# **RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

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### WHAT IS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION?

Racial discrimination is any discrimination against individuals on the basis of their skin color, racial, religion or ethnic origin. It involves treating someone unfavorably because he or she is of a certain race or because of personal characteristics associated with race such as hair texture, skin color, or certain facial features. It can also involve treating someone unfavorably because the person is married or associated with a person of a certain race or color. Discrimination can occur when the victim and the person who inflicted the discrimination are the same race or color.

Racism is not a new phenomenon, however in today's modern world it still exists and thrives

within some communities. While many are happy to embrace the diverse people

from different religions and colors, but there are many people who see them as a threat to

the society. When it occurs, especially on a personal level, it can cause disruption through

offensive comments, poor attitudes and sometimes violent outbursts. Racism can be

devasting to the culture and well-being of a country which can cause economic problems and

disruption, and have negative effects as a part of everyday life.

#### WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN COMMUNITIES?

Racism is still common in the modern world. In these communities we see signs of modern racism. The families of certain color or racial group are living in poverty and poor conditions and are unable to rise out of their disadvantaged state through employers which keeps them in low-paid positions or jobs. We see large numbers of certain ethnic groups being unfairly pursued by the justice system and are given harsher sentences for their crimes. Sometimes also, they are given convictions for crimes which they did not commit.

We even see discrimination in the education system from certain backgrounds who are

unable to gain access to the best schools and proper education. Therefore they are

unable to gain the right qualifications that they need to advance and progress into more high-level jobs or positions.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION GROWS?

A country with a racist mentality does not allow all of its people to contribute properly to the nation, thus resulting in limiting its success and development. For example: If an entire class of people cannot enjoy the same privileges as the rest of the society, then they would lack the educational and employment opportunities that would allow them to contribute to the overall economic well-being of the country with essential sectors such as medicine, economics, technology, etc. By limiting a race's ability to participate fully in the culture of the country then, they are unable to appreciate and understand similarities and differences between them which leads to social stagnation and might continue to do so through future generations. If racism continues to grows between communities, this will cause violence, conflicts, or riots among them.

#### WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL?

Individuals who experience racism in their everyday life find their parts in the society is very limited. They could have constant fear with low self-esteem as a side-effect. When someone faces harassment and mistreatment regularly throughout their life, they will see themselves as less worthy than they truly are and this might continue to do so as a cycle of oppression. If they don't value themselves then they will not be able to strive to attain more and this can cause problems that results in whole generations of families becoming trapped in disadvantaged situations. It is also common for them to deal with racism to become aggressive and resentful which could cause criminal behavior in an attempt to fight against the injustice.

## HOW TO DEAL WITH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION?

If a society, no matter how much it tries to separate the different races within it, it is important to realize that in the end of the day, people of all colors, races and religions have to interact with each other. Therefore, to encourage a happy peaceful future is to learn to appreciate and develop tolerance by understanding their culture, encouraging fellowship and have participation among the diverse communities. In this way, all the members of a society regardless of their race can be valued and make a difference for the future. Society as a whole can promote integration between its different communities to embrace its diversity and value each other equally.