

Reporting Racial and Religious Discrimination

FACT SHEET

What is racial and religious discrimination?

When someone is treated less favourably because of their religion or race.

Why report racial and religious discrimination?

Even if you don't want to take legal action, there are significant reasons why it's important to report racism or religious discrimination when you experience or witness it.

✓ Raising awareness

Reporting raises awareness about the existence and impact of racism and religious discrimination. This, in turn, educates the public and authorities about the importance of addressing these issues.

✓ Promoting positive change

By reporting, you contribute to the broader effort to eliminate racism and religious discrimination.

✓ Holding perpetrators accountable

Reporting provides a mechanism for holding individuals or organisations accountable for discriminatory actions.

✓ Protecting individuals and communities

Reporting can help protect individuals and communities from the harmful effects of racism and religious discrimination. It sends a message that such behaviour will not be tolerated.

How do I report racial or religious discrimination?

There are several ways to report racial or religious discrimination depending on the context it occurs in.

For example, if your employer discriminates against you, you may be able to complain to the Fair Work Ombudsman. If you experience discrimination resulting from the actions of a federal agency, you may be able to complain to the Australian Human Rights Commission. If you see online hate messages, you may be able to report this to the eSafety Commissioner. There are many other ways to complain or report discrimination.

If you are not sure who to make a report to, contact the [Racial and Religious Discrimination Legal Service Inc](#) for advice.

What information should I include?

✓ Details of the incident

Write down what happened, including dates, times, and locations. Be specific about the words or actions that made you feel that this was discriminatory behaviour.

✓ Witnesses

If there were any witnesses, gather their contact information.

✓ Evidence

Where possible, collect evidence such as photos, videos, or screenshots.

Remember

✓ Stay safe

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call the police.

✓ Timeliness

Report incidents as soon as possible as there may be time limits within which you can lodge a complaint.

