

## Racism

Isabella and I together worked on the topic racism and we have to admit that we did not come very far concerning of collecting information about it. As we can know many definitions are being shown in the internet, defining racism and its roots. So at first we would like to present to you one of these definitions as it is very superficial:

“Racism is the belief that a particular race is superior or inferior to another, that a person’s social and moral traits are predetermined by his or her inborn biological characteristics. Racial separatism is the belief, most of the time based on racism, that different races should remain segregated and apart from one another.



Racism has existed throughout human history. It may be defined as the hatred of one person by another -- or the belief that another person is less than human -- because of skin color, language, customs, and place of birth or any factor that supposedly reveals the basic nature of that person. It has influenced wars, slavery, the formation of nations, and legal codes.”

Now we got a short and quick overview of how racism is being defined today and in our modern world. Nevertheless we still have questions and think that racism can't be simply defined so that everybody knows what someone is doing when he says slit eye/Chink, wog or Eytie.

For me personally it is important to know why people behave like this, what is their motivation and what do they want to express with this action and what do they expect as a backlash?

When does it start? For example do I behave racist when I ask someone from which country he comes from because I see or hear that he is not an inhabitant? There is a word in German which is called “Schwarz-fahren” it means driving in a public vehicle without a ticket. The origin of this word lies in the opinion that white is good and black is bad, pleasant and negative things. This thinking of black and white is still active in our minds and influences us every day, like “Schwarzarbeit” (illegal employment). Why do we still use these expressions when they are so racist? Can't we say whitedriving (“weißfahren”)?

For Isabella racism and discrimination goes hand in hand and it can be seen in different relations. Discrimination means for her personally discriminating people because of one of their attributes. Unfortunately our society is not relieved yet from all prejudices. She for example experienced several types of discrimination; the fact that she is an immigrant definitely influenced her whole life. When she moved to Germany she went through all these types of discrimination and she found out what it means to be an “outsider”. Being discriminated because of the way you speak, the way you look, the way you behave.

The society seems to be like a big unified group and you aren't a member of it, you don't belong to them because you are different. But as time passes she dealt with the idea of being different showing them what they can learn from her and what she can learn from them and that's in fact the key, in Isabella's point of view, for abolishing discrimination, starting to be open-minded. What she experienced can be reflected on to the whole world.

If everyone starts to open his mind and sees the differences and accepts them, these new influences can bring new knowledge to everyone.

Furthermore, think about how strong our world could be if we all work together! Think about how many different cultures influence your daily life every single time!  
Your Pizza is Italia, your electronic innovations are from China and clothes are imported from India.

So how can racism exist in a world where everyone depends on each other? How can discrimination happen every day?

She thinks we also have to consider the lack of education as a reason for that. Racism is based on the lack of education because people tend to discriminate all the things they don't know and maybe therefore also fear.

This is a natural reflex of every human but it has to be controlled and worked upon. Therefore the second key is improving education so that we do not develop prejudices and fears.

Written by Isabella and Sabrina