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Item 9: Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner's report on Systemic Racism

Systemic Racism continues to exist because there is no Systemic Diversity. There is yet to be a declaration or convention on diversity that represents those who need their voices heard.

Over the past 18-months alone we have seen police brutality in countries who pride themselves on human rights and fair and equal treatment for all. We have seen airstrikes leaving children parentless and parents childless. We have witnessed one of the wealthiest most influential countries in the globe carry out genocide. And we have seen people who are hired to enforce the law killing fellow citizens with near to no consequences. If this has not demonstrated the urgency for reform in the way we tackle systemic racism, then what will!

2021 marks the 20-year anniversary for the World Conference Against Racism and the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, we at SHRG believe that 20 years is long enough to recognise that this declaration has further challenges. It is obvious we need complimentary approaches.

We refer to our written statement A/HRC/47/53. SHRG proposes a Declaration on Diversity and a Diversity day. It will take the Durban Declaration agenda forward with positive action plans and will strengthen the rights-based approach by complimenting it with an inclusive approach to diversity within the State.

We need to stop asking people to merely tolerate one another and expect them co-exist and thrive together.