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GAY MCDUGALL, United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues, said that national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in all regions of the world continued to be frequent targets of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In all too many cases, racism and discrimination could turn to physical abuse and violence. As history demonstrated, minorities were made uniquely vulnerable by discrimination and were the most frequent victims of genocide. In the course of her work as an Independent Expert on minority issues, she had sought to raise attention to the situations of minorities globally, and to the many challenges and threats which they faced. She highlighted that minority groups that faced widespread discrimination or exclusion were much more likely than other groups to be impoverished. The facts were both obvious and overwhelming. The poorest communities in almost any region tended to be minority communities that had been targets of longstanding discrimination, violence or exclusion. The international community must do more to challenge the racism and discrimination faced by mi



colonialism and the slave trade. Special attention must be paid to discrimination based on gender,







