



30th Session of HRC
Statement by Pakistan
Agenda item 9 General Debate

Mr. President,

We are extremely concerned about the rising incidents of xenophobia, stereotyping, racism, discrimination, advocacy to hatred, violence, and incitement to violence, in the so called developed, progressive and civilized societies in Europe and North America.

The growing antagonism against blacks, Asians, and native Indians based upon feelings of white superiority in various universities in the United States is especially worrisome. The re-emergence of racist fraternities in Washington University Saint Louis, University of Connecticut, University of Maryland, University of Oklahoma, Clemson University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Mississippi and others are indicators of consistent underlying problem which is racial prejudice. Suspensions and expulsions cannot treat this particular manifestation. The US has been treating the symptoms and evidence of racism but not addressing its root causes, which are still alive and thriving in the 21st Century. Today's Dylan Roof, the alleged Charleston's assassin, is a stark reminder of this bitter reality by re-kindling the memories of other anti-black murderers such as James Earl Ray and Samuel Bowers Jr. The racist ideology and legacy continues to this day. The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the US constitution provided civil and legal remedies but the enduring problem can only be solved and America can end racism when it stops being racist, for which concrete actions beyond hollow rhetoric and loaded speeches are urgently required. The US police departments and court systems need to adopt an even-handed approach while administering justice with African Americans being also considered innocent until proven guilty. Equitable and fair enforcement of economic and social policies especially in housing and employment sectors must be pursued as

vigorously by the US government as the enforcement of the Patriot Act. The surveillance and scrutiny of white racist organizations such as Council of Conservative Citizens who are using cyber space as a bulletin board and a meeting place needs to be taken as seriously as those of other extremists and terrorist organizations. A non-selective and a non-discriminatory approach is the need of hour.

We are also concerned about the treatment meted out to tens of thousands of migrants and refugees fleeing from conflict areas in Middle East and elsewhere and pushing their way through the Balkans to Hungary and onwards to other countries in Northern Europe. The official indifference and high handedness exhibited by National Border Control Forces and other security authorities is especially deplorable in some of these countries. The harsh conditions and absence of basic utilities in the refugee camps with no water, or food further adds to the miseries and sufferings of these poor people.

The west also needs to be reminded about its misdirected and adventurous policies in the Middle East and North Africa, with utter disregard to local historic, religious, national and cultural sensitivities and specificities, which has led to one of the biggest mass migration of people in modern times. It has lashed a reign of terror, chaos, instability and political turmoil with social, ethnic and religious fragmentation in these regions.

The death of 4 year old Alan Kurdi has shook the conscience of people all over the world and it is time for the European countries to respond to their moral obligations by welcoming these hapless people including women, children, elderly and disabled by improving and relaxing their current immigration and asylum procedures. We also deplore violent attacks on these defenseless refugees as they crossed the Aegean into the Greek island of Kos.

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate what was stated by the UN High Commissioner for refugees that this was “a primarily refugee crisis, not only a migration phenomenon” and “Europe cannot go on responding to this crisis with a piece meal or incremental approach. No country can do it alone and no country can refuse to do its part”. He also emphasized to tackle the root causes of this situation by addressing the protracted conflict situations.

I thank you.