Open statement by 3M students
University of Sassari

“[…] today is not only a recognition of the need for others to act. We must all pause and reflect on ourselves, our organizations, and our actions”

(Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

In 1960, in the South African town of Sharpeville, after a day of demonstrations against apartheid, a crowd of about 7,000 went to the police station. The Police opened fire on the crowd, killing 69 men and women, and injuring many more.

Some say that the crowd was peaceful; others that they were throwing stones at the police.

But does it really matter? It was bloodshed.

The events that took place in South Africa in 1960 were appalling, but we still read similar news every day on so many newspapers. We’ve seen Myanmar, we’ve seen Hong Kong, and we’ve also seen the more advanced “Land of Opportunity”, “the Land of the Free”.

Today is an important day. We celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and we proudly embrace the 2021 focus proposed by the United Nations: “Youth standing up against racism”.

As UNISS students attending the Master’s degree in Migration Management, we all understand that a new culture based on tolerance, equality, and anti-discrimination, is simply indispensable.

As young men and women, we have great expectations for our future. But our pledge is to go beyond expectations. Our pledge is to make a difference.

Join us and take the challenge!

#FightRacism