

Say no to racial discrimination



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GUWAHATI: Every person is entitled to human [rights](#) without discrimination. The [rights](#) to equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human [rights](#) law. This was more or less of what the speakers at an open meeting said as they joined the International Day to End Racial Discrimination in Guwahati on Wednesday.

They said racism, xenophobia and intolerance are still prevalent in all societies, and discriminatory practices are widespread, particularly targeting migrants and [refugees](#) as well as people of African descent. The speakers, mostly, urged the states to take comprehensive measures to combat racism, [racial](#) discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity.

Char and Rural [Development](#) Society (CARDS) in collaboration with Control Arms Foundation of [India](#) (CFAI), [Manipur](#) Woman Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN) and Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) Wednesday convened to commemorate March 21 as International Day to End Racial Discrimination in the city with a panel discussion themed: “Diversity in [India](#): Race, Ethnicity and Culture.” “Many people, organisations came in and we all formed what is known as Northeast [India](#) Forum Against Racism (NEIFAR). Our efforts made the Government of [India](#) form [Bezbaruah](#) Committee, the first ever committee formed in independent [India](#) on addressing [racial](#) discrimination and work towards a series of recommendations to mitigate the same,” said Binalakshmi Nepram whose speech was read out in her absence.

[Journalist](#) and social activist. [Krishna](#) Nath said, “Racism unlike what politicians believe is not always a matter of color, it is any kind of discrimination based on false association of superficial, physical difference- skin color, shape of one’s lips, hair, stature and others along with word and intellectual qualities.”

Citing the position of Islam on racism, Syed Miraz Ahmed quoted Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) saying, “An Arab has no superiority [over](#) a

non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority [over](#) an Arab; also a white has no superiority [over](#) a black nor does a black have any superiority [over](#) a white except by piety and good action.”

Speakers who participated in the panel discussion included Manashi [Das](#) Queah, Archana Sethiya, Alakananda [Das](#), Dr Richa Panday, Dr Dipti Rekha Sharma and Tinat Atifa Masood.

Closing in the event, Shaheen Hussain Nongbri, [President](#) Char and Rural [Development](#) Society pledged to do all to address discrimination owing from the constructs of race, ethnicity and culture and make a congenial environment for all to co-exist.

A series of posters were also [launched](#) as a campaign on the issue. The event was supported by the European Union.

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Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

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