

OHCHR Consultation on
Sports, ageing and racial discrimination: implications on the right to health
09 October 2026

Programme of Work and Guiding Questions

9.00 – 9.30	Registration and coffee
9.30 – 10.00	Opening remarks Christina Meinecke, <i>Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the European Union</i> Milka Sokolović, <i>Director General, European Public Health Alliance</i> Vanessa Kabuta, <i>Policy Coordinator, DG JUST, Non-discrimination: Anti-racism and Roma Coordination</i>
10.00 – 12.30	Participation in sports and the right to health: experiences, barriers, challenges, opportunities and benefits for older racialized persons Guiding questions: 1. How do racialized older persons experience accessing and participating in sport and physical activity in Europe? How do race or ethnic origin, age, gender, religion and faith, disability, migration status, socioeconomic status, language and other characteristics interact to shape experiences in sport? 2. What are the main barriers preventing their participation in sport and physical activity? Barriers may relate to discrimination, accessibility, affordability, information, infrastructure and the availability of appropriate opportunities, for example. 3. At what points in the life course do racial discrimination and ageism begin to affect participation, and how do these experiences accumulate in older age? 4. Are there particular sports, facilities or sporting environments where racialized older persons experience greater barriers or exclusion? 5. How visible are racialized older persons as participants, coaches, volunteers, officials and decisionmakers in sport? 6. What are the implications of access to sport and physical activity for health and health inequalities, and how should these implications be considered from a human rights perspective?

	Intergenerational experiences 1. How do experiences of racial discrimination in sports and physical activity differ across generations? 2. Do experiences of racism during childhood, adolescence and adulthood affect participation in sport later in life? 3. What can intergenerational dialogue and exchange contribute to addressing racism and promoting inclusion in sport, including for racialized older persons?
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break, on site
13.30 – 15.00	Discussion on the relevant international, regional and national human rights frameworks and promising practices Guiding questions: 1. What international human rights norms and standards are relevant to ensuring equality and non-discrimination in access to sport and health-enhancing physical activity for older racialized persons? 2. To what extent do relevant existing EU frameworks address the intersection of age and racial discrimination? Are there gaps? 3. What information and data are available to understand participation and exclusion affecting racialized older persons? What data gaps exist? 4. What mechanisms are available to prevent, report and address racial discrimination in sport, and to provide access to remedy? To what extent are these mechanisms accessible to and appropriate for older persons? 5. What existing initiatives have sought to increase participation of older racialized persons in sport or physical activity? What has proven effective? Were older racialized persons involved in designing and implementing these initiatives?
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.30	Formulation of findings and recommendations, including follow-up work by OHCHR and participating stakeholders <i>Two groups in person and two breakout rooms online</i> Guiding questions: 1. What are the three most significant barriers facing racialized older persons in sport? Which barriers are primarily related to racial or age discrimination, and which arise from broader socioeconomic, environmental or accessibility inequalities? 2. Which experiences or groups remain particularly invisible in existing research and policy?

	3. Where is the greatest gap between existing human rights commitments and the lived experiences of racialized older persons? 4. What measures have States taken, or could consider, to: a) address racism and ageism in sport; and b) ensure affordable, accessible and culturally appropriate physical activity opportunities for older racialized persons? 5. What should the EU do within existing anti-racism, sport and healthy-ageing frameworks? 6. What measures should national federations, clubs and grassroots sporting organisations consider to address barriers and promote inclusive participation? 7. How can older racialized persons be meaningfully involved in sport governance and decision-making? 8. What safeguarding or accountability mechanisms are needed to address racism and ageism in sport?
16.30 – 17.30	Presentation of group results and findings
17:30 –18:00	Closing