REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN Paix – Travail – Patrio

# COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME DU CAMEROUN

SOUS-COMMISSION CHARGEE
DE LA PROMOTION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
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# CAMEROON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

SUB-COMMISSION IN CHARGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION

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## STATEMENT BY THE CAMEROON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO MARK THE 20<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL DAY OF COMMEMORATION IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

27 January 2025

Theme.- "Holocaust remembrance for dignity and human rights"

The Cameroon Human Rights Commission (hereinafter: "the Commission" or "the CHRC"), established by Law No. 2019/014 of 19 July 2019 and rendered operational on 29 April 2021, following the swearing-in of its members before the Supreme Court sitting in joint benches,

Bearing in mind that history has been marked by profoundly dark events, such as the genocide of the Jews that began in Germany in 1941, carried out by the "mobile extermination units" whose primary mission was to decimate the local Jewish population, mainly by mass shootings following the advancement of German troops in the East. For the first time in history,



the extermination of a people became an official government policy, with the methods used being in line with the evil plans of the Nazi leaders<sup>1</sup>,

Bearing in mind also that on 20 January 1942, at the Wannsee Conference in Berlin, senior German officers put in place the administrative, technical and economic organisation of what they called the "Final Solution"<sup>2</sup>, that in the same year, the Nazis established six concentration camps specifically for Jewish population – sites of the ruthless extermination of this people – mainly in Auschwitz, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka in Poland. Gas chambers were built to increase the efficiency of the extermination process. This resulted in the deaths of 2.5 million Jews out of the 6 million murdered between 1933 and 1945, representing two-thirds of the European Jewish population at the time<sup>3</sup>,

**Recalling further** that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at its 60th session on 1 November 2005, adopted by consensus Resolution A/RES/60/7 on Holocaust remembrance, thereby elevating it to the status of a historic event and condemning "without reservation" all the manifestations of incitement to hatred, tribalism, religious intolerance, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on their ethnic origin or religious beliefs, whenever they occur<sup>4</sup>,

Emphasising that this UNGA Resolution proclaims 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by Soviet troops, the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust,

Noting also that the purpose of this day of Commemoration is to mobilise civil society for Holocaust remembrance and education, through outreach programmes to help prevent future acts of genocide. This commitment underscores the United Nations' commitment to combating hatred and building a global environment in which all people can live in dignity and peace<sup>5</sup>,

Agreeing with Marija Pejcinovic Buric, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, who, at the ceremony commemorating the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 24 January 2024, affirmed that: "it is by remembering the

20la%20session,d'intol%C3%A9rance%20religieuse%20%2C%20l, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Montreal Holocaust Museum, "A Brief History of the Holocaust - A Reference Guide", <a href="https://museeholocauste.ca/app/uploads/2018/10/breve\_histoire\_holocauste\_guide\_reference.pdf">https://museeholocauste.ca/app/uploads/2018/10/breve\_histoire\_holocauste\_guide\_reference.pdf</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The "Final Solution" was a Nazi code name for the plan to kill all the Jews in Europe. For more on the subject, see Brayard, Florent, La « Solution finale de la question juive ». La technique, le temps et les catégories de la décision. Paris, Fayard, 2004.

Of the six camps mentioned above, Auschwitz-Birkenau was the deadliest, with more than 1.5 million people killed by the end of the Second World War in 1945. For more details, see Montreal Holocaust Museum, "A Brief History of the Holocaust - A Reference Guide", https://museeholocauste.ca/app/uploads/2018/10/breve\_histoire\_holocauste\_guide\_reference.pdf, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See United Nations Organisation (UNO), "Conferences / Commemoration of the liberation of the Nazi camps", <a href="https://www.un.org/en/conferences/liberation-nazi-camps/index#:~:text=Neuf%20mois%20apr%C3%A8s%">https://www.un.org/en/conferences/liberation-nazi-camps/index#:~:text=Neuf%20mois%20apr%C3%A8s%</a>

See Nations Unies, "Outreach Programme on the Holocaust", <a href="https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance">https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

darkness that we continue to live in the light". This statement emphasizes the significance of remembrance as a choice and the fact that the Holocaust must remain a prominent part of global consciousness, whatever the circumstances of the moment,

Noting in this regard that every year on 27 January, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) honours the memory of the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to combating antisemitism, racism, and other forms of intolerance that can lead to group-targeted violence. UNESCO Member States have a collective responsibility to address the lingering trauma, maintain effective commemorative policies, preserve historic sites, and promote education, documentation, and research on this egregious chapter in human history<sup>7</sup>,

