

**40<sup>th</sup>SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**  
**General Debate Item-9 - Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and**  
**related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban**  
**Declaration and Programme of Action**  
**Remarks by Pakistan**

19 March 2019

Mr. President,

Today, the world is confronted with an upsurge of new and contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerances. Populist leadership in many countries are vilifying religious communities, demonizing migrants and physically assaulting, ethnic minorities. To win popular vote, such leadership promote xenophobic political discourse in the garb of patriotism, using both mainstream and social media.

2. We are concerned that Supremacist ideology through Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, state egotism and nationalism are eroding values of peace and peaceful co-existence. The recent Christchurch terror attacks are a sad manifestation of these trends. Pakistan views Christchurch terrorist attacks as an assault on the values of freedom of conscience and association common to all mankind. Perpetrators and motivators of such reprehensible acts of terrorism must be held accountable.

3. There is need to introspect into the causes of such heinous acts which have also occurred in Europe, Oceania and North America<sup>1</sup>. The undercurrents of this hate against Muslim are palpable across the Western world. A recent survey of independent media monitor *One Path*<sup>2</sup> has reported that in just one year, five leading Australian newspapers alone (owned by Rupert Murdoch's company News Ltd) published more than 3,000 articles that referred to Islam or

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/summary-attacks-muslims-western-countries-190316150024125.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://onepathnetwork.com/islam-in-the-media-2017/>

Muslims alongside words like violence, extremism, terrorism. There are over 8 articles a day in the Murdoch press slamming Muslims.

4. At another level, the phenomena of stigmatizing Muslim is compounded by selectivity and double standards in human rights approach of the West, particularly the EU and Australia, who feign ignorance or ambivalence for certain human rights situations due to political, economic or ideological considerations. In doing so, they feed into prevailing anti-Muslim narrative in their own countries and embolden the aggressors or occupying powers to commit more abuse. Such contradictions discredit the global human rights agenda. Double standards in human rights must be avoided. An even handed approach to human rights will promote the collective values of peace, human dignity and welfare of humankind to ensure a future of peaceful co-existence and inter-religious and inter-cultural harmony.

I thank you.