

# HOW TO: IDENTIFYING RACISM 1/2



## \_WHAT IS THAT?

Racism is a form of discrimination. This means that people are judged, for example, on the basis of their appearance, their name or their (family or personal) origin or their language. Racism is the invention that there are different "races" of people. And racism is the invention that these "races" have an order or ranking. This means that it is claimed that some people are worth more than others. Racism exists on an individual, social and structural level.

## \_WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

- Report racist posts or delete them yourself if possible.
- If you believe the comment could violate the law: report it to an independent reporting office or to the police.
- Use a suitable strategy of **counter speech**.

Counter speech examples:

- Reply in the comment section and say that this is a racist statement – and that you don't think it's okay. It is important to name hurtful and dangerous comments and strategies and to show dissent.
- Show solidarity with those affected and support helpful comments with a "like".
- Write to the author personally (in a direct message) and explain the problem.

## \_HOW DO I IDENTIFY IT?

Racism can work in different ways: in open prejudice, discriminatory actions or hostile statements. But it can also be more subtle, as in unconscious prejudices or structural discrimination against certain groups. It is not easy to recognize it because we all grow up with racist stereotypes and prejudices. Nonetheless, racism attempts to divide people into unequal groups. One group is the "ideal standard", the "right" group. The group affected by racism, on the other hand, is devalued to the point of being deprived of various privileges: in extreme cases, this can lead to physical violence, expulsion and murder.

<https://la-red.eu/portfolio/miau>



## EXAMPLES:

The image shows a comment on the participation of a Muslim British woman in the Miss Great Britain beauty pageant. By suggesting that Muslims cannot be British at the same time, the comment is hostile to people as it spreads racist prejudices and stereotypes.

Below there is a comment that counters with humour by simply ignoring the racist implication of the first comment. Sometimes sarcasm and irony can also be used as a counter-strategy to express your dislike if you feel confident and don't want to get involved in discussions. But be careful: irony and sarcasm do not always work..

You can find more ideas and inspirations for counter-strategies at [SELMA-Hacking Hate](#).



Source: Instagram. @getthetrollsout

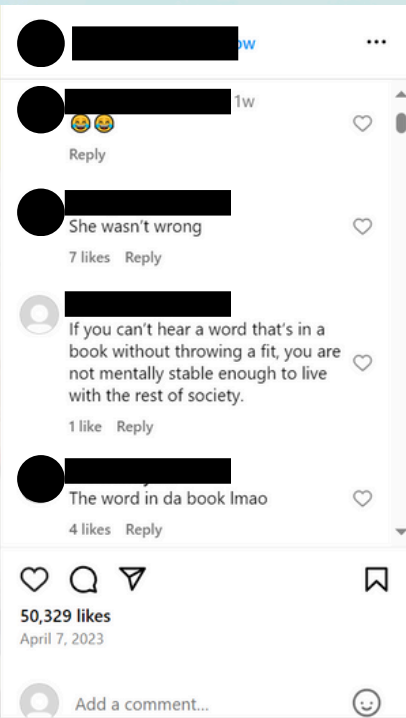
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# HOW TO: IDENTIFYING RACISM 2/2



## CALIFORNIA TEACHER CALLS STUDENTS SENSITIVE WHILE USING THE 'N-WORD' OVER 15 TIMES DURING LESSON



Source: Instagram: @domisiliveneews

The use of the N-word is considered racist when it is used by non-black people, because it is an alien term and was made up by white people in the time of slavery and colonization. This word was used to indicate that black slaves were worth less than their white oppressors. Hearing / reading this word can retraumatize many of those affected. Today, it is often used intentionally to devalue or hurt black people. It is therefore better to use self-chosen labels such as Black or Afro-German, Afro-American etc.

Read more in this text by [Grada Kilomba \(in German\)](#).

## COUNTER STRATEGIES:

### Try using counter speech:

- *The N-word has a historical meaning that cannot be denied. Even today, people are traumatized by their family history of slavery and affected by persisting racist structures. The use of this word hurts them again and again.*
- *Children's books do not change by removing racist words from them.*
- *We should listen to those affected, acknowledge their opinions and feelings in order to work together in solidarity.*
- *Using the N-word is not cultural property!*

### If you don't want to use counter speech, try the following strategies:

- Report the post to the platform and/or a reporting office and ensure that it is deleted, if possible!
- "Like" helpful comments to show your support!
- If the N-word is used in a comment against a person: This may even be a criminal offense because it is a racist insult. You can report it directly to the police or get help anonymously via reporting offices (see our first-aid-kit: "How to: dealing with hate speech").