



## **RUNNYMEDE TRUST PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **UN to be told that UK failing to deliver on race equality**

A group of charities have issued a strong critique of the UK government's lack of action on race inequality, which will be presented to the UN next week. The group's findings, to be presented in a report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, criticise the government's record to date on the issue.

Named UK NGOs Against Racism and convened by the Runnymede Trust, the group will be presenting to the UN committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> August as part of the UN's wider examination into what governments worldwide are doing to tackle racism. The UK government will be examined by the committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August.

UK NGOs against Racism is calling on the government to:

- Urgently develop a race equality strategy outlining what it intends to do to promote equal opportunities between people of different ethnic backgrounds;
- Show commitment to tackling ethnic inequalities in outcomes in education, health, housing and employment and to tackling disproportionalities in the criminal justice system;
- Look at ways to ensure its austerity measures do not disproportionately impact on those from minority ethnic communities.

In addition, the group has expressed concern regarding the reduction in budget of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, as well as around decisions to remove or not implement parts of the Equality Act, including those around dual discrimination.

The UN's response to the UK evidence will be published on 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Commenting, Runnymede director Rob Berkeley said: "It is crucial that the government puts together a strong race equality strategy focused on tackling the inequalities that still exist in the UK. We hope that UN response on 2<sup>nd</sup> September will prompt practical ways for the UK government to work to decrease racism and discrimination".

Notes to editors:

1. For general press inquiries call Rebecca Waller on 020 7377 9222 or email [rebecca@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:rebecca@runnymedetrust.org).
2. UK NGOs Against Racism is made up of the Runnymede Trust, Migrant Rights Network, Just West Yorkshire, the Discrimination Law Association, Equanomics UK, the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights, the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities, Irish Traveller Movement in Britain and Cambridge Racial Incident Support Project.
3. More information on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is available here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/>
4. The Runnymede Trust is a social policy research organisation focused on race equality and race relations. We work by:
  - Identifying barriers to race equality and good race relations
  - Enabling effective action for social change
  - Influencing policy at all levels through providing thought leadership and robust evidence

Further information is available on the Runnymede website:  
[www.runnymedetrust.org](http://www.runnymedetrust.org)