Considering also that to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp this year, UNESCO is organising an official ceremony at its headquarters in Paris, France, from 20 January to 28 February 2025 to commemorate this significant anniversary. The event will feature a series of activities centred on the historic site of Auschwitz-Birkenau, including speeches, musical performances, the testimony of two survivors, reaffirming the importance of teaching the history of the Holocaust worldwide<sup>8</sup>,

Aware of the vital importance for all humanity of perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust through teaching and learning, UNESCO Director-General Audrey AZOULAY will participate in an official ceremony organised by UNESCO on 27 January 2025 in Oświęcim, specifically at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum in Poland. The main objectives of this ceremony are:

- to commemorate the victims and honour the survivors of the crimes committed by the Nazi regime and its collaborators, [in order] to draw [the world's] attention to the continuing relevance of Holocaust education and remembrance
- to highlight the importance of Auschwitz-Birkenau as a historic site and a place of remembrance, and to draw attention to Holocaust memorial sites throughout Europe and the world as important places of learning
- to promote action to combat the denial and distortion of the Holocaust, and other contemporary forms of anti-Semitism<sup>9</sup>,

9 Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Council of Europe, "27 January – Holocaust Remembrance Day", <a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/27-january-holocaust-remembrance-day">https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/27-january-holocaust-remembrance-day</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Children Organisation (UNESCO), "International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust: Official Ceremony", <a href="https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/journee-internationale-dediee-la-memoire-des-victimes-de-lholocauste-ceremonie">https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/journee-internationale-dediee-la-memoire-des-victimes-de-lholocauste-ceremonie</a>

officielle#:~:text=2025%20marquera%20le%2080e%20anniversaire,Mus%C3%A9e%20d'Auschwitz%2DBirkenau, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See UNESCO, "Beyond the Abyss - 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau", https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/au-dela-de-labime-80e-anniversaire-de-la-liberation-dauschwitz-birkenau, accesse on 24 January 2025.

Welcoming the theme chosen by the United Nations Holocaust Outreach Programme for the 20th International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, entitled "Holocaust Remembrance for Dignity and Human Rights" 10, which reflects:

the critical relevance of Holocaust remembrance for the present, [at a time] when the dignity and human rights of our fellow global citizens are under daily attack. The Holocaust shows what happens when hatred, dehumanization and apathy win [over humanity]; [despite all this], its remembrance [remains] a bulwark against the denigration of humanity and a clarion call for collective action to ensure respect for human dignity and human rights, and the international law that protects both11,

## Recalling that:

the Holocaust did not begin with the gas chambers, but [rather] with hate speech against [minorities], [such as] peoples with disabilities, Germans of African descent, [...], Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, political dissenters and Jehovah witnesses<sup>12</sup>,

Keeping in mind that the theme of the International Day against Hate Speech on 18 June 2024, which focuses on Investing in youth to counter hate speech, through which the United Nations calls upon young people, especially girls and women, indigenous people, persons from minority communities, and youth with disabilities, to play an active and a more effective role in this effort by creating public and online spaces that are free from hate speech. Hate speech poses a serious threat to the foundations of human rights and dignity and it undermines peace, stability and sustainable development worldwide<sup>13</sup>,

Having regard to the message of António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to mark the 3rd International Day against Hate Speech on 18 June 2024, in which he states that:

as young people are often most affected by hate speech, particularly online, young people must be part of the solution. Governments, local authorities, religious, corporate and community leaders have a duty to invest in measures to promote tolerance, diversity and inclusivity, and to challenge hate speech in all its forms,

Recalling that "racism" refers to "a theory of racial hierarchy based on the belief that social status depends on social characteristics and which concludes that it is necessary to preserve the superior race from interbreeding with other races"14 and that this definition of racism applies mutatis mutandis to tribalism,

**Recalling also** that "(direct) discrimination" means:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Holocaust Education Programme established by UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/60/7 to help prevent future acts of genocide by educating the world about the remembrance of the Holocaust.

<sup>11</sup> See United Nations, "2025 Holocaust Remembrance and Education", https://www.un.org/en/lholocausteet-les-nations-unies-programme-de-communication/page/2025, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>12</sup> See United Nations, "Understanding hate speech", https://www.un.org/en/hate-speech/understanding-hatespeech/hate-speech-and-real-harm, accessed on 6 January 2025.

speech", Renewal, "Investing youth counter hate See Africa https://www.un.org/africarenewal/en/magazine/juin-2024/la-jeunesse-au-service-de-la-lutte-contre-les-discours-din citation-%C3%A0-la-haine, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>14</sup> See Bertrand Favreau, in: Joël Andriantsimnazovina et al. (dir.), « Racisme et xénophobie », Dictionnaire des Droits de l'homme, Quadrige / Presses universitaires de France, Paris, 2012, 1 074 pp., spec. p. 825.

a difference in treatment which, contrary to the principle of civil equality, consists in placing a natural person in an unfavourable situation on the basis of irrelevant individual considerations (sex, political opinions, membership of a nation, religion, morals [and] physical handicap)<sup>15</sup>,...

