migrant background, or real or perceived religion. This is 820,000 individuals in a year.

Among persons with a Muslim background, **64% report experiencing discrimination**, and among non-Western students, the number is **56%**.

Despite these alarming figures, progress remains slow. Denmark has adopted a very limited **new National Action Plan Against Racism in February 2025**. While this is an important step forward the initiatives in the Action Plan remain too limited in scope as they focus on less than 8% of minorities and they leave out large ethnic and religious groups. The plan does also **not** cover discrimination in all its forms, nor does it include a clear definition of racism. Without such a definition, efforts to prevent discrimination risk being inconsistent or ineffective.

Furthermore, the plan does not adequately address the creation or impact of discriminatory terminology or legislation—such as the so-called **“Ghetto Law,”** recently under scrutiny at the European Court of Justice. Any effective action plan must address not only individual acts of discrimination but also the structural and legislative mechanisms that reinforce unequal treatment of ethnic and religious minorities.

For Denmark to fully meet its obligations under international human rights law, the Action Plan must align with the standards set out in the **UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, which provides the internationally recognized definition of racial discrimination.

We therefore put forward the following recommendation:

“The initiatives to monitor racism, as set out in the Action Plan Against Racism, should be made permanent. The plan should be expanded to address discrimination and hatred against all religious and ethnic minorities, including Muslims, who represent a large minority group in the Danish society. A definition of racial discrimination must be included in the Plan.”

Denmark has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to ensure equal protection of rights for all individuals living within its borders. Addressing discrimination in a comprehensive, inclusive, and legally coherent manner is essential if Denmark is to uphold the fundamental principles of human dignity and equality.

Thank you for your attention.