

# HMUN 2025

**Decreasing systemic discrimination in education**

**ECOSOC**

**Sophie Selina**

**Main Chair**



**Forum:** Economic and Social Council

**Issue:** Decreasing systemic discrimination in education

**Name:** Sophie Selina

**Position:** Main Chair

## Introduction

Due to systemic discrimination, students in Europe who have official disabilities tend to have higher early school leaving rates than the rest of their peers of the same age.

Black, Indigenous, or Students of Color are three times more likely to be disengaged and rejected from certain English school applications in comparison to white pupils with similar applications and capabilities.

In the United States, in early preschool ages, children of color are almost 4 times more likely to experience out-of-school suspension and other forms of disciplinary actions in comparison to their White pupils. This increases by 4 times - almost 16 times more likely to obtain these disciplinary actions in grades K-12, middle school, and high school.

The acts, protocols, and affected content to a wide range of the globe, in various strategies and aspects. This not only adapts negative spillover effects on society as a whole but likewise affects the mental health of those facing systemic discrimination.

Discrimination is the act of treating an individual unfairly and acting biased against them due to the individual's personal characteristics, usually such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or other forms of personal identificational aspects.

Systemic discrimination is The procedure or act that is often done without intent, evidently contributing to the less favoring of minority groups. This can be evident in society's education, workplaces, programs, services, etc.

Although actions have been taken in the past that have shaped history and the present as it is today, major parties strive towards an efficient decrease of the matter to encourage global sustainability and peace.

## Definition of Key Terms;

### **Racism**

The act of oppression against people based on the bias of race or cultural ethnicity. Systemic racism follows similar criteria, however, extending beyond individual persons.

### **Systemic Discrimination**

The procedure or act that is often done without intent evidently contributes to the less favoring of minority groups. This can be evident in society's education, workplaces, programs, services, etc.

### **Direct Discrimination**

Acting less favorably to one person than the other if both are in the same situation, resulting in different consequences.

### **Indirect Discrimination**

Applying a regulation or practice uniformly to an entire group results in unfairly disadvantageous individuals within the group. The group is formed in regard to the individuals sharing a similar, specific characteristic.

## General Overview.

Systemic discrimination in education has been and continues to be one of the most significant issues faced by children in today's generations and societies. Although efforts in history have highly influenced the outcome of current facilities and societal norms, member nations and notable parties to the issue continue to strive towards the full eradication of this issue. In further detail,

### **Brief Historical Context of Systemic Discrimination in Education;**

Systemic discrimination has been a significant and vital issue for hundreds of decades and has established a significant history in terms of today's societies and future generations. Students and teachers alike face discriminatory effects in various forms, including employment opportunities, graduation rates, school policy and regulation applicability, and more.

Many years in the past, educational facilities were faced with higher levels of systemic discrimination by the formation and establishment of separate schooling for Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Color (BIPOC) and White pupils. Especially in the United States, where schooling for Black Americans was heavily segregated. Principally, in terms of the resources, such as having significantly lower rates of funding than schools and schooling districts with primal white student and teacher populations. Additionally to the issues with funding for resources, materials, and infrastructure, schools densely populated with BIPOC persons faced high overcrowding issues, which led to the lack of supplies, space, and unfair pay for teachers.

Famously, in the 1960s, many civil rights movements took place, specifically highlighting The Civil Rights Movement of August 1963. This Movement had a grave impact on the outcome of schooling today, as then, many years ago, the movement led to the final steps and measures that must have been taken to promote the desegregation of public schools, - and stimulate levels of diversity. This was done through means of government and supreme court-related rulings. *Brown v. Board of Education* was primal to the issue of systemic discrimination of education, despite its official ruling by the United States Supreme Court, it still faced issues of acceptance in many districts.

With further rulings as such, Black Americans and other BIPOC individuals finally began to feel more accepted in their learning environments, with the issues of funding, space, and resources being met with respectable solutions.

### **Current Challenges of Systemic Discrimination in Education;**

Although through evidence of historical events and the efforts to decrease this as a major issue in future societies, Systemic discrimination remains a vital issue in educational facilities and children who are globally acknowledged. Despite the rulings by the Supreme Court and governmental laws by the European Union and other member nations, Black, Indigenous, and other Peoples of Color (BIPOC) still remain significantly and statistically under-resourced to the extent of harming their health and education opportunities.

Systemic discrimination is common in various areas of the world; as an example, Australia, a highly livable and developed country, recently conducted a study in which "Anglo-Celtic/European, East or Southeast Asian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island, Middle Eastern, Pacific Islander, and African students' backgrounds, found that one in three reported being the victim of racial discrimination by their peers".

