

**UN human rights expert to visit UK to assess racism post Brexit vote**

GENEVA (26 April 2018) - The UN Special Rapporteur on racism, Tendayi Achiume, will conduct an official visit to the UK from 30 April to 11 May 2018, indicating her mission will pay particular attention to the impact of Brexit on racial equality in the country.

“My mission across the country, including stops in London and Belfast, will focus on explicit incidents of racism and related intolerance, as well as attention to structural forms of discrimination and exclusion that may have been exacerbated by Brexit,” she said.

“Xenophobic discrimination and intolerance aimed at refugees, migrants and even British racial, religious and ethnic minorities will also be an important focus.”

The Special Rapporteur said she would look at discrimination in the administration of justice and policing, counter-terrorism, and obstacles to full enjoyment of economic, social and political rights. She said she would also examine the status of extreme right-wing political parties, and the impact of racist and xenophobic hate speech - including such expressions by political leaders - on racial equality in the country.

“I hope that my consultations will include substantive input from women, young people, faith leaders, sexually and gender diverse populations, as well as refugees, migrants (including those with irregular status), people behind bars, those with disabilities, and others whose experiences with racial and ethnic discrimination require urgent attention,” she added.

The Special Rapporteur will hold a **news conference** on 11 May 2018 at 12:30 pm to share her preliminary assessment of the situation in the UK. It will be held at the offices of the International Maritime Organisation, 4 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7SR, in committee rooms 6-7-8. Access to the news conference will be strictly limited to journalists.

Ms Achiume will submit a full report of her visit to the June 2019 session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

ENDS

***Ms E. Tendayi Achiume*** *(Zambia) was appointed by the Human Rights Council as* [*Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Racism/SRRacism/Pages/IndexSRRacism.aspx) *in September 2017. Ms. Achiume is currently a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, and a research associate of the African Center for Migration and Society (ACMS), at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa.*

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*UN Human Rights, Country Page –* [*United Kingdom*](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/ENACARegion/Pages/GBIndex.aspx)

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