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CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS TO RACISM AROUND THE WORLD

Racism and its lingering effects have long been debated by people of color as the root of evil. Many times if it doesn’t affect you directly, you may not understand the significance of racism. Racism can be seen as prejudice, discrimination or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one’s own race is superior. Racism has been seen continuously in several countries throughout generations including Nigeria. I feel as we the people see one race is greater than another.

No one is sure of the exact cause of racism. There are many reasons. A few things that may contribute to racism and racially motivated violence are: Xenophobia, the fear of people who are different, an element of xenophobia is present in racism, deep fear can express itself in racially motivated violence; a need to feel OK, to feel worthwhile, this can result in people wanting to feel superior to others; Promotion of the idea that attempts to end discrimination and inequality are reverse discrimination and reverse racism; Historic patterns of prejudice, discrimination, and racism. Colonialism, historic hostilities, and the slave trade contribute to modern racism; Ignorance of other cultures, religions, and values; Fear of sharing power with other groups of people; Laws and government policies aimed at preventing immigration of people of different cultures and religions.

Racism can be prevented by the following ways: Learning to recognize and understand your own privilege. One of the first steps to eliminating racial discrimination is learning to recognize and understand your own privilege; by examining your own biases and consider where they may have originated. What messages did you receive as a kid about people who are different from you? What was the racial and/or ethnic make-up of your neighborhood, school, or religious community? Why do you think that was the case? These experiences produce and reinforce bias, stereotypes, and prejudice, which can lead to discrimination; by validating the experiences and feelings of people of color. Another way to address bias and recognize privilege is to support the experiences of other people and engage in tough conversations about race and injustice; Challenging the “colorblind” ideology. It is a pervasive myth that we live in a “post-racial” society where people “don’t see color.” Perpetuating a “colorblind” ideology [actually contributes to racism](http://everydayfeminism.com/2015/02/colorblindness-adds-to-racism/); Calling out racist “jokes” or statements. [Let people know that racist comments are not okay](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg1aTLsS69Y). If you are not comfortable or do not feel safe being confrontational, try to break down their thought process and ask questions; finding out how your company or school works to expand opportunities for people of color; Be thoughtful with your finances. Take a stand with your wallet. Know the practices of companies that you invest in and the charities that you donate to. Make an effort to shop at small, local businesses and give your money back to the people living in the community. Your state or territory may have a directory of local, minority-owned businesses in your area; adopt an intersectional approach in all aspects of your life. Remember that all forms of oppression are connected. You cannot fight against one form of injustice and not fight against others.

I believe that it is possible for the future generation to change.