Furthermore, a similar study conducted with the same group of people by the same organization found that 26% of Black students in Australian schooling systems were suspended for

minor educational facility offenses over 3 years. In this same time period, with similar offenses, only 2% of white pupils were suspended. Furthering the effects and significance of systemic discrimination.

Although rates vary with each member nation, it is still vital to consider societal changes and effects that impact and influence these rates. The COVID-19 virus in 2021 had grave effects and impacts on BIPOC communities, especially in regards to schooling. Many students and pupils face online attacks and increased bullying rates targeted at these communities. Action was taken by implementing zero-tolerance policies in public schools.

### **Global Initiatives in progression to decreasing Systemic Discrimination in Education;**

Systemic discrimination in education and generally in everyday societal life is a grave offense and a significant violation of numerous resolutions and conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948, UNESCO's Convention Against Discrimination in Education (1960), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Member nations facing the highest forms of systemic discrimination are mostly found to be those who have not signed these conventions. However, there are further conventions and steps taken by United Nations official committees, such as for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the idea that the vision is to "leave no one behind". Hindering on the idea of educational systems to refer to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 and SDG 16 to promise peace in strong institutions with the elimination of discrimination and inequalities.

To settle and promote this Agenda, a vital meeting took place in February 2021 with the collaboration of UNESCO and ECOSOC. This ultimately influenced wider perspectives on this issue and how to combat current limitations in regard to systemic discrimination in education. Highlighting the communication between significant political figures and potential governmental actions.

As part of the "Education For All: Accelerating Progress" campaign, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in collaboration with the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and partner higher education institutions, organized a four-week online discussion on the topic of "Building a Future for Today's Youth: Improving Access to Education."

### Further efforts in ratification of Systemic Discrimination in Education;

In recent years, there has been a growing and justified focus on the importance of education in shaping a better future for today's youth, ensuring it is accessible to everyone. However, achieving this objective comes with significant challenges. To overcome these obstacles, collaboration among universities, schools, students, civil society, and governments is essential to truly enhance access to education for all. This has justified all of the recent and continued efforts by various governments, member states, and official United Nations committees.

The discussions and progression suggestions included ideas and aspects of applying education to sustainably fit the SDG goals and the 2030 Agenda mentioned above. In clearer terms, the key concerns include the need for improved teaching quality, better materials in educational facilities, resolutions for high unemployment rates, and the rising cost of education. Suggested solutions emphasize integrating resources to ensure equitable access to education. Additionally, school systems must prioritize support for minority language students by developing effective instructional materials and targeted services to address their needs; this is a vital step to ensure the decrease of systemic discrimination.

### Timeline of Key Events;

The topic and still significant issue has been a widely discussed matter and has established a staining history. This ultimately affects our progress and continuous efforts today. Although times continue to adapt, it's vital to consider the events of the past, especially in terms of systemic discrimination in education, as it shapes how societies operate today and prevents nations from making future mistakes.

Vital historical events are noted as such;

Date	Event
1830	Laws surrounding enslaved persons having the (learning) ability to read, with the high risk, 5% were literate.

<b>1852</b>	The legislation prohibiting African American children from attending schools.
<b>1896</b>	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> ruling. The state of Louisiana “has the right to require “ <i>separate but equal</i> ” railroad cars for Blacks and whites.”
<b>1954</b>	<i>Brown v Board of Education</i> ruling; the US Supreme Court has decided that the segregation of children due to race was unethical. This ruling overruled the previously established <i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i> ruling.
<b>1990's</b>	Intercultural education was promoted and highly influenced in the European Union.
<b>2020</b>	The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) created the term ‘BIPOC’, - centering on the idea of discrimination faced by Black and Indigenous Peoples of Color.
<b>2023</b>	<i>SFFA v. Harvard and SFFA v. UNC</i> ruling; The US Supreme Court overruled the bias towards university admissions on the basis of race.

## Major Parties Involved;

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

UNESCO has been significantly involved in global efforts to support and promote the sustainability of inclusive education. Likewise, other committees have held conventions and discussions for member nations to attend and discuss systemic discrimination in education. Through these discussions, protocols and resolutions have been formed in order to combat the issue.

### **United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI)**

The UNAI has hosted a series of webinars involving various other committees and majorities of member nations. Conventions, E-discussions, and more, all in regard to the issue of systemic discrimination in education.

### **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF, a grave collaborator with ECOSOC in regard to the issue of systemic discrimination, has likewise held numerous conventions and passed resolutions regarding the topic of sustainable education and promoting inclusivity. "Systemic racism and discrimination put children at risk of deprivation and exclusion that can last a lifetime," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

### **the United States of America**

The United States of America is one of the most significantly evident countries, and member states that faces active systemic discrimination in educational facilities and children's societies. The most provisional form of systemic discrimination against people of color is the effect of disciplinary policies.

