



**Durban Review Conference - Side-event
Voices**

Sometimes it is hard to hear the voices of individuals amid the high rhetoric of international politics and diplomacy. I am therefore particularly proud of the fact that this VOICES event series is taking place and of the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in its organization.

These VOICES events are meant for individual testimonies to be delivered and carefully listened to. You, the VOICES participants, have taken the courageous step to come here and speak out for human rights and against racism. You do this every day, often in the face of intimidation, abuse or even extreme violence. Human rights defenders, such as you, have an important place at this conference and will play a pivotal role in its aftermath. It is the international community's collective responsibility to respond to your messages with deeds rather than just rhetoric. I sincerely hope that this conference will do justice to your call and deliver concrete action to engineer c.0003TTaes is