

THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK:

The key pillar in addressing and
overcoming systemic racism
framed within white supremacy
in Western societies

Workshop Discussion
June 02, 2023

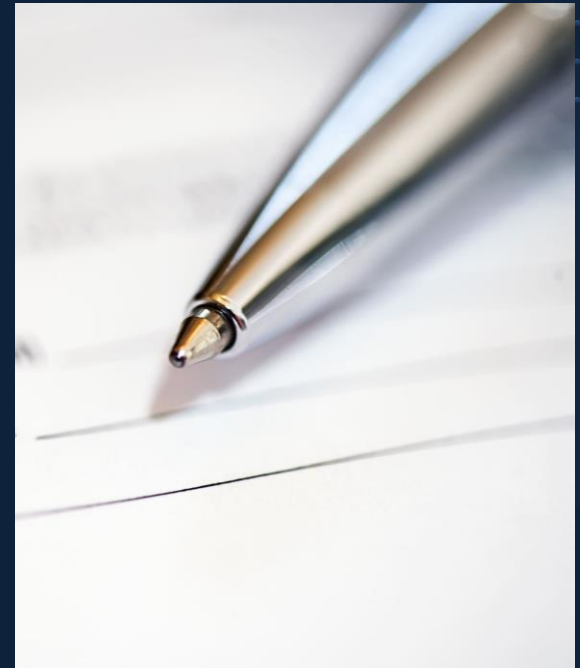
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Three short Presentations & A Workshop Discussion

- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)** and the critique of the persisting “Race” ideology in North American legislation, public policy, and culture
- The Principles, Objectives and Values of the Universal Human Rights Declaration
- **Decolonization and other strategies to advance equitable inclusion of immigrants, refugees and students and overcome “white” supremacy**





Some of the Key points
to Remember about

the Universal
Declaration of Human
Rights –UDHRs (1948)

- ARTICLE 1: All people are born- free and equal in dignity, worth and deserve equal opportunity
- ARTICLE 2: Prohibited ground discrimination –“race”, sex/ gender, religion, ethnic, culture or national origin, political opinion etc.,
- ARTICLE 29: Everyone has: a) duties to the community in which they have the freedom and opportunity for full development..;
- b) limits to these rights and freedoms for the purpose of secure the rights of others;
- c) human rights and freedom cannot be exercised contrary to their purpose.

Meaning and Role of “Race” in History and Contemporary Society

“Race and Science”



The Science of Racism (4:16)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8GolfvnrY>

“Race” is a Social –Economic and Political Construct

- The ideology of ‘Race’ used in nation formation in Europe since the 10th century was also used to justify slavery and global colonization. It continues to fuel contemporary racism, and other isms contributing to systemic barriers.



- **RACE** as legislated categorizations in Canada
TWO contradicting **MEANINGS** of Race in Canadian, North American.... Society

The video introduces two key subject areas related to Social Justice: a) History of Slavery and Colonization and European Wars; b) Science and Human Race, and “Race” as a Social Construct

