



EUROPEAN UNION
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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**Panel discussion on the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism
on the enjoyment of human rights October 2022**

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EU Intervention

Mr President, distinguished panellists,

The European Union is steadfast in its commitment to address the negative impact of the legacies of colonialism. Discussing and addressing the issue of colonialism in all its forms is important.

We are deeply committed to fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, with the ultimate aim of bringing about a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality prevail.

Combatting racism and racial discrimination also means acknowledging and addressing the legacy of past transgressions. Many countries suffer from historical inequities that, decades and even centuries later, still cast long shadows over the present day.

Slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity. Conversations about the past, [when conducted in a constructive manner], can open doors and help us find ways to grasp with these past injustices. They can provide opportunities to pay tribute and to reflect on the sacrifices and the loss.

Unfortunately, colonialism is not just a phenomenon of the past. Aggression, occupation and exploitation are still issues today. We are also seeing that

contemporary forms of slavery including forced labour continue to occur all over the world.

Mr. Chair,

There is no doubt about the EU firm engagement and commitment to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. We are determined to work to resolutely eliminate the scourge of racism from our societies.

Thank you.