



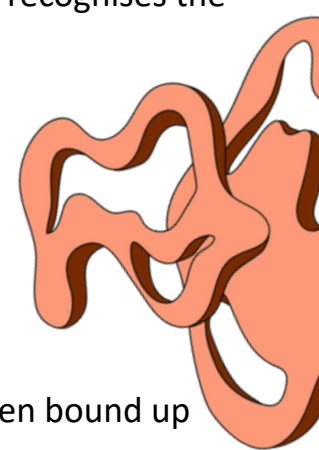
Report racism!

What is racism?

The EU Anti-Racism Strategy (2026-2030) adopts the definition of racism, defining it as:

"the belief that a ground such as race, colour, language, religion, nationality or national or ethnic origin justifies: (i.) contempt for a person or group of persons; or (ii.) the idea of superiority of a person or group of persons",

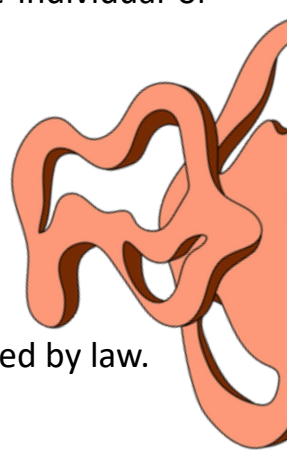
and while it understands that racism is experienced by a wide range of groups, it recognises the specific attributes of:

- anti-Black racism;
 - anti-Gypsyism/anti-Roma racism;
 - antisemitism / anti-Jewish racism;
 - anti-Asian racism;
 - anti-Muslim hatred;
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It also recognises that anti-immigrant hatred is a related phenomenon that is often bound up with and reinforces racism.

Not every manifestation of racism or racist incident can always be legally prosecuted; this is especially the case with structural and institutional racism, which requires a systemic approach.

However, it is important to understand that racism and its manifestations at the individual or group level can lead to:

- legally prohibited discrimination,
 - hate speech or
 - hate crimes,
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which entail the individual's legal responsibility and appropriate sanctions prescribed by law.

Examples of legally prohibited discrimination

- A Nigerian man wants to visit a nightclub with his friends. The bouncer lets his friends in, but turns the Nigerian away because his boss doesn't want "black people" in his club.
- A police officer stops a young Roma woman and searches her backpack, even though there is no evidence that she has committed any crime. The police officer tells the girl that, in his opinion, *"All Roma are thieves."*

This is also an example of racial profiling, which can be defined as:

"the use of generalizations or blanket inferences based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, or national origin, rather than on the individual conduct of one or more persons, or other objective evidence, as a basis for inference or suspicion: (i.) that people are potentially violating the law or intend to do so; and/or (ii.) in the exercise of police and other law enforcement powers."

You can read more about it here:

Challenging Ethnic Profiling in Europe – A Guide for Campaigners & Organizers

<https://www.justiceinitiative.org/publications/challenging-ethnic-profiling-in-europe-a-guide-for-campaigners-and-organizers>

- A real estate agency places an ad for an apartment in the newspaper. The ad emphasises that only European residents can rent the apartment.
- The employee, who is a migrant worker, is constantly referred to as "the black one" by two colleagues and during breaks, they tell jokes and pranks alluding to slavery and the subordination of black people.

You can find other examples and descriptions of legally prohibited discrimination here:

Guidelines for identifying cases of discrimination -

<https://www.ombudsman.hr/hr/download/smjernice-za-prepoznavanje-slucajeva-diskriminacije/>

Guideline on Race Discrimination - <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/hrc-cdp/PDF/guideline-race-discrimination.pdf>

Hate speech

There are several internationally recognised definitions of hate speech, however what they have in common is that they refer to a type of speech in public space that harms the human rights of different groups of people and contributes to their exclusion and discrimination. Although there are differing definitions of hate speech, all share the same three key elements:

- Hate speech is public speech, expressed in public space or disseminated into public space through the media, online platforms or social networks.
- Hate speech is speech that aims to attack, denigrate, devalue, dehumanise, demonise, deprive of rights, intimidate or incite a person or group of people, most often members of minority groups living in a society or other groups that are subject to discrimination or marginalisation due to their position.
- A person or group of people who are exposed to hate speech must be identifiable by some so-called protected characteristic due to which they are exposed to hate speech.
- The list of these protected characteristics is usually prescribed by anti-discrimination law and almost always includes race or ethnicity or skin colour, religion, political or other belief, and national or social origin.

Public incitement to violence or hatred directed against a group of people or a member of a group because of their racial, religious, national or ethnic origin or any other characteristics is a criminal offence, and you can read more about how to recognise hate speech and react to it here: <https://www.cms.hr/kako-prepoznati-govor-mrznje-i-reagirati-na-njega/>

Hate crime

A racist hate crime is a criminal offence that consists of:

- (i.) A criminal act, such as: violent attacks against individuals, threats or harassment, damage to or destruction of property, arson, theft, etc., and
- (ii.) A bias motivation connected to a protected characteristic (see above).

Bias motivations are based on preconceived opinions, stereotypical assumptions, intolerance or hatred directed towards a group that shares a common protected characteristic. These protected characteristics usually include race, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, and any other fundamental identity traits.

Bias motivation may be identified where:

- (I.) The perpetrator intentionally selected the victim or property because of a protected characteristic; Or
- (II.) The perpetrator expressed hostility towards a protected characteristic immediately before, during, or after the offence.

