**Committee Name:** Social, Humanitarian, Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

**Topic/Agenda**: Seeking Solutions for Human Rights Violations Derived from Ethnic Divides

**Country:** France

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**Cause**

Human rights violations derived from ethnic divides refer to physical, psychological, or social attacks and abuses that an individual or group experiences due to their ethnic background. This type of violence occurs when a person is discriminated against and their fundamental human rights are violated because of their ethnicity, race, or nationality. The main reasons for this violence are; historical and cultural factors, economic competition and socioeconomic factors, political manipulation and propaganda, legal and institutional shortcomings.

**Current Policy**

France's current policy against ethnic discrimination and related violence includes comprehensive legal regulations and institutional measures. The French Penal Code prohibits discrimination and hate crimes based on race, ethnicity, religion, or nationality, imposing severe penalties for such offenses. Additionally, the Defender of Rights is an independent body responsible for combating discrimination and promoting equality, investigating complaints, and providing support to victims. The National Anti-Discrimination Strategy includes programs aimed at promoting equality in areas such as education, employment, housing, and healthcare. Education and awareness campaigns are utilized to inform the public and enhance tolerance, while reforms in the police and security forces are being implemented. These policies form the core of France's efforts to combat ethnic discrimination and violence.

**Possible Solutions**

-Discrimination Arising from Historical and Cultural Factors: Various studies show that cultural racism begins at a young age. Therefore, reforms based on tolerance in education can raise awareness among the younger generation. Similarly, providing training to law enforcement officers can prevent racist behavior and strengthen oversight mechanisms.

France includes content addressing racism and discrimination in its education curriculum. Students are offered lessons that promote diversity and tolerance. Not only students, but French police officers also receive various training on recognizing, preventing, and intervening in racism.

-Discrimination Arising from Economic Competition and Socioeconomic Factors: Equal employment laws in various countries in Europe aim to prevent economic competition. Similarly, France implements various policies to ensure equality and justice in the labor market. It promotes transparency and equality in the recruitment process to prevent discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or nationality.

-Discrimination Arising from Political Manipulation and Propaganda: Media, being the number one propaganda tool of countries, requires frequent monitoring and regulations regarding racism. The French government prevents the spread of racist rhetoric and discriminatory propaganda by increasing control over the media. Media outlets are subject to tighter regulations, and swift action is taken against racist rhetoric. Additionally, civil society organizations and human rights groups play an active role in monitoring and reporting racist propaganda and political manipulation. These organizations hold the government and media accountable and work effectively to combat racism.

-Discrimination Arising from Legal and Institutional Shortcomings **:** Civil society organizations play a strong role in combating racism. These organizations serve as the voice of individuals when their voices are insufficient. Additionally, they monitor and report violations related to racism and push the government to be transparent. Institutional shortcomings naturally contribute to an increase in racism based on ethnic differences. With over 1000 civil society organizations in France, an increase in this number will lead to a decrease in racism.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, addressing human rights violations derived from ethnic divides requires a multifaceted approach. While France has made strides with its current policies, ongoing efforts are crucial. By prioritizing education, economic equality, media regulation, and institutional transparency, France can further advance towards a more inclusive society. Collaboration among government, civil society, and international partners will be key to implementing effective solutions and fostering a culture of tolerance and respect for all.