

# Racism and discrimination

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## Racism

Racism is a **destructive** force in a society. It **disempowers** people by **devaluing** their identity. It destroys public **cohesion** and creates divisions in **communities**. We are often **prejudiced against** other races, religions or cultures simply because we are **suspicious** of people whose skin colour, accents and **customs** are different from our own. This can be explained by our **inherent** fear of **the other** and the **unfamiliar**. Instead of being afraid of differences, we should **embrace** racial and cultural **diversity**. However, recent political **discourse** by people such as Donald Trump **fuel** the fear of the other. Mexicans are depicted as **rapists**, Afro-Americans are referred to as **super-predators** and immigrants in general are compared to a **plague**. This type of **rhetoric** creates false **stereotypes** and allows politicians to **blame foreigners** and **minorities** for all the problems. Hence, **refugees**, immigrants or people of colour often become the **scapegoats** of a nation.

Education and integration are powerful tools against this **prejudice** and **injustice**. **Segregation** and intolerance are not. A recent study in England has shown that, people who live in areas with a low rate of immigration are mostly afraid of refugees and immigrants. Whereas the majority of people in big multi-cultural cities are not afraid of foreigners. This proves that once you learn about other cultures and actually get to know people from these communities your **irrational** fear of them is reduced or even erased.

# Keywords

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<b>destructive</b>	- zerstörerisch
<b>to disempower</b>	- entmachten
<b>to devalue</b>	- abwerten
<b>cohesion</b>	- Zusammenhalt
<b>community</b>	- Gemeinschaft
<b>to be prejudiced against</b>	- Vorurteile haben gegenüber
<b>to be suspicious of</b>	- misstrauisch sein gegenüber
<b>customs</b>	- Bräuche
<b>inherent</b>	- angeboren
<b>the other</b>	- das Anderssein
<b>unfamiliar</b>	- unbekannt
<b>to embrace</b>	- begrüßen
<b>diversity</b>	- Vielfalt
<b>discourse</b>	- Diskurs, Rede
<b>to fuel sth</b>	- etwas anheizen, schüren
<b>rapist</b>	- Vergewaltiger
<b>predator</b>	- Raubtier
<b>plague</b>	- Seuche
<b>rhetoric</b>	- Redekunst
<b>stereotypes</b>	- Klischee
<b>to blame</b>	- jem. die Schuld geben
<b>foreigner</b>	- Ausländer
<b>minority</b>	- Minorität
<b>refugees</b>	- Flüchtlinge
<b>scapegoat</b>	- Sündenbock
<b>segregation</b>	- Rassentrennung
<b>injustice</b>	- Ungerechtigkeit
<b>irrational</b>	- unvernünftig

# Keywords

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One of the problems that remains is that of **systemic racism**. In the USA for example, the history of coloured people is full of **struggles** for **equality** and justice. **White supremacy** and discrimination are still problems in today's society. Extreme patriotism and nationalism once again depict foreigners as inferior to the white race. The rise of **extreme right parties** and the tolerance of **hate speech** towards minorities indicates that the old problems **persist**. Moreover, specific laws and political decisions still turn coloured people into **second-class citizens** and **oppress** them. In the last decades, **police brutality** and **mass incarcerations** of black people have lead to violent **protests** and **demonstrations** over and over again. In 2020, African-Americans made up 6,5% of the American population but 40,2% of the prison populace. These statistics indicate that **racial profiling** is real and that there is a serious problem with **law enforcement** and the **judicial system** in the USA. As one black protester pointed out in 2020: "Given the systematic exploitation and discrimination of coloured people over the past centuries, white people should count themselves lucky that all we want is equality and not **revenge**."

<b>systemic racism</b>	- <i>check your course</i>
<b>struggle</b>	- <i>Kampf</i>
<b>equality</b>	- <i>Gleichheit</i>
<b>white supremacy</b>	- <i>Weiße Überlegenheit</i>
<b>extreme right parties</b>	- <i>rechtsradikale Parteien</i>
<b>hate speech</b>	- <i>Hasstiraden</i>
<b>to persist</b>	- <i>fortdauern</i>
<b>second-class citizens</b>	- <i>Bürger zweiter Klasse</i>
<b>to oppress</b>	- <i>unterdrücken</i>
<b>police brutality</b>	- <i>Polizeigewalt</i>
<b>mass incarcerations</b>	- <i>Masseneinsperrungen</i>
<b>racial profiling</b>	- <i>check your course</i>
<b>law enforcement</b>	- <i>Ordnungskräfte</i>
<b>judicial system</b>	- <i>Justizwesen</i>
<b>revenge</b>	- <i>Rache</i>

# CHECKPOINT

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**Can you answer these questions with adequate vocabulary?**

1. Why are people often afraid of the other and the unfamiliar?
2. How can we fight this fear of the other?
3. How do politicians fuel this fear of the other?
4. Which struggles do coloured people still face today?
5. Why should white people count themselves lucky because black people only want equality and not revenge? Explain.
6. Is racism a problem in your circle of friends?
7. Have you ever been exposed to racism? Explain.
8. How innocent is casual racism among friends or in chat groups?