A hate crime does not require that the perpetrator feel hate. Instead, it requires only that the crime is committed with a bias motivation.

Find out more about hate crime via ODIHR's Tools and Resources to Address Hate Crime:
<https://hatecrime.osce.org/odihr-tools>

Resources for supporting victims of racism:

- Protocol to Support Victims of Racism and Discrimination -

<https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/sites/default/files/2022-04/Anti-racism%20Protocol%202022.pdf>

Why is it important to report discrimination, hate crime or hate speech to the relevant authorities?

When discrimination, hate crime or hate speech goes unreported, the harm extends far beyond the individual incident. It can impact whole communities and wider society.

Although the police and/or the state prosecutors in most cases should react to hate incidents happening on the territory of their jurisdiction, we see that this does not always happen. That is why it is important that if you have been a victim of a discrimination, hate crime or hate speech or in the event that you have witnessed such a hate incident, that you report it.

Reporting should trigger the criminal justice process, which can lead to official charges, the determination of individual responsibility, and associated sanctions.

When discrimination, hate crime or hate speech goes unreported:

- Such actions tend to be normalised, thereby creating a sense of impunity for perpetrators, enabling them to avoid accountability and, in some cases, reoffend.
- Over time, this perceived impunity can embolden individuals and groups who target others based on race, religion, ethnicity, or other protected characteristics.
- The invisibility of discriminatory incidents allows politicians and public bodies to justify their inactivity by official statistics claiming that discrimination, hate crime or hate speech are not happening or happening in lower amounts.
- Over time, this leads to an underestimation of the urgency of the issue, resulting in insufficient funding for prevention programs, victim services, community outreach, and specialised training for law enforcement.
- Finally, affected communities may feel that their experience of discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech is invisible or unacknowledged. This can erode trust in public institutions and weaken social cohesion.

Why is it important to keep records of discrimination, hate crime or hate speech within your own organisation?

Accurate data enables evidence-based policymaking, accountability deters future offences, and support services help victims recover. Without reporting, hate crimes remain hidden, perpetrators act with greater confidence, and both justice and prevention efforts are undermined.

That is why all organisations providing support to racialised minorities are invited to keep systematic records of discrimination, hate crime, or hate speech within their own organisation to pursue the higher goal of achieving accountability, prevention, and trust.

Internal organisational records should record the following data:

Incident date/timing	If exact timing is not possible, a range of likely dates should be recorded.
Incident location	The location of the event, name of the town, village, municipality, county or if descriptors of the location.
Publicly available sources of information	If there are any publicly available sources of information about the incident, the website address or location of each should be recorded.
Other Sources of Information	How did an organisation receive information about the incident (via providing free legal aid or psycho-social support, via telephone/e-mail, etc)

Descriptors of the person(s) targeted by the incident (victim/s)	Number and gender of victim(s) and their other descriptors (appearance, and visible or noticeable characteristics)
Residence Permit Holder	If this information is known to you, it is useful to register whether a person is a citizen of the country, a country-member of the European Economic Area, a temporary residence permit holder, a long-term or permanent residence permit holder, an asylum-seeker, a person with recognised asylum or subsidiary protection status, a tourist or a person on a short-term visa, or a person irregularly residing.
Descriptors of the Incident	There is no need to register legal qualifications. Descriptors should focus on what happened, when and where, and the type of attack (e.g., threats/harassing or threatening behaviour, physical assault, homicide, arson, vandalism, use of weapons or tools etc.), what persons were doing at the time of the incident, how the attacker(s) approached, whether anything was said, the tone in which it was said, and what happened next, and indicators of whether this continued in an online or other form.
Descriptors of the person/s who committed the incident	Number and gender of perpetrator(s) and their other descriptors (appearance, and visible or noticeable characteristics)
On what (discriminatory) basis do you believe the incident was committed, and why is it considered to be motivated by it? (Bias Indicators)	For example: race or ethnic origin or skin colour, sex, language, religion, political or other belief, national or social origin, property, trade union membership, education, social position, marital or family status, age, health, disability, genetic heritage, gender identity, expression or sexual orientation. Bias indicators can be present in the words used, the context of the incident (e.g., Pride Day), or the context of the perpetrators.
Consequences of the incident	Any consequences left on the victim, the witness or the property should be recorded.
Institutional Reaction	Any report to the police and/or the state attorney's office, or any other stakeholder, and any follow-up action should be recorded.
Attachment	If there are any, register any image, video recording, sound recording, or other type of attachment.

Where to report it?

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is collecting data and information on hate incidents that occurred in the OSCE region in 2025. You can contribute by reporting hate crimes using their template, available here: <https://hatecrime.osce.org/civil-society>.

Irish Network Against Racism - iReport

You can report racist incidents (both of a criminal and non-criminal nature) to the Irish Network Against Racism – INAR online platform iReport. iReport is a national data-collection and monitoring mechanism that provides evidence and data on racism in Ireland.

DostaJeMrznje.org

You can report racist incidents (both criminal and non-criminal) to the Croatian online platform DostaJeMrznje.org. The DostaJeMrznje portal is a national data-collection and monitoring mechanism that provides evidence and data on racism in Ireland.



FRED - Fostering Racial Equality and Diversity
CERV-2023-EQUAL - GA 101144751

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them. The project is also co-financed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia. The views expressed in these activities are the sole responsibility of the Centre for Peace Studies and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia.