

JusticeForAllCanada_AgendaItem1_TazeenHasan

UN Forum For Minority Rights

Session: Challenges to equality and Inclusion: barriers in social and economic participation of the minorities

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished members of the UN Forum of Minority issues,

My name is Tazeen Hasan, and I am honored to stand before you as a representative of Justice For All, Canada, an organization dedicated to advancing the rights of minorities worldwide. Today, during the 16th session of the UN Minority Forum, I would like to address a pressing barrier that continues to impede progress toward a world marked by inclusion and equality in the 21st century—majoritarianism.

Majoritarianism poses a formidable challenge to minority inclusion and equality, manifesting itself through various insidious avenues. For instance, the state-sanctioned weaponization of hate speech, fueled by fake news over social media, revisionism of history, and the enactment of legislations against minorities to exclude them from citizenship. This results in social, political, and economic disenfranchisement of minorities.

This toxic blend not only creates a breeding ground for discrimination and intolerance but also denies the equality and inclusion enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ICCPR, and ICESCR. It poses a lethal threat to the very survival of minorities. The absence of the rule of law in such societies exacerbates the threat to the extent that minorities become the target of genocide.

I propose that the UN Minority Forum consider the development of specific laws or conventions to comprehensively address the threats arising from majoritarianism. The establishment of clear legal guidelines would provide a robust international framework to safeguard minority rights, promote social inclusivity, and counteract the detrimental effects of majoritarian tendencies.

Thank You