

Network Session [UNESCO ICCAR Panel]

Cities Fostering the Next Generations to Tackle Racism and Discrimination

Oct 12, 2022 (WED) 19:00-21:30

Organizer: UNESCO

Background

The climate crisis is one of the most pressing issues facing the current and next generations. Faced with this modern challenge, societies have immense potential for collective action and change. Young people are a vital ingredient as they serve as an engaged and proactive community that is willing to learn resources to tackle these issues for the next generation.

In this regard, cities must continue to develop and foster strong synergies to involve all members of society, particularly young people. Cities are important as frontliners to engage youth with issues and contemporary challenges facing their communities to bring about change at the local level. Fostering a space in which the youth can be proactive in raising awareness about and pushing for change in the climate crisis is a crucial way for cities to create inclusive and sustainable cities.

The ICCAR's Panel is an opportunity to highlight the International Coalition for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities' achievements and to gather for a global dialogue on how to continue sustainably addressing modern challenges, particularly climate change. Important work is being carried out by some cities with through their youth associations and councils.

Cities must be viewed as crucial spaces for ensuring climate change. To achieve this, ICCAR and UNESCO's regional coalitions have made climate change a central issue in building inclusive and sustainable cities and enabled to development of numerous actions in this area. Amongst these, the Asia Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination considers disaster risk reduction a key focal area and seeks to provide inclusive city-level responses.

The ICCAR's Panel will be an opportunity to showcase how cities support the next generations by offering them numerous resources. Among these, the "Youth BootCamp for Inclusive and Sustainable Cities", organized by ICCAR, which took place from 4 to 9 July in Italy, became a multidimensional platform where young people could share ideas and become active agents of change on the city level.



To allow young people to become major actors of change, cities have to involve them by giving them the tools and keys to understanding the current challenges. In this regard, the Panel will address the ICCAR's wide range of initiatives to include young people in terms of awareness raising and training. Among them, the crucial ICCAR's collaboration in the framework of the UNESCO Master Class Series against Racism and Discrimination to empower students to become youth champions in their schools and communities and to raise awareness about how to deconstruct the mechanisms behind racism and discrimination.

Objective & Main agenda

1. Analyze the ICCAR's achievements and how to continue sustainably addressing modern challenges.
2. Raise awareness of climate change and contemporary challenges by highlighting the implication of cities and the importance of the involvement of youth.
3. Share good practices and strategies enhancing climate change and the involvement of young people.

