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PRESS RELEASE

**UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF RACISM,
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE
VISITED NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Special Rapporteur on Racism, Ms. Tendayi Achiume, met the civil society organisations at Room 115 of the Parliament Building yesterday.¹ It was her first official visit to the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

She is examining, under the mandate, the trends and manifestation of racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance in the UK; assess the existing legal, institutional and policy framework to protect groups and individuals that may be subjected to racial discrimination and related intolerance; and promote substantive racial equality.

Patrick Yu, the Secretary of the Northern Ireland Council for Racial Equality which hosted the event, says that “We welcome the Special Rapporteur initiate a dialogue with the civil society organisations in Northern Ireland. It is timely for her visit as the country is now in the exit of the membership of the European Union. This decision will definitely affect our jobs, economy, public services and above all racism, racial discrimination and racial violence. The recent scandal on Windrush generation is one of the many examples of “Hostile Environment” of the immigration policy in which you need to prove yourself has the right to live in this country. This means that you could not open a bank account, register for a GP and university, rent a room, access to basic public services, etc.”

The Special Rapporteur met 20 civil society organisations, ranging from local, regional and national ethnic minority groups; key human rights organisations, which raised their issues and concerns in various government policy areas. Issues from domestic and sexual violence that link to no recourse to public fund policy as a foreign spouse, partners, etc.; destitutions as a failed asylum seekers; transition from asylum seeker to refugee status; unjust and unfair immigration law and control; racial violence and hate speech; Islamophobia; school harassment (so-called school bullying); frontier workers (EU and Irish); border crossing and racial profiling; jobs and benefits as EU migrants; inaccessible to get the UK settled status as EU migrants due to language barriers; cultural rights; travellers’ poor living conditions; mental

NICRE
7 Rugby Road, Belfast BT7 1PS

Email: Secretary of NICRE
patrick@nicre.org



health; professional job denial as sport man and coach; media negative story; human rights protection as result of Brexit; FGM, etc.

Patrick Yu further says that, “A lot of issues that raised at the meeting are directly link to racial discrimination in which we have the poor protection in compare with the rest of the country as well as North and South. Our current law is still based on the Race Relations Act 1976 that borrowed from England which has been reformed as result of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, the Race Relations (amendment) Act 2000 and ceased in use under the Equality Act 2011. The government is clearly violated Article 1 of the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination to introduce effective domestic law to eradicate racial discrimination and racial inequality which reflected in the Conclusion Observation of the Committee on Racial Discrimination in August 2016.”

The Special Rapporteur will host her press conference today in London and will submit the UK Visit Report to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2019.

END

NOTE:

- 1. During her visit she will met with a wide range of stakeholders including: civil society organisations, academia, individuals involved in combating racism and racial discrimination, as well as communities and individual victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Rapporteur also engaged in a constructive dialogue with relevant executive, legislative and judicial authorities and officials both at national and local government levels.**

For further inquiry of this press release, please contact Patrick Yu at patrick@nicre.org or his mobile 07710 767235.



NICRE
7 Rugby Road, Belfast BT7 1PS

Email: Secretary of NICRE
patrick@nicre.org