Committee: SOCHUM

Country: The Republic of Austria

Agenda Item: Seeking solutions for human rights violations derived from ethnic divides

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 Austria, officially known as the Republic of Austria, is a fascinating landlocked country in Central Europe, lying in the Eastern Alps. Austria is bordered by Germany to the northwest, the Czech Republic to the north, Slovakia to the northeast, Hungary to the east, Slovenia and Italy to the south and Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the west. With a population of around 9 million, this breathtaking country boasts a rich cultural heritage, diverse economy and significant geopolitical influence. The official language is German, with regional dialects adding to the linguistic abundance. Being predominantly Catholic, Austria cherishes religious diversity. The country’s history dates back to ancient Celtic tribes as well as Roman occupation. Overall, Austria’s blend of cultural richness, economic diversity, and historical significance positions it as a central figure in Europe.

 Racism in Austria remains as a weighty issue, reflecting both historical and current challenges. The country has been a witness to various acts of discrimination against ethnic minorities, particularly targeting refugees, immigrants and the Roma community. Incidents of hate speech, xenophobic rhetoric and racial profiling all have been reported, highlighting the insistent racial prejudices within society. Austria’s efforts to combat this issue is ongoing, with civil society organizations and governmental institutions hoping to promote tolerance and inclusivity. While we strive for inclusivity, instances of human rights violations against communities of certain ethnicities continue to pose challenges.

 Addressing these issues is crucial for making Austria a more inclusive and equal nation. This requires enforced efforts in education, policy reform, and community engagement to deconstruct systematic racism and promote mutual understanding. Austria believes that for all individuals to have the opportunity to thrive without discrimination and a future where diversity is celebrated instead of alienated can be achieved by strengthening legal protection, education and awareness, promoting social integration, policy and political measures and more.

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