Considering that the preamble of the Constitution of 18 January 1996 states "no one shall be harassed on grounds of his origin, religious, philosophical or political opinions or beliefs",

Recalling the provisions of Article 2 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulates that everyone is entitled to all the rights set forth therein "without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status",

**Emphasising** that the normative and institutional framework for promoting peace and combating all forms of discrimination has remained largely unchanged since the last commemoration of this Day. The relevant provisions are outlined in the Statement issued to mark the 2024 commemoration day in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust <sup>16</sup>,

The Commission recognises the commendable efforts of the government and civil society in addressing the rise of hate speech and incitement to violence, disinformation, tribalism and all other forms of intolerance in Cameroonian society. These efforts are particularly noteworthy in the following areas:

- The warning and one-month suspension from the profession of a journalist, issued by the National Communication Council (NCC) on 21 February 2024 against the director and the author of an article published by L'Élite, respectively, for "professional misconduct following the publication of insinuating and offensive remarks against members of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM)" in the case opposing him to the President of the Ntem Valley III Section of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM), South Region<sup>17</sup>
- The two-month suspension by the NCC on 21 February 2002 of Mr Nicolas Atangana, the editor of the print media *Le Point Bi-hebdo* and his collaborator, from practising journalism in Cameroon, for "failure to meet the professional requirements of research, balance and verification of the information published". This measure was taken in the context of the case between the National Centre for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (NCDDR) and the aforementioned print media<sup>18</sup>
- The warning issued by NCC on 21 February 2024 to a journalist from My Media Prime TV who made a hateful comment about a second-class police inspector, for "failure to

18 Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See Lefebre Dalloz, « Discrimination », Lexique des termes juridiques, Paris, Dalloz, 2023-2024, 1. 136 pp., spec. pp. 382-383.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See "Statement by the cameroon human rights commission to mark the 20th international day of commemoration in memory of the victims of the holocaust", published on 25 January 2024, <a href="http://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-01-2519-56-09.pdf">http://www.cdhc.cm/admin/fichiers/Declarations2024-01-2519-56-09.pdf</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> See National Communication Council, "Press Release No. 000004/CNC/2024/PC/SG/CCJ of 21 February 2024", https://cnc.gov.cm/communique-du-21-fevrier-2024/#, accessed on 6 January 2025.

meet the professional requirements for cross-checking and verifying published information" 19

- The awareness-raising workshop for young learners on the prohibition of hate speech in schools and responsible behaviour on the Internet, organised by the association Africa Fact Checking Cameroon (AFF Cameroon). The workshop took place at the Government High School Abang-Nkongoa, in the Mefou and Afamba Division, Centre Region, on 21 October 2024<sup>20</sup>
- The awareness-raising workshop on the creation of an anti-hate speech creed organised by the DefyHateNow platform in Yaounde from 9 to 10 May 2024. This workshop titled "Combating Hate Speech in Cameroon The Creation of an Anti-Hate Speech Creed" brought together public authorities, community leaders, the media and civil society actors, with the aim of promoting unity, on the one hand, understanding and respect between people of different origins, cultures and beliefs and, on the other, recalling the fundamental rule enshrined in the Constitution according to which everyone has the right to express themselves freely, but not at the expense of others, 21
- The organisation by Civic-Watch, in partnership with five other civil society organisations (CSOs), of a series of activities in Maroua, in the Far North region, from 22 to 23 February, under the theme Stop to hate speech: let's cultivate diversity and respect in our community, including:
  - o a workshop to discuss and raise awareness among the administrative and traditional authorities of the Region
  - o an awareness-raising session at the Mouda Government High School
  - o another awareness-raising session on the esplanade of the Kourgui Lamidat,<sup>22</sup>

The Commission is pleased with its actions to combat hatred, tribalism and ethnic violence with:

- the organisation, through its Branch, of an educational talk for traditional and religious authorities of the Bafoussam I Sub-Division, on the theme "Promoting peace, tolerance and coexistence". This lecture was held at the Ndiandam-Bafoussam Islamic Complex in the West Region on 10 December 2024, on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day and covered several other sub-

<sup>20</sup> See CRTV Web, « Discours haineux : sensibiliser davantage en milieu scolaire",

https://crtv.cm/2024/10/21/discours-haineux-sensibiliser-davantage-en-milieu-scolaire/, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>21</sup> See *DefyHateNow Cameroon*, "Combatting Hate Speech in Cameroon – The Creation of an Anti-Hate Speech Creed", <a href="https://defyhatenow.org/fr/la-lutte-contre-le-discours-de-haine-au-cameroun-la-creation-dun-credo-anti-discours-de-haine/">https://defyhatenow.org/fr/la-lutte-contre-le-discours-de-haine-au-cameroun-la-creation-dun-credo-anti-discours-de-haine/</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> See Relief Web, « Rapport d'activités sur le thème Stop aux discours de haine: Cultivons la diversité et le respect dans notre communauté », <a href="https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/rapport-activites-sur-le-theme-stop-aux-discours-de-haine-cultivons-la-diversite-et-le-respect-dans-notre-communaute-maroua-fevrier-2024">https://reliefweb.int/report/cameroon/rapport-activites-sur-le-theme-stop-aux-discours-de-haine-cultivons-la-diversite-et-le-respect-dans-notre-communaute-maroua-fevrier-2024</a>, accessed on 6 January 2025.

themes, including the role of these authorities in combating hate speech and promoting harmonious coexistence

- the participation on 8 August 2024 in Maroua, Far North Region, in an interreligious meeting organised by the Lamido of Maroua in collaboration with the Cameroon Association for Inter-Religious Dialogue at the WOILA Vision conference hall. This meeting, which brought together approximately 1,000 participants, aimed to raise awareness about the need for coexistence and peace among the sons and daughters of the Diamaré Division
- the active participation in the International Convention of Young People for the Development of the Regions, organised by the CSO Afrik'Art-Titude, on the theme consolidating peace and harmonious coexistence, from 11 to 14 April 2024, in Foumban in the West Region, with the participation of more than 1,200 people, including about 650 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the North-West and South-West Regions,

Endorsing the observation made in the UNESCO Report titled "AI and the Holocaust: Rewriting History", published in June 2024, which states that in the digital age, "not only can Generative artificial intelligence (AI) enable malicious actors to seed disinformation and hatefuelled narratives, but may also inadvertently invent false or misleading content about the Holocaust", 23

**Recognising** that 80 per cent of young people between the ages of 10 and 24 now use AI several times a day, both for educational and entertainment purposes, that urgent action is needed to establish an ethical framework for these new technologies, and

Taking note of the comments made by Ms Audrey Azoulay, stating:

if we allow the horrific facts of the Holocaust to be diluted, distorted or falsified by the irresponsible use of AI, we risk the explosive spread of anti-Semitism [as well as tribalism] and the gradual diminution of our understanding about the causes and consequences of these atrocities. Implementing *UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI* is urgent so that the younger generations grow up with facts, fabrications<sup>24</sup>,

The Commission strongly condemns the rise of hate speech, often spread by those seeking political gain, in the form of tribalism, xenophobia, racism, misogyny, and all other forms of intolerance across the country, which is immediately disseminated through social media networks, with the aim of targeting and dehumanising individuals and peoples on the basis of their identity,

The Commission is still concerned about:

24 Ibid.

See UNESCO, "Generative AI Threatens Holocaust Memory (UNESCO Report)", https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/lia-generative-menace-lhistoire-de-lholocauste-rapport-unesco?hub=66582, accessed on 6 January 2025.

- the regulatory inadequacies of the digital media, as evidenced by the proliferation of content that incites violence or perpetuates stereotypes about social groups, which undermines social and political stability
- the persistence of ethnic and communal tensions, particularly in certain regions of the country where tribalism plays a major role in local conflicts
- inadequate means to identify and effectively prosecute the perpetrators of hate speech or false information online, leading to impunity for the latter
- ignorance of the values of tolerance among younger generations, both in urban and rural areas, who are misinformed about the dangers of hate speech and tribalism
- inadequate awareness raising on cultural diversity, as school curricula do not sufficiently promote cultural diversity, gender equality and the fight against hate speech,

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The Commission commends the commitment of the public authorities to implement the recommendations made to them in its Statement to mark The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January 2023, in particular the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC), which has undertaken to open spaces for cultural unity and diversity under the theme (translated) "Operationalisation of the National Museum to enhance the promotion of national unity in Cameroon". This initiative aims to make the National Museum not only a place of remembrance, but also a dynamic tool for raising awareness of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and the promotion of the values of unity, peace and tolerance in a country characterised by great ethnic and cultural diversity,

