

Papers on Racial Discrimination

Volume 1
The CERD Papers

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Published by Fiji Institute of Applied Studies,
P O Box 7580,
Lautoka.
Phone: 665 2595
Fax: 665 2596.
<http://www.fijianstudies.org>

Printed in Fiji
Cover design: Shavvone Rueben
Word-processing, Layout, Design: Pac.Ed

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The production of this book was funded by a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency.

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international

USP Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Papers on racial discrimination. Volume 1, The UN CERD papers / Ganesh Chand, editor. -- Lautoka, Fiji : Fiji Institute of Applied Studies, 2005.

p. ; cm.

ISBN 982-301-022-6

1. Race discrimination--Law and legislation--Fiji 2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1966) 3. Race discrimination--Government policy--Fiji 4. Fiji--Race relations I. Chand, Ganeshwar II. United Nations General Assembly. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination III. Title: The UN CERD papers

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Preface

In March 2003, I was asked by the National Farmers Union to represent it at the UN's Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) meeting which was to hear Fiji's report and deliberate on racial discrimination in Fiji. In preparation for my participation, I tried to locate Fiji's previous submissions to CERD and CERD deliberations on Fiji. Unfortunately, there was no such document within the public domain. Even reputed libraries did not carry materials on CERD, or on racial discrimination in Fiji.

Despite my intention to publish my own research on race relations in Fiji, until now, I let other pressing academic as well as non-academic matters take precedence over this.

The CERD meeting, and the unavailability of any serious empirical work or documentation on race relations in Fiji, at least until 2003, provided an incentive for me to put together not only this volume of papers, but also two other volumes on racial discrimination.

This volume comprises documents essentially produced by the government, the UN's CERD, and NGOs on racial discrimination. While some documents included here have been edited for brevity, the gist of each paper has been maintained.

The second volume will continue in the same tradition – with numerous additional official, NGO and research documents which have remained unpublished so far. The third volume will provide updated empirical work on racial discrimination in Fiji.

This volume would not have been possible had it not been for the kind assistance of the Canadian International Development Agency, which kindly agreed to sponsor a large part of this project. The NGOs also kindly allowed me the use of their papers and encouraged me to complete this project. The UN papers are public domain documents. Under the ICERD, the government's official documents are also to be within the public domain.

All these documents have been included in this volume with the intention that not only could these be found at one source by any researcher or writer on the subject, but also so as to provide an educational resource to the people of Fiji on racial discrimination. For the people of Fiji, the documents would serve as a cold reminder that human civilisation no longer tolerates racial discrimination in any form.

Ganesh Chand
June 2005