

What Does Racism Look Like In 2025?

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With the first reports of racism being dated from over 100 years ago, most people would think that by 2025 humans would have conquered the social injustice. However, the reality is quite the contrary. Rather than making headway and putting an end to prejudice targeted from one racial group to another, our generation has been moving backward, increasing the rate of racism and contributing to alarming statistics. While there are multiple factors that promote anti-racism, this effort is overcome by the normalisation and usual occurrence of racism itself. Over time, the ways in which racism is projected has been changing and developing drastically, causing a detrimental impact on today's, as well as past generations. But rather than focusing on what racism looked like in the past, this essay will discuss exactly what racism looks like today, in 2025.

In 2025, there are numerous social issues that everyone has to face, for example; Inequality and crime, however another common and serious social issue is racism. Racism has progressed rapidly over the years and the ways in which it is projected has become extremely alarming. In today's day and age we see racism in many forms, the most common ones being; Systemic Racism, Cultural Racism and Online Racism. Each form of racism is unacceptable and despite the world's efforts to end them, they become worse every day. To expand your knowledge on racism in 2025, let's go through what each form looks like today.

Out of the previously mentioned forms of racism, Online Racism is the most destructful. With the internet being a universe brewing with hatred and calamity, racism is part of the most talked about topics. You can only imagine what people are saying to add to the influence of racism. Today, in the media, we see the normalization of racial slurs, attacks on racial groups and the growth of stereotypes. As a young South African Indian woman, I have seen and experienced all of these examples of Online Racism. For example, seeing people online casually using slurs such as 'Curry Muncher' or seeing the stereotype that Indians are 'dirty' and that their customs and beliefs are amusing. Alternatively, we see people online mocking Indians for things such as using coconut oil in their hair, practicing yoga and using Turmeric in their food. It is usually Netizens from the West that ridicule Indians for these practices, saying they have greasy hair, that yoga is weird or only for hippies and that Turmeric smells pungent and is uncanny to use. However, it is the same people that scorn Indians for partaking in these traditional practices that come up with their own variations and ideology based on these traditions. For example, Coconut oil is being marketed as a modern wellness product and is sold

at inflated prices than what it is sold for in Indian markets. People have now made slicked back and oily hair a trend, having your hair appear oily is now admired and not detested, whilst South Asians face scrutiny for using coconut oil in their hair. Then, Turmeric which is now showcased as an expensive 'superfood', giving no credit to Indians or South Asians for the common usage of the spice. Lastly, the ridicule of yoga being turned into a money-making industry which ignores the spiritual and cultural roots of the mind-body exercise. Despite South Asians facing great scrutiny for their traditions, they are not the only race group that has to face racism online. Another common form of racism online is cultural appropriation which has recently been worsening in 2025. Cultural appropriation can take place against any race group but it is mainly targeted at Black people. Offenders do not face any consequences as their cultural appropriation is highly overlooked. An example of cultural appropriation are people adopting styles rooted in African culture, such as; braids, slang and racial impersonation, whilst African people are criticized or stereotyped for the same thing. Black people have also been heavily criticized and called 'unprofessional' for wearing their natural hair or braids, whereas non-Black people have been praised for doing the same thing, further showing how biased and racist people can be in 2025.

Moving onto the next form of racism, systemic racism, also known as institutional racism. Systemic racism refers to racist ideas and practices that have been instilled into generations of societies, communities and industries. These ideas and practices lead to many disadvantages to those affected by racism which cause further societal concerns. Systemic racism restrains deserving people of opportunities, whilst giving benefits to those that spread racism and do not deserve it. The most common sectors for systemic racism to take place would be the education and legal sector. In the legal system there is great injustice towards people of colour, who statistically face and endure racism more often than others. Another common ideology is that people of colour commit more crimes than other people, making a negative contribution to the unfair legal system of 2025. This racist ideology also showcases systemic racism in the legal system, further proving how easily people can be accused of things they did not commit purely based on their race or the colour of their skin. People of colour, especially Black people, face more severe prison sentences than others. This is extremely unfair as other people who have committed the same crimes, if not worse, than people of colour receive shorter and more lenient sentences when going to prison. This is highly overlooked in the legal system, making the fate of people of colour even worse. In the education sector, systemic racism is evidently present in many ways. Teachers that are Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and Asian are generally sent to teach at lower-income, poverty-stricken schools, whilst other teachers are sent to private and high-income schools that pay well. Another factor that goes hand in hand with this is that children that belong to the previously mentioned race groups are not offered admission at well-resourced schools, despite meeting the requirements, due to their race or ethnic background. Unfortunately,

because of this, they are forced to attend underfunded schools where they cannot work to their academic potential and aim for higher goals and achievements. This is unfair to academically gifted students and is an academic setback for them. Teachers that are people of colour are also severely underpaid compared to their colleagues, despite their hard work and effort. These examples and factors show the sorrowful truth of systemic racism in 2025.

Moving onto our last form of racism; cultural racism. Cultural racism refers to the belief that one racial group is superior to another. The belief is based off stereotypes and ideas that stem off other racial groups, which are untrue and just bias. These beliefs are imprinted into communities and societies and get passed down for generations, continuing the widespread damage of cultural racism. Cultural racism includes mocking, erasing traditions, customs and values of a minority or marginalized group of people. This type of racism plays a leading role in media and entertainment industries, along with the way people of colour are represented. Examples of this could be stereotypes in movies and television series. All race groups have a certain way in which they are presented in the entertainment industry, which is always inaccurate and stereotypical. For example, Black people are usually criminals, Asians are nerds or extremely intelligent and Latinos/Latinas are overly seductive and loud. These representations have an adverse effect on younger and future generations as they believe that these stereotypes are true and soon their view on these racial groups change. In 2025 it is not rare to see these representations in the media and if we do not put an end to it now, the cycle of cultural racism is going to continue for many generations to come. Another example of cultural racism that is common in 2025 is mocking people for traditional clothing and hairstyles. When individuals wear traditional clothing such as Saris or Dashikis, they get insulted. However, when those traditional clothing pieces are worn by others and start trending, nobody mocks them or brings them down for wearing those clothes. Showing how biased our society can be when it comes to racism, something you would not expect in 2025.

To briefly answer the question, what does racism look like in 2025? It often appears as unfair double standards, where the things a person of colour is mocked or targeted for are not the same challenges faced by others. While some people live their lives without ever confronting racism, for many it remains a daily reality filled with uncertainty about what ignorant or hurtful remarks they might face. This ongoing struggle shows that racism in 2025 is both subtle and pervasive, shaped by new forms but rooted in old prejudices. Ending racism requires not only recognizing these evolving expressions but also committing ourselves to actively dismantling the injustices so that society can become truly fair and inclusive for all.

Word Count - 1493 words