

HIV/AIDS, Report of the S-G: (E/CN.4/1997/37, Appendix)

The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Consultation on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights (Geneva, September 1996) recalls the important connection between the protection of human rights and effective responses to HIV/AIDS. The report refers to civil legislation in the U.S. which defines disability broadly and sensitively enough explicitly to include HIV/AIDS.

Racial Discrimination: (E/CN.4/1997/68/Add.1, para. 59, 63, 64-67, 75, 77, 79, 80, 84, 85)

The report of the UN seminar on the implementation of articles 4 and 6 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Geneva, September 1996) refers to extremist group activity on the Internet originating in the U.S. and the fact that the largest number of identifiable white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups were in the United States. Mention is made to prevailing laws and the reliance of extremist groups on the protection offered by the First Amendment of the Constitution as justification for their activities. The report also refers to comments indicating that materials that were illegal in most other democratic countries, including those deemed dangerous, racist or defamatory under the laws of those countries, could be posted on the Internet in the United States and become accessible to virtually everyone around the globe, regardless of national legislation.

The report notes that the U.S. is among the 15 states that entered a reservation to article 4 of the Convention.

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