

Conversation Café

RACISM

Racism is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized. It is the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

Racial prejudice is pre-formed personal opinions about individuals on the basis of their race. Racial discrimination is differences in treatment of people on the basis of characteristics which may be classified as racial, including skin color, cultural heritage, and religion. (e.g. John refuses to hire Mary because she is of race X.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced racism? What happened? How did you feel after your experience? Did you do anything to resolve the situation with the person who was expressing racism?
2. Is there racism in your home country? How is it expressed? Are there some ethnic groups which are considered less desirable?
3. What are some generalizations that people say about your first culture? Do you think these things are accurate? Why or why not?
4. If you had to explain your first culture to someone who knew very little about it, what are some things you would tell that person? What makes your first culture special?
5. What are some things you think about other cultures which are different from your own? Is this racism?
6. Is it considered okay, in your first culture, for people to marry someone from another race? What are some of the reasons behind these beliefs?
7. What are some ways societies can help their citizens become free of their racism?
8. If you had a friend who made a racist comment, how would you react to your friend?
9. What are some terrible things that happened in the world history because of racism?
10. Do you know of anyone who has fought racism – someone famous, or just someone known to you? What did this person do?



