

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTSSUB-COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
THE PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

Composite proposal by Miss Elizabeth Monroe (United Kingdom) replacing documents E/CN.4/SUB.2/18, 25 and 26 regarding definitions of terminology:

In the interests of clarity, the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities recommends to the Human Rights Commission the adoption of the following definitions of terminology:

- 1) Prevention of discrimination is the prevention of any action which denies to individuals or to groups of people assimilations which they may wish. If a minority wishes for assimilation and is debarred, the question is one of discrimination and should be treated as such.
- 2) Protection of minorities is the protection of groups or individuals against assimilations for which they do not wish. A minority is a group possessing basic characteristics of a distinctive nature. Protection is the action which it desires in order to be enabled to maintain its characteristics. It follows that differential treatment of such groups or of individuals belonging to such groups is justified when it is exercised in the interest of their contentment and the welfare of the community as a whole.

The characteristics meriting such protection are race, religion and language. In order to qualify for protection a minority must owe undivided allegiance to the Government of the State in which it lives.

- 3) The term 'minority' has no numerical significance.

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