



**CERD General Recommendation VIII Concerning the Interpretation and  
Application of Article 1, Paragraphs 1 and 4 of the Convention  
Identification with a Particular Racial or Ethnic Group**

*Adopted at the Thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination, on 22 August 1990  
(Contained in Document A/45/18)*

*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,*

*Having considered* reports from States parties concerning information about the ways in which individuals are identified as being members of a particular racial or ethnic group or groups,

*Is of the opinion* that such identification shall, if no justification exists to the contrary, be based upon self-identification by the individual concerned.



**CERD General Recommendation IX Concerning the Application of  
Article 8, Paragraph 1, of the Convention  
Independence of Experts**

*Adopted at the Thirty-eighth Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination, on 23 August 1990  
(Contained in Document A/45/18)*

*The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination,*

*Considering* that respect for the independence of the experts is essential to secure full observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

*Recalling* article 8, paragraph 1, of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

*Alarmed* by the tendency of the representatives of States, organizations and groups to put pressure upon experts, especially those serving as country rapporteurs,

*Strongly recommends* that they respect unreservedly the status of its members as independent experts of acknowledged impartiality serving in their personal capacity.