

Human Rights

Black, white, yellow, grey

Racism occurs all over the world and is a big human rights issue. Racism is where one race discriminates against another and believes that they are superior. Much of racism happens in small ways. Wars and terrorism between nations can often be the result of racism just as much as name calling, exclusion and bullying between children at school.

The holocaust was a major racist event in the history of civilization and is an example of the evil of racism. Approximately six million Jews were killed just because of their race.

To prevent catastrophes like the holocaust from happening again, we need to first stop the small things from happening. If young people get away with racist behaviour now, they may continue it for the rest of their lives, believing that we are not all equal.

I have personally experienced racism. My school is very multicultural compared to most schools in my city. But still, some people find it hard to grasp the idea of equality. When I was in grade 7, students in the grades above me used to call me names like 'Ching Chang'. There are over one thousand girls in my school and sometimes total strangers would make nasty comments in the corridors. These remarks hurt me mentally and emotionally.

I am half Japanese and proud of it. Both my grandfathers fought in the Second World War but on different sides. They had to overcome their prejudice when they first met but very quickly became good friends. If former war time enemies can forget about their race and become friends so can students in the same class at school.

Sometimes though, I can experience problems, just like other children whose parents have a different background from the culture in which their children live. Children whose racial background is different from those around them have additional hurdles to overcome. They would be happy to have additional tolerance from their friends.

The relationship I have with my dad is also affected, in good ways and bad. Sometimes it's hard to communicate with him, not just in words but in a general understanding about how teenage life is in modern-day Australia. Hair dying and ear piecing are not acceptable to him at my age. These things also apply to my two older brothers, 16 and 18 years old. My eldest brother no longer visits dad because of similar conflicts. These examples may seem small and insignificant but they cause great tension, arguments and frustration within our family.

I'm very grateful to my dad and I love him very much because I know how much he has sacrificed to live in Australia here with us. My poor dad has experienced many racist remarks and because of this he lives a quiet life and keeps to himself.

I think racist remarks, in any form, are wrong. I've experienced being in different countries and cultures with people from other races and I have noticed that each race is made up of many individuals who share the same dreams. There might be differences in skin, religion, food and culture but most people have the same hopes for themselves and their family.

People are certainly different in many ways, but their goals for life in general are the same. Everyone wants to provide for their family, have a stable and healthy life and just live! I think these are by far the most important ideals in life, don't you? If we could all work together to achieve them our world would be a more peaceful and happier place.

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