



Committee: US CONGRESS

Topic B: Discrimination of Minorities

Chair: Anie Gil Garza

Moderator: Luis Pablo Ocañas Villarreal

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the national government, in charge of representing the Nation's citizens. It is divided into two houses, the Senate, with 100 senators, two from each state, and the House of Representatives with 435 members from every state based on its population, (the state with the most population gets more representatives). The congress was established under the United States Constitution of 1789 which defines the powers of the Congress as the following: make all the laws necessary to execute its power, lay and collect taxes, regulate commerce, borrow money on the credit of US, raise and support armies and declare war.

Minority issues have been on the UN agenda for over 60 years. According to Louis Wirth “A group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination” is considered a minority. Every country in the world has national, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in their populations. Since the 19th century, people have suffered based on something they can't or should not want to change; who they are. In the 20th century, the struggle continues of these people to maintain their culture and way of life, while fighting against discrimination, poverty, marginalization, and loss of identity.

Discrimination has marked the history of the U.S.A. Many forms of discrimination have been recognized, especially in this country, such as: racial, gender, immigrant, sexual orientation, and religion between others. These practices have been present in the US since 1800. Back in those

days, the belief that a race of people, in this case, African- Americans were inferior to others was one of the most widespread beliefs. White US citizens believed that black colored people were morally and genetically inferior to them meaning they deserved less respect and concern. In 1896 the laws promoted that everyone was equal but should be separated. This gave place to slavery which later became segregation, in which both white and black races were separated. Public spaces were divided in 2 for example, a bathroom for black people and one for white. Segregation was outlawed in 1964.

Figures such as Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King between others, raised their voice to eliminate racial discrimination all over the world. They accomplished to eliminate segregation, slavery, and organizations such as the KKK but did not abolish it completely.

The United States also practices gender discrimination against women which are mainly stereotyped as more emotional and less capable. Before June 4, 1919 women were not allowed to vote, because men believed they were not capable of choosing what was right for their country. Women throughout the years have shown how intelligent and equal to men they can be. Nowadays Feminism is still a major problem in the country but not even close to how it was back in the day.

Immigration in the United States has grown over the years causing it to be the most discriminated minority. Citizens believe that large amount of people being allowed into the country are a cause of alarm, making them to disrespect and mistreat people that come from other countries. Immigrants are? recently forced to bring the documents that prove their citizenship everywhere they go, otherwise, they will be punished and even deported. Some immigrants often report that they are being blamed and prosecuted for crimes they did not commit. In some places, they are not able to receive medical health, join schools or even work. This is the most discriminated minority right now in the united states mainly enforced by the government or in this case the current president, Donald Trump.

No one deserves to be mistreated, this is why eliminating discrimination should be one of the

most important tasks in every state and organization. We should aim for equality in every aspect possible. Everyone should be able to believe in whatever they want, to dress the way they like, to love whom they want to love, and to be able to show off their ethnicity, race, and culture without feeling ashamed or afraid of being mistreated. Being respected makes people feel safe and free to express themselves, besides it teaches people how to be respectful towards others. Everyone deserves to feel good with who they are this is why discrimination should be abolished.

Even with laws in place, many people are still victims of discrimination. Some of the solutions that can help us to stop discrimination against minorities are the following:

- Education: education is the base for everything. People learn what they are taught, this is why schools and companies should teach their students and employees about discrimination, respect, and equality. They can implement classes, meetings and even invite speakers to talk about the effects that these actions have on people.
- Policies that prohibit discrimination: Make a list of rules that prohibit discrimination and display it where everyone can see it if possible make employees and students sign a handbook that includes all the practices that will be punished, such as name-calling, jokes, and foul language.
- Enforce laws: evaluate which laws are being passed and which ones are not working in order to enforce them. This will help create an ethical environment
- Evaluate progress: Set a monthly meeting to remind the rules and see how the workplace has improved, hand out surveys or place an anonymous box for people to hand in reports and evaluate a decrease or increase in discrimination.
- Display consequences: schools and companies should give their personnel code of ethics showing the consequences of mistreating someone. If a person is found guilty of discrimination towards someone else he/she should be expelled or suspended from their school or work.

References

Congress of the United States. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/congress-united-states/>

Britannica, T. E. of E. (n.d.). Congress of the United States. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Congress-of-the-United-States>

Britannica, T. E. of E. (n.d.). Congress of the United States. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Congress-of-the-United-States>

Albert G. Mosley "Affirmative Action: Pro". (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gaskilld/socialissues14/affirmative action.htm](https://www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gaskilld/socialissues14/affirmative%20action.htm)

Discrimination in the United States. (2019, July 29). Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discrimination_in_the_United_States

19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote (1920). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=63>

Helpful sites for research:

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/discrimination_minorities.aspx

<https://www.equalrightstrust.org/content/united-nations-declaration-rights-minorities>

<https://www.eoc.org.uk/what-is-discrimination/>

<https://careertrend.com/how-6573572-stop-discrimination.html><https://yourbusiness.azcentral.com/importance-eliminating-discrimination-13047.html>