

EVERYDAY RACISM

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October 7, 2025

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Mohammed looti (2025). *EVERYDAY RACISM*. Encyclopedia of psychology. Retrieved from <https://encyclopedia.arabpsychology.com/?p=12442>

Everyday racism is a concept that refers to the various forms of racial discrimination that occur in everyday life. The term was coined by sociologist William Cross in 1971 to describe the subtle, often unintentional, forms of racism that people of color experience in their daily lives. Everyday racism can manifest in a variety of ways, such as in microaggressions, verbal and nonverbal communication, and discriminatory policies. This article will cover the concept of everyday racism and how it impacts individuals and societies.

The concept of everyday racism was first introduced by William Cross, a black sociologist, in 1971. He argued that racism was not just an individual prejudice, but a system that had far-reaching effects on society. Cross described everyday racism as "the collective failure of a society to provide an equitable distribution of its resources and opportunities to all of its members, regardless of race." This definition has been widely accepted in the social sciences and has been further refined over the years.

One of the most common forms of everyday racism is microaggressions. Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional, acts of racism that occur on a daily basis. Examples of microaggressions include the use of racial slurs, jokes about a person's race, or making assumptions about someone's racial identity. These acts of racism can have a profound effect on the person receiving them, causing feelings of hurt, anger, and fear.

Aside from microaggressions, everyday racism can also manifest in the form of verbal and nonverbal communication. This includes making negative statements about someone's race or using language that reinforces racial stereotypes. It can also include body language, such as avoiding eye contact with someone of a different racial background, or failing to acknowledge their presence.

In addition to verbal and nonverbal communication, everyday racism can also be found in discriminatory policies and practices. Examples of this include unequal access to housing, education, or employment opportunities based on race. It can also include discriminatory laws and regulations, such as voter ID laws or immigration laws that disproportionately target people of color.

Everyday racism has a profound effect on individuals and societies. For individuals, it can cause feelings of anger, fear, and sadness. It can also lead to mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety. On a larger scale, everyday racism can lead to systemic inequality and injustice. It can create an environment where people of color are denied equal access to resources and opportunities, leading to a lack of economic and social mobility.

In conclusion, everyday racism is a pervasive form of discrimination that affects individuals and societies. It manifests in a variety of ways, such as in microaggressions, verbal and nonverbal communication, and discriminatory policies. Everyday racism has a profound effect on individuals

and societies, leading to feelings of anger, fear, and sadness, as well as systemic inequality and injustice.

References

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