

# UNITE! AGAINST RACISM!



**Human Rights and  
Anti-Discrimination  
Commission**

## Do you:

- Believe that you are superior because of the colour of your skin, your accent, where you come from, or your cultural practices?
- Oppress others in your own community because you believe in the negative stereotypes and prejudices of others? Exclude someone from a group or choose to not work with someone because you do not wish to engage with people from another background?
- Openly threaten, assault, or call someone names because they are of a different race?
- Leave a social event or a public place because a person or a group of people of a different race are also there?
- Assume that a person is unintelligent because of the way they look, their accent, or the sound of their name?

Racism is never okay. It divides people into “us” and “them” based on where we come from, our cultural beliefs and practices or the colour of our skin. Race is a social construct. This means that the society draws on ideas of race based on geographic, historical, political, economic, social and cultural factors, as well as physical traits, even though none of these can be used to justify racial dominance or racial prejudice. Racism happens in a lot of different ways. You are witnessing racism when:

- You hear people make “jokes” or negative comments about a particular ethnic group
- People are called racist names or verbally abused
- People are bullied, hassled, intimidated or physically abused because of their race
- People make offensive comments that encourages discrimination on the social media
- People are excluded from groups because they’re “different” or “don’t belong”
- When people advertise for prospective employees, renting or buying a place to live with a preference for a particular racial group
- People are denied equal opportunity and a life of dignity because of their race

## Know Your Rights: Racial Discrimination and the Law

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. While Fiji has strong human rights laws to address discrimination, it also has a legacy of institutionalised racism. This is why the Fijian Constitution guarantees the right to equality and freedom from discrimination.

Every person is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection, treatment and benefit of the law. Under Section 26 of the Constitution, a person cannot be unfairly discriminated against directly or indirectly because of his or her race, culture, ethnic or social origin and colour. The law also protects people from racial hatred in the form of hate speech directed towards any individual or community on the grounds of their race. Section 17(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji defines hate speech as an expression in whatever form that encourages or has the effect of encouraging discrimination.

## Unite Against Racism, It Stops With You

### What can you do?

- Become an ally of the anti-racism campaign
- Take action by speaking against racial injustices and promote a respectful and inclusive environment.
- Increase your awareness by being conscious of racist attitudes, language and stereotypes and challenge others’ negative assumptions about people.
- Educate yourself and others by learning more about diverse cultures and encourage others to do the same.

### What can you do if you are experiencing racism or discrimination?

**Contact the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission and file a complaint.**

#### POSTAGE:

The Director | Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission  
Private Mail Bag | General Post Office, Suva

#### HAND DELIVERY:

The Director | Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination  
Commission Ground Floor, Naibati House  
9 Goodenough Street, Suva

#### CALL THE COMMISSION:

Landline: (679) 3308577  
Mobile: (679) 970 9894  
Fax: (679) 3308661  
E-mail: [info@fhradc.org.fj](mailto:info@fhradc.org.fj)

#### ACCESS THE COMPLAINTS FORM ONLINE:

[www.fhradc.org.fj](http://www.fhradc.org.fj)