This can be identified in the very early ages of schooling, such as in pre-school, where children of color are almost 4 times more likely to experience out-of-school suspension and other forms of disciplinary actions in comparison to their White pupils. This increases by 4 times, almost 16 times more likely to obtain these disciplinary actions in grades K-12, middle school, and high school.

Such systemic discrimination dates back many decades in the past, where in 1940, only 7% of Black Americans graduated high school with an earned diploma, in contrast to the national average of 24% at that time.

The textbooks studied in schools, especially on historical subjects, depict images with primarily White and, or European Americans; these images added up to 80%. Edutopia, a source used to spotlight education, highlighted that in comparison to people of color, who are immensely underrepresented, were filed in the textbooks as low as below 1%.

Yet, despite all of the progression and development from history, underrepresented communities still tend to shine out of society due to the systemic discrimination they face. In 2023,



two out of three high school students, 63% of students, said that they have faced or experienced racism in school.

And over 35% of public school funding comes from property taxes, which tend to be beneficial in terms of providing stable funding for wealthier areas. In contrast, other communities, more commonly underrepresented communities, have to depend on less reliable state revenues. This is one reason why predominantly nonwhite school districts across the U.S. receive \$23 billion less each year than predominantly white districts. Also showcases a form of systemic discrimination.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

In terms of Latin America and the Caribbean, systemic discrimination is highly populated, especially with the consideration of focus centered on educational settings. Many nations of that region face high levels of systematic discrimination, ultimately affecting major factors such as the graduation rate and employment rates due to the lack of required education.

In 2015, statistics about the probability of completing secondary education were gravely low, with afro-descendants having a 14% lesser chance than non-Afro-descendants. These statistics were provided for Peru and in comparison to Uruguay, which had even lower percentiles.

Brazil is incredibly inclined to the topic of systemic discrimination in education as it faces immense levels of it every day. In São Paulo, Brazil, subjects such as mathematics at the middle school curriculum level have teachers who are more likely to allow the white group of students to pass, although they are entirely equal in terms of abilities, proficiency, and behavior to their k classmates of color.

### **the United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom, despite its progression in segregation and discriminatory regulations and provisions, faces a high percentage of systemic discrimination in education. According to a study published by the University College London, UCL, 46% of schools and educational facilities in the United Kingdom do not have a teacher from an ethnic minority background.

Furthermore, Black Caribbean students and other students of color have shown to be and continue to be consistently three times more likely to be excluded from activities, friendship groups, etc., than their white pupils.

Children attending primary education face similar issues, if not to a greater extent, where Black Caribbean children are six times more likely to be excluded than their white student peers.

### **Possible Solutions;**

Mandate policies in educational systems and settings to encourage anti-discriminatory behaviors; encourage government regulations to prohibit biased curriculums, teacher-to-student behavior practices, and admissions. - To encourage diversity and inclusion.

Partner with government or non-governmental organizations to increase funding and encourage subsidizing low-income countries, which tend to face higher levels of systemic discrimination, to provide fair quality resources and facilities.

## Further Reading;

[https://static.un.org/en/ecosoc/facebookdiscussion/unai\\_facebook\\_discussion\\_report\\_27\\_april.pdf](https://static.un.org/en/ecosoc/facebookdiscussion/unai_facebook_discussion_report_27_april.pdf) ;

The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Report on "*Building a Future for Today's Youth: Improving Access to Education*". This report describes and highlights the E-Discussion of 2011 on Improving Access to Education, particularly also describing systemic discrimination in educational environments. Furthermore, it centers on the idea of sustainable education and its possibilities, which may assist in possible solutions.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/convention-against-discrimination-education> ;

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Legal Affairs Convention against discrimination in education. Led in Paris, France, in the early 1960s, featuring the history of this issue. 110 Member nations were involved in this Convention, in which "the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that every person has the right to education" was reimbursed.

<https://www.unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/recommendation-against-discrimination-education>

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Linked to the Convention, this described the Recommendations against discrimination in education, similarly being of assistance for possible solutions. It follows a similar format as a resolution by using command terms and including all Member states.

<https://www.oah.org/tah/february-3/the-troubled-history-of-american-education-after-the-brown-decision/> ;

In further detail on systemic discrimination in the 1900s, the protests and segregation laws ruled and overruled by the United States Supreme Court are highlighted in this website. Especially focusing on the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Certain associations associated with the topic are emphasized, and how the effects of those associations and rulings depleted certain parties. Mainly focusing on the United States and their history on the topic.

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/417/77/pdf/n2341777.pdf> ;

This pdf is the adopted resolution by the General Assembly in 2023 on the topic of “*Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”. Very pristine considerations of systemic discrimination, as well as certain aspects of history on the matter, have formed this resolution and considered the total features to encourage sustainable education in future societies and generations. This PDF is also highly effective in assisting with forming resolution clauses.

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