

**QUESTIONS PUT BY THE RAPPORTEUR  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF  
THE INITIAL REPORT OF OMAN  
(CERD/C/459/Add.1)**

**Composition of population**

1. Bearing in mind the Committee's General Recommendation No. 24 (1999) on article 1, please provide detailed updated data regarding the ethnic characteristics of the population and the socio-economic status of members of the various ethnic groups, with particular regard to Balochi, Swahili-speaking Omanis born in Zanzibar and other regions of East Africa, jibalis, and labourers from the Indian subcontinent, the Philippines, and other Asian countries (paragraphs 6 to 8 of the State party's report).

**Status of the Convention in domestic law**

2. Please clarify the status of the Convention in the domestic legal order of the State party. Can provisions of the Convention be directly invoked before national courts? Please provide concrete examples of such occurrences, if any. If provisions of the Convention are not to be directly invoked before national courts, how is the Convention implemented in the national legislation? Please, give details of the national legislation, implementing provisions of the Convention.

**Definition of racial discrimination**

3. Does a definition of racial discrimination exist in domestic law? If so, is it in keeping with the definition contained in article 1 of the Convention?
4. Please provide information on the extent to which the general prohibition of discrimination contained in Article 17 of the Basic Law applies to non-citizens, bearing in mind the Committee's General Recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non citizens.

**Article 2**

5. Please provide more detailed information on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures adopted by the State party to give effect to the provisions of article 2, paragraph 1, of the Convention (paragraphs 54 and 55 of the State party's report).

6. Please provide more detailed information on “special measures” undertaken pursuant to article 2, paragraph 2, of the Convention for the advancement of persons belonging to ethnic and national groups and provide information on the objectives and practical results of those measures (paragraph 62 of the State party’s report). Do persons belonging to these groups participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and programmes bearing upon their situation?
7. According to information received, non-national children experience disparities in the enjoyment of economic and social rights, particularly the rights to health and education. Please comment.
8. According to information before the Committee, women suffer from multiple forms of discrimination – based on gender on the one hand, and race, colour, descent, and national and ethnic origin on the other – in particular with regard to citizenship, marriage, and inheritance. Bearing in mind the Committee’s General Recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, please provide information in this regard.

#### **Article 4**

9. In addition to the provisions of the Criminal Code cited in the State party’s report (paragraph 64), does the State party envisage adopting specific penal legislation designed to implement article 4 of the Convention, that is, to prohibit organizations which promote and incite racial discrimination?

#### **Article 5**

10. In the view of the State party, is the legislation on the acquisition of Omani nationality (Law No. 3/83) compatible with the provisions of article 5(d)(iii) of the Convention? (paragraph 74 of the State party’s report)?
11. Please provide additional detailed information on the extent to which Omani citizens of different ethnic or national origin exercise their political rights to the same extent as the rest of the population. Please provide recent data – disaggregated by ethnic or national origin and sex – on their representation in the Shura Council and the Ministries of the Sultanate.
12. Please provide detailed information on measures taken to prevent discrimination on the basis of national origin in the field of employment and working conditions, particularly with regard to measures adopted to ensure that foreign workers receive an equal remuneration for work of equal value. Have the State party experienced any case where foreign workers have had their salaries or documents withheld or have been refused permission to leave the country? Have there ever been cases of physical and sexual abuse of foreign domestic workers?
13. Does the State party envisage the ratification of the 1951 UN Convention relating the status of Refugees and of the International Convention on the

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families?

14. Please provide detailed information on the housing market in the State party, public and private, as well as information on measures taken to ensure the effective enjoyment of the right to housing by foreign workers and persons of different ethnic or national origin, without discrimination.
15. Please provide detailed information on measures adopted by the State party to ensure that foreign workers and persons of different ethnic or national origin enjoy the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health without any discrimination (paragraph 83 of the State party's report).
16. Please provide recent data – if possible disaggregated by ethnic or national origin and sex – on access to primary and secondary education, as well as vocational training, by members of different ethnic or national groups.

**Article 6**

17. Please provide information on the remedies – including civil remedies – available in the State party to persons who claim to be victims of acts of racial discrimination, as well as on measures taken to ensure reparation for any damage suffered as a consequence of such discriminatory acts.
18. Please provide information on the number and nature of cases brought before the courts, if any, relating to racial discrimination, on their outcome and on compensation awarded to victims.

**Article 7**

19. Please provide information on specific training programmes and courses, if any, for members of the judiciary, law enforcement officials, teachers, social workers and other public officials on the provisions of the Convention and their application.
20. Please provide information on the dissemination of the Convention in the State party.

**Article 14**

21. Please indicate whether the State party envisages making the declaration under Article 14 of the Convention for the Committee to receive individual complaints.

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