

# RACISM

No person, race or culture is better than another.

Racism is when someone thinks their own race is superior to (or better than) other people's. The most common type of racism is when white people believe they are superior to people who have darker skin than them.

Racism has many terrible consequences. During the hundreds of years that the slave trade lasted, millions of black people were enslaved and bought, sold or killed by white people. More recently, from the 1940s to the 1990s in South Africa, the white ruling class had a system called **apartheid**, in which black and white people were separated. The white people had the best housing, education and jobs, and black people had a limited right to vote in elections.



*Between the 16th and 19th centuries, millions of Africans were captured and shipped across the Atlantic to work as slaves in plantations in the Americas. Many died on the journey.*

*Under the apartheid system in South Africa, which lasted from 1948 to the early 1990s, white people had their own beaches, transport, cinemas, restaurants and even hospitals that black people were not allowed to use.*

Indian South Africans also suffered from racism during apartheid. They had to stay in designated living areas and were not allowed to move freely. Many Indian South Africans played an important part in protesting and changing the injustice of apartheid.

Racism still affects people all over the world today. People are still discriminated against because of their skin colour or because they have different cultural or ethnic backgrounds.

Equal rights for all

Indian South Africans against apartheid

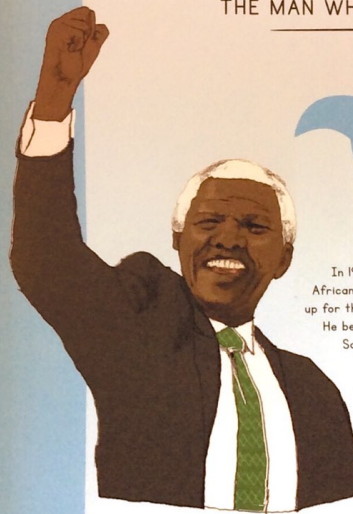


People have always fought to end racism. For example, when an innocent seventeen-year-old black teenager named Trayvon Martin was killed by a police officer in Sanford, USA in 2012 because of his race, his murder led to a huge anti-racism movement called #BlacklivesMatter, which eventually became a worldwide movement.

We can all help to fight racism too, by treating everyone with fairness and respect, and speaking out if we see anyone using racist actions or words.

## THE MAN WHO INSPIRED A NATION

'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion.'



In 1942, in South Africa, **Nelson Mandela** joined the African National Congress, an organisation formed to stand up for the rights of black South Africans and end apartheid. He became a leading figure in the fight against racism in South Africa. In 1963, he was imprisoned for sabotage and plotting against the government and went on to spend 27 years in prison. For many years, he was forced to do hard physical labour and made to sleep on the floor. However, when he was finally released in 1990, he entered into talks with the government and, in 1994, he became the first elected South African president and ended the apartheid system.

THINKING POINT

Nobody is born racist. Why do you think some people might grow up to have racist views?