



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN** **Geneva**

### Statement

#### **43<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

#### **General Debate Item-9 – Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms and intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and**

#### **Programme of Action**

#### **Statement by Pakistan**

(June 16 2020)

Mr. Vice President,

Pakistan reiterates its deep concern over the upsurge in racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Islamophobia is another manifestation of racism inflicted upon Muslims minorities by right wing groups. Such behavior is being patronized by the ruling political parties, nurtured by subservient media, and exacerbated by institutional practices of exclusion and systematic discrimination.

Unfortunately, these disturbing developments have permeated in Indian State structures. The ruling BJP openly subscribes to an ideology that ostracizes Christians, Muslims, Dalits and Adhevasis. This party rose to power by inciting hatred against minority communities, by undertaking the destruction of a 16<sup>th</sup> century mosque – a heritage structure – and by instigating a program that killed thousands of Muslims in the State of Gujrat in 2002 and a series of similar campaigns elsewhere in India since then.

More recently, the ruling party in India has led efforts to legislate over 1.5 million people in Assam to imminent statelessness. Even worse, a senior Minister in the Government has publicly branded these people as termites. As if demonization and displacement was not enough, these people are now being forced into closed spaces that are reminiscent of concentration camps of the past century. Amidst COID-19 pandemic, vilification of Muslims in India on allegations of spreading the virus, is being taken to new heights.

The Indian Government is also implementing discriminatory and xenophobic policies outside its sovereign territory, in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Under a 10-month iron-curtain, reinforced by massive military force, India is now enacting new domicile laws to change the Muslim majority into a minority by illegally settling Indian nationals in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. These measures are in clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and Fourth Geneva Convention. We call upon OHCHR, UN Member States and civil society organizations to hold India to account for its deliberate defiance of international law, its human rights obligations and demand an end to its fundamentally discriminatory policies.

Madam President,



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The systemic racism that led to George Floyd's death is neither an isolated incident nor confined to one country. This unfortunate incident is a reminder for the international community to move beyond expressions of disapproval about systematic racism, any form of discrimination, hatred or intolerance. It is time for demonstration of political will and action to build a more inclusive and peaceful world where all human beings are treated equally - a world where no one is left out, left behind or discriminated against, on any pretext whatsoever.

I thank you.