



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/27  
17 January 1963

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF  
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION  
OF MINORITIES  
Fifteenth session  
Agenda item 5

FUTURE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

Statement submitted by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,  
a non-governmental organization in consultative status, Category B

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 28 and 29 of Economic and Social Council resolution 288 B (X).

Received 16 January 1963

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has achieved some notable studies in fields where discrimination has its widest reach. Hardly an individual in any Member State of the United Nations would be untouched by the results of the studies of discrimination in education, political rights, or religious freedom. We see in these fields the spectrum of the Sub-Commission's most important tasks. Although it does not itself initiate action, its influence, through this research and the resulting reports, can encourage change in the direction of freedom, justice and tolerance.

It would seem that these broad and necessarily general studies should open the way to deeper study of areas where the current problems are especially acute. This would intensify the effect of the Sub-Commission's work. Therefore, rather than seek out some of the less universal areas of discrimination, we would urge review, and depth studies, in specific fields under the general headings already so ably explored.

For example, under the heading of religious freedom, the question of manifestations of religious intolerance has already been singled out because of the present threats and past tragedies due to practices that have affected all parts of the world. The decision to keep the Sub-Commission abreast of this special problem was an evidence of its ability to relate research to action.

Another relevant question is the one of conscientious objection to military service, touched on in the Study of Discrimination in the Matter of Religious Rights and Practices and cited in one of the basic principles still before the Human Rights Commission. In all countries, the pressure of the military against deep moral conviction and religious tenets poses a challenge which, it seems to our League, is one that the United Nations is the proper Organization to meet. Further studies and a stronger formulation of the principle of the right to conscientious objection, administered without discrimination, would be a valuable extension of the role of the Sub-Commission.

The Study of Discrimination in Education also contains the root of studies in depth to discover causes and possible remedies for abuses like discrimination against certain races, and against women, which have immediate effects on world development and world peace.

The current Study of Discrimination in Respect of the Right of Everyone to Leave Any Country, Including His Own, and to Return to His Country, includes references to related fields, such as slavery and the right of asylum, which deserves further study.

These illustrations indicate lines which the League would like to see the Sub-Commission's future work follow, rather than choosing further fields of less-inclusive relevance to world conditions. The present Study of Discrimination Against Persons Born Out of Wedlock seems to us more appropriate to the Social Commission or to the Commission on the Status of Women.

-----