



What is racism?

Recent trends on social media due to the death of African American, George Floyd, has led to varied discussions regarding racism including how to end racial injustice. Racism has existed throughout human history. It may be defined as the hatred of one person by another or the belief that a person is less than human because of their skin colour, language, customs, or any other factor that supposedly reveals the basic nature of that person. Racism is a form of social, economic, cultural injustice and inequality that has underpinned wars and conflicts, slavery and in recent times massive global protests.

While racism is predominately shown in the media as forms of abuse or harassment, racism sometimes involves no physical violence. Racism can take the form of discriminatory treatment and systematic socio-economic discrimination or exclusion of diverse groups. Consider situations when people may be excluded from groups or activities because of where they come from. In effect, racism can be revealed through people's actions as well as their attitudes and it can also be reflected in systems and institutions, but sometimes it may not be revealed at all. Not all racism is obvious. Racism goes beyond actions, words and beliefs. It includes preventing people from the dignity and equality of life because of their race.

The United Nations reiterates that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies. It has also emphasized that any doctrine of racial superiority is scientifically false, morally condemned, socially unjust and dangerous which must be rejected together with its theories that seek to determine the existence of separate human races.

To help achieve this each year the United Nations celebrates "The International Day for Racial Discrimination" on the 21st of March. This day is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpsville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws" in 1960.

As the fight against racism and racial injustice rises globally, learn about how we can individually end racism in our immediate social groups:

- Creuza Oliveira, a domestic worker in Brazil: ([Learn more](#)).
- Take this quiz to test your knowledge on human rights and discrimination: ([Take the test](#)).
- The Universal Declaration on human rights: A multilingual video collection: ([Watch now](#)).
- People in Germany take action: ([Learn more](#)).
- Colour of change, a civil society group taking action: ([Learn more](#)).

Technologies being used to fight racism around the world:

- Feel it. Tell it: Pusat Komnas- Report racism: ([Learn more](#)).
- Hear it, see it, report it and change the world: ([Learn more](#)).
- Post ref racism, a campaign for an effective strategy to end hate crime by providing the resources on reporting an incident: ([Learn more](#)).