



AhmedKathrada
Foundation
Deepening Non-Racialism

Ahmed Kathrada Foundation's National Essay Writing Competition Against
Racism Entry Form

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Poetry: Racism in 2025

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It does not always shout in the streets anymore,
sometimes it hides inside the computers, an app,
that ignores our names,
a camera that cannot see our faces.

It hides in the shopkeeper's stare,
the silent question: Do you belong here?
It shows in meetings where voices are ignored,
in salaries that don't match the work done.

It changes shape, wearing new clothes,
fanny memes, harsh comments, secret jokes,
but the old wound is still there,
harking when doors are closed.

Still, we rise
young voices calling for truth,
communities building a better future,
dreaming of a world where difference is
strength,
and every heartbeat is part of the same song.

By: Ngobile Thwala.

Topic: What racism looks like in 2025

Many people think racism is something from the past, like slavery or apartheid. But in 2025, racism still exists. It just looks different now. My poem "Racism in 2025" explains how racism shows up in ~~more~~ modern times, in technology, in everyday life, and in the way people are treated. It also shows that young people are fighting for change.

In the first part of the poem, I wrote about racism hiding inside computers. I said, "sometimes it hides inside the computers, an app that ignores our names, a camera that cannot ^{see our faces}". This shows how technology can be unfair. For example, some faces scanners don't work properly for people with darker skin. Some online systems, like job applications, also carry unfair rules from the past. This proves that even machines can carry racism if people are not careful when they make them.

The second part of the poem talks about daily life. "It hides in the shopkeeper's stare, the silent question: Do you belong here?" This line shows how people of colour may be treated unfairly in shops or in public. They may be watched closely, or people may act like they don't belong. These actions are called microaggressions. They may seem small, but they hurt because they happen all the time.

I also wrote about racism at work: "It shows in meetings where voices are ignored, in salaries

that don't match the work done. "This means that some people don't get the same chances at work or school because of their race. They might not be promoted, or they may earn less than others who do the same job. This shows that racism is not only about rude words, but also unfair systems."

Later in the poem, I said racism "changes shape, wearing new clothes". This means that racism in 2025 is often hidden. Instead of open insults, it can be in jokes, memes, or rules that quietly exclude people, like unfair laws about immigrants. It may look different, but the pain is the same.

Even though racism is still strong, my poem ends with hope: "Still, we rise young voices calling for truth, communities building a better future." Today, many young people are speaking out against racism. They use social media, school projects, and community events to make their voices heard. They want a world where everyone is treated fairly, no matter the race or background.

In conclusion, my poem shows that racism in 2025 is still alive, but it hides in new places like technology, daily life, and workplaces. It also shows that people are not giving up. Young voices are powerful, and together, we can build a future where racism is no longer part of our world.

Word Count: 503