The Commission welcomes the responses of certain ministries to its previous Statement on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust in 2024, in particular that of the Minister of Arts and Culture (MINAC) who, by letter No. 0000805/L/MINAC/SG/DAJ/CC of 13 May 204, informed the CHRC of the measures taken by his Ministry to curb the rise of tribalism and to restore the dignity of the emblematic victims of the violence that has marked the history of Cameroon,

The Commission notes that out of the 220 recommendations accepted by the State following the adoption of the report on Cameroon after undergoing the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 26 March 2024, 15 are in favour of the promotion of peace and security, four of which are in line with the theme of The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, all of which have been distributed by the CHRC to State structures and civil society organisations (CSOs), each as far as it is concerned, as follows:

- The recommendation to "continue to raise public awareness of human rights by including this issue in school curricula", addressed to the Ministry of Secondary Education (MINESEC), the Ministry of Basic Education (MINEDUB), the Ministry of

Labour and Vocational Training (MINEFOP), the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTÉ), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) and the Ministry of Justice (MINJUSTICE)

- The recommendation to "continue to pursue a peaceful approach to conflict resolution, and to establish and strengthen transitional justice mechanisms in the country", addressed to the Office of the Prime Minister, the Head of Government, MINJUSTICE, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT), the General Delegation for National Security (DGSN) and the Cameroon Bar Association;
  - The recommendation to "pursue dialogue with a view to the definitive restoration of peace in the North-West and South-West regions of the country", addressed to the Office of the Prime Minister, the Head of Government, MINAT and the National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism (NCPBM)
  - The recommendation to "adopt a global and inclusive approach to address the root causes of the conflict in the affected regions of Cameroon, by putting in place a comprehensive strategy for sustainable peace", addressed to the Office of the Prime Minister, the Head of Government, the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT), MINAT and the NCPBM,

## The Commission specifically recommends that:

- the Ministry of Communication
  - o should work more closely with private actors, in particular those involved in social media networks, to establish clear and robust guidelines with respect to the punishment of hate speech and disinformation.
  - o should organise media campaigns to raise public awareness of the dangers of disinformation, hate speech and media manipulation, while promoting a culture of mutual respect and harmonious coexistence,
- the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, in cooperation with stakeholders in the digital sector, should, with respect to freedom of expression, develop a stronger legal framework for the regulation of social media to better monitor online content and implement appropriate penalties for offences committed on social media, while respecting freedom of expression
- MINAT
  - should strengthen national unity and the management of diversity by promoting inclusive local governance policies to encourage equitable participation in local decision-making processes by working to reduce inequalities between communities

In the promotion and protection of human rights. It shall also serve as the Cameroon National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture, abbreviated as \*NMf

should promote inter-community dialogue by establishing consultation mechanisms for the effective appearement of pre and post-electoral or interethnic tensions and promote the values of peaceful coexistence, especially in areas where the security situation is still unsettled and marked by division, in strict compliance with the rule of law

## - MINJUSTICE

- o should strengthen cooperation with international judicial authorities to track down perpetrators of transnational hate speech, in particular those operating through the Internet
- should build the capacity of judges and law enforcement officers (FMO) through regular training on laws related to the fight against hate, disinformation and tribalism to ensure more effective application of the law

### MINESEC and MINEDUB

- should integrate tolerance education into school programmes with modules on kindness, tolerance, respect for cultural differences and the history of the Holocaust, to raise young people's awareness about the behaviours to adopt nowadays
- should promote inter-school activities and cultural exchanges to further ensure mutual understanding and solidarity between students from different communities;
- the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) should strengthen partnerships with international organisations such as the UN, the European Union and the African Union to benefit from their expertise and support in the fight against hatred and tribalism,

## The Commission, for its part:

- encourages education in schools, communities and through the media on the importance of life and respect for human dignity, as well as on the need for collective responsibility and individual accountability for any perpetrator of hate speech, intolerance and violence against any individual or religious, linguistic or ethnic group,
- urges victims of acts of violence to denounce the perpetrators so that they can be brought to justice, which will serve as a deterrent to those who might be tempted to commit such acts,

The Commission will spare no effort to further promote and protect peace, harmonious coexistence and human dignity through training workshops, awareness raising campaigns, advocacy, visits to places of detention, fact-finding missions and the handling of complaints and self-initiated investigations,

The Commission once again calls on anyone who has been a victim or witness of a human rights violation, in particular acts of discrimination, ethnic supremacy, tribalism, hate

speech and violence or threats of violence in particular - to contact it, including through its toll-free number, 1523 (free calls).

## Useful CHRC Addresses.-

Website: www.cdhc.cm

Facebook and X (former Twitter): Cameroon Human Rights Commission

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Yaounde, 26 January 2025

