



**MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 2017.**

### **This day in history.....**

On March 21, 1960, 69 people were killed and over 300 injured at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa when police opened fire on unarmed protestors who were opposing the apartheid "pass laws," a repressive tool used to control the movements of black South Africans.

In 1966, in response to this horrific event, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly proclaimed March 21st the [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#). This significant day honours those killed and injured at the Sharpeville Massacre. Although the apartheid system in South Africa has since been dismantled and advances in human rights laws and practices in countries around the world have been made, various forms of racism and discrimination continue to exist. In an effort to monitor global efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, the UN established the [International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#), which is implemented through the [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#). This committee calls on Member States to report on their progress towards improving racial equality and non-discrimination.

The United Nations' 2017 theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is "[Racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration.](#)"

From the [United Nations website](#): "Every person is entitled to human rights without discrimination. The rights to equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human rights law. Yet in many parts of the world, discriminatory practices are still widespread, including racial, ethnic, religious and nationality-based profiling, and incitement to hatred. ... Refugees and migrants are particular targets of racial profiling and incitement to hatred."

The UN Human Rights Office is asking people around the world to [Stand up for Someone's Rights Today..](#)