

CERD: The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Norway, CERD, A/52/18 (1997) 77 at paras. 605-607, 609 and 612.

609. Concern is expressed about allegations that immigrants of African descent disproportionately test positive for HIV and that Africans have been obliged to undergo tests for HIV simply because they are Africans.

Lithuania, CERD, A/57/18 (2002) 35 at paras. 166, 171 and 175-178.

171. Concern was expressed about the denial of citizenship under article 13 of the Law on Citizenship to persons affected by HIV/AIDS, who may belong to groups vulnerable to racism and racial discrimination.

Uganda, CERD, A/58/18 (2003) 50 at paras. 266, 272, 274, 277 and 280.

280. While acknowledging the efforts that the Government has made to combat HIV/AIDS, the Committee is concerned about the rapid spread of this disease which affects the population throughout the country, particularly marginalized ethnic groups. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to develop strategies in this regard and that, in this context, due consideration be given to the specific situation of women.

Suriname, CERD, A/59/18 (2004) 36 at paras. 194 and 196.

194. The Committee notes with concern complaints by indigenous and tribal peoples in the interior about the deleterious effects of natural-resource exploitation on their environment, health and culture. It regrets that the State party does not seem to have attached the highest priority to dealing with the problem of mercury contamination in parts of the interior.

The Committee wishes to point out that development objectives are no justification for encroachments on human rights, and that along with the right to exploit natural resources there are specific, concomitant obligations towards the local population; it recommends adoption by the State party of a legislative framework that clearly sets forth the broad principles governing the exploitation of the land, including the obligation to abide by strict environmental standards. It recommends the State party to set up an independent body to conduct environmental impact surveys before any operating licenses are issued, and to conduct health and safety checks on small-scale and industrial gold-mining.

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196. The Committee is concerned at information about the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS amongst indigenous and tribal people, in connection with the expansion of mining and forestry operations in the interior of the country.

The Committee recommends that the State party introduce a plan of action to combat AIDS in the interior.