

**Press release:**

**BLACK PETE (FACE), GOLDEN CARRIAGE, RACIAL PROFILING,  
NGO TOPICS DURING THE UN CERD-DUTCH STATE ANTI-RACISM POLICY REVIEW**

The UN Commission for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) will host its 87<sup>th</sup> session from August 3 through August 28, 2015. The Commission is the most important UN body that monitors compliance of the International Convention of all forms of racial discrimination (ICERD). UN Member States that have signed and ratified the Treaty are closely monitored how the Treaty is being implemented. Therefore they are required to submit Bi-annual National reports to the Commission. On August 18 and 19, 2015 The Netherlands will present and defend their National report to the CERD. Session between the CERD and Member States are preceded by one or more meetings between the CERD and National NGOs to present and explain their shadow reports.

For further information regarding the process, agenda and reports amongst others from the Netherlands

visit: [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=978&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=978&Lang=en)

This is a very special moment for the Foundation National Monument Dutch Slavery Past, well-known as the National Platform Dutch Slavery Past (LPS), in cooperation with and amongst others, Teye International, to present their NGO shadow report regarding the Black Pete (Face) issue in The Netherlands. Earlier in 2012 LPS called for the attention of the UN Head of Special Procedures. which was followed by a visit to the Netherlands in June and July of 2014 by the United Nations Working Group of Experts on people of African descent (WGPAD), to investigate the 'human rights' situation in the Kingdom of The Netherlands. The final Report of this visit is to be expected in September 2015.

We are pleased that the NJCM (Dutch Commission of Jurists on Human Rights) finally realized that this issue of Black Pete is no longer one that can be left out of their NGO joint shadow report. Even though we believe that the text of the recommendations could have been somewhat stronger. It is important for us that the fight against this Black Pete issue is also of concern to the UN CERD review. Additionally to the Black Pete issue, we also have explained the role of the VIE (National Commission for the folk culture and intangible heritage), the Petes Guild and the Saint Nicholas Society. The CERD has also called for their attention regarding the offending side panel "Tribute of Colonies" of the golden carriage.

For information about the input of the LPS please visit:

<https://app.box.com/s/o58lf4rz0bgq4i9i4a32yqutm5mgycvz>

Other areas of concern are:

- The implementation of the UN Durban Declaration and programme of Action (2001);
- The recognition by the Dutch State of people of African descent as a specific target group in the framework of the Anti-racism policy and the control of Afrophobia. The latter, is the identifier for the specific form of multiple racism against people of African descent.

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