



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Forum on Minority Issues

Seventeenth session

Geneva, 28 and 29 November 2024

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Provisional agenda and annotations*

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
2. Minority representation in public spaces.
3. Minority representation in education.
4. Minority representation in the media, including social media.
5. Minority representation in art and culture.
6. Concluding remarks.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Dates and venue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 and 19/23, the seventeenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held on 28 and 29 November 2024. Meetings will be held in Room XX of the Palais des Nations at Geneva.

Documents for the session will be made available on the web page of the Forum.¹

Opening of the session

The President of the Human Rights Council will deliver an opening statement, which will be followed by statements by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Chair of the Forum.

Panel discussions

During the two-day session, participants will be invited to contribute to four panel discussions organized under the theme “Minority representation and self-representation in public spaces and discourses.” Each panel discussion will be introduced by three panellists.

* The present document was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2024/seventeenth-session-forum-minorities-issues.



Recommendations emanating from the panel discussions will be included in the outcome document that the Special Rapporteur on minority issues will present to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-eighth session.

2. Minority representation in public spaces

Under this agenda item, the Forum will analyse how representations of minorities in public spaces reflect and shape national narratives and identities. The discussion will be focused on the representation of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in public spaces, including in street names, monuments and architecture and in the context of symbolically important celebrations and holidays. The role and place of minorities in memorial policies and practices will also be examined, as will the representation of prominent figures, including historical figures, from minority groups. Specific emphasis will be placed on the participation of minorities in decisions relating to such representation and on the incorporation of a gender perspective. In addition, the Forum will review legislation, policies and practices that either permit persons belonging to minorities to display religious or cultural symbols in public spaces or restrict such displays.

3. Minority representation in education

This panel will be focused on the portrayal of minorities in education, which plays a crucial role in shaping how minorities see themselves and how they are perceived by society. The Forum will highlight the key role of education in ensuring that all students learn about the existence, unique characteristics and contribution to society as a whole of minority groups, with an emphasis on promoting a curriculum that reflects diversity. The Forum will also explore how minority students can effectively exercise their right to learn about their own history and culture, highlighting the significant role of education in ensuring intergenerational transmission and reducing intercommunal tensions. A central theme will be the need for the active participation of minorities in shaping educational policies, ensuring that their perspectives are taken into account throughout the process.

4. Minority representation in the media, including social media

In this panel, the Forum will explore the role of traditional and social media in shaping public perceptions of minorities. The panel will be focused on both challenges and opportunities that minorities face in portraying themselves in the media. The Forum will examine how minorities are often misrepresented through scapegoating, polarizing rhetoric, hate speech and disinformation campaigns. Examples of inclusive and positive media discourse will also be highlighted. A key focus will be on addressing algorithmic biases in social media to prevent the marginalization and stereotyping of minority groups. The Forum will also explore multilingual and minority language media, showcasing how media platforms can preserve and promote minority cultures and traditions. Participants will reflect on good practices that foster diversity and encourage a more inclusive and accurate representation of minorities in the media.

5. Minority representation in art and culture

Under this agenda item, the Forum will address the representation of minorities in various forms of art and culture, including the visual arts, dance, music, literature, theatre, cinema and other areas of artistic and cultural production. The Forum will evaluate the biases and prejudices that may be conveyed through these representations and their impact on shaping a collective imagination that fosters discrimination. The Forum will also assess the opportunities for minorities to engage in their own cultural and traditional activities, as well as the importance of self-portrayal in empowering minorities and preventing cultural appropriation, ensuring that their voices and stories are authentically represented.

6. Concluding remarks

The Chair of the Forum and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues will make concluding remarks, drawing on the outcomes of the two days of discussion and including proposals for follow-up steps to be taken by all Forum participants.

Annex

Programme of work of the seventeenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Thursday, 28 November 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work	• Welcome and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council • Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights • Remarks by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues • Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues
	2. Minority representation in public spaces	Panel discussion
3–6 p.m.	3. Minority representation in education	Panel discussion
Friday, 29 November 2024		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	4. Minority representation in the media, including social media	Panel discussion
3–6 p.m.	5. Minority representation in art and culture	Panel discussion
	6. Concluding remarks	