Reflection Question

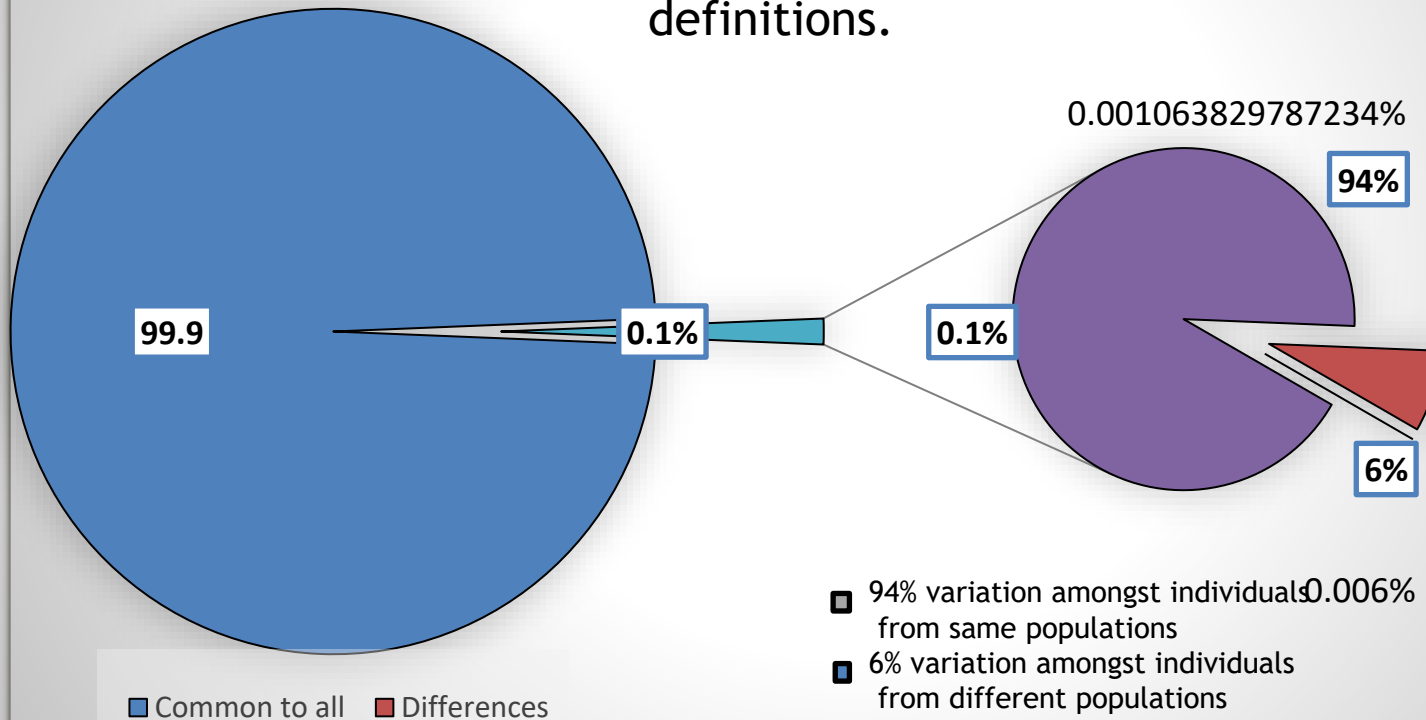
What do you understand as the distinction between race as a scientific human fact (in relation to UNESCO 1978 Declaration on Race and the Elimination of Racial Prejudice) and “race” as a social construct?

Why is this distinction significant?

What is Race?

Genetic Characteristics

The concept of race has only superficial basis in biological reality, and, as such, has no meaning independent of its social definitions.



Adapted from: American Association of Physical Anthropologist. Biological Aspects of Race. AAPA Statement on Biological Aspects of Race. Published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, vol. 101, pp 569-570, 1996. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.1331010408>

UNESCO – Science and Race: “Race,” and Racism = Systemic Racism

The Definition of “Race”

- "a human group that defines itself and /or is defined by other groups as different from other groups by virtue of innate and immutable physical characteristics“ (Partsch, 1982).
- PS: These “race” categorizations are associated with historical myths and human rights abuses and operate as fixated, hierarchical social constructions.

The Unique and Harmful nature of “Race” Categorizations (additional references)

- Invidious discrimination on the grounds of sex, language or religion can be eliminated by the full realization and implementation of specific human rights. ...There is a correlation between these specific freedoms and the possibility of discriminatory acts. **In respect to “race,” no such specific freedom exists** (Partsch, 1982 expounded page 76; also see Lwanga (2004).

**Three
fundamental
Principles of
Human Right**

Human Rights are Universal – since they are:

Innate (in-born)

Inalienable

Indivisible

Denial of human rights dehumanized both the oppressor and the oppressed.

(First 4/7) Objectives of UDHRs

Decolonization ..to
establish a new world
order that is consistent
to human nature

To protect minority
groups (from human
rights abuse)

Support the
development of
Individual's Self-
esteem/ and Self-
respect –

To teach/learn (role-
model) the public
human rights principles
and values –

3 more Objectives of UDHRs continued

01

Promote respect of diversity – (not for)...
recognize it as a
human phenomenon
and a resource

02

Promote Democracy,
Social Justice for all

03

Support equitable
development at
multiples levels-
(human, social and
economic)

**Human Rights
Core Values in
Professional
Practice**
(include
Intellectual and
Embodied
Knowledge)

Equality of human worth, dignity

Equality of opportunities

Respect of Diversity

Self-determination

Do no harm

Based on your
experience -
What are
some of the
GAPS?

How can we
advance
Human Rights
for Recent
Immigrants
&
Students

