

Punainen Risti 



## RACISM QUIZ



# 1. REPLY

## A Prejudice against people of a different origin

Racism is the prejudiced attitude that a person or group of people of an ethnic origin, skin colour, nationality, culture, mother tongue or religious affiliation that is different to one's own is somehow inferior. Racism, therefore, demeans human dignity.

Over time, what is meant by the concept of racism has changed and will surely continue to do so in the future. Over recent decades, our understanding of the term 'racism' has shifted fundamentally away from 'biological' racism and towards 'cultural' racism. Culture-based racism is a prejudiced attitude that rates people and racially identifies them on the basis of, for example, their culture, language, religion or customs. Racism is often based on an erroneous belief that one's own group of people is superior or preferable to others.

Racism occurs and is confirmed through the everyday actions and practices of people and institutions, in the laws that govern society, in its rules and cultural practices. Racism causes inequality and damages not only the people affected by it but society as a whole. The equal fundamental rights guaranteed by the Finnish Constitution and the Non-Discrimination Act prohibit both direct and indirect racism and any other discriminatory behaviour.

• **Racialization = a way of thinking that separates people into different racial groups. Such categorisation generates and maintains a hierarchy of ethnic groups in society as well as structures and functions that reinforce divisions.**

# 1. QUESTION

## What is meant by 'racism'?

- A Prejudice against people of a different origin
- B Megalomania, delusions of grandeur
- C Someone is a recluse
- D Egomania, exaggerated love of self



Punainen Risti 



## 2. REPLY

### D There is no single definition

'Racist' and 'racism' are powerful concepts that can be misused. Various parties to a conversation may understand the terms differently, which can make it difficult for them to reach common ground or establish true dialogue. There is no single definition for what is a racist. Few people identify themselves as racist or even acknowledge the racism of their actions or words.

Criminal law states that an act is racist if the perpetrator had a racist motive. But a racist motive is difficult to prove, and sticking with that criminal definition of racism leaves us with a very limited concept. At worst, racism is defined so narrowly that it cannot be legally proved that a person is racist nor that racism even exists.

Often, a perpetrator of racism is unaware of the ill effects caused by their activities or of the racist impact they have. Which is why it is more important to evaluate what makes an action or practice discriminatory, rather than to quibble about whether or not someone is a racist. It can sometimes be difficult for a person of the majority race to understand that even a gesture or facial expression, a joke, or the unthinking exclusion of someone from a group, can be racist. That is why it is important to ask people who have experienced racism what they consider to be racist.

- **It is more important to focus on why an action or practice is discriminatory rather than to quibble about whether someone is a racist or not.**

## 2. QUESTION

### What is a racist?

- A A political stamp
- B A criminal
- C Follower of a given ideology
- D There is no single definition



Punainen Risti 



## 3. REPLY

- B You say to the person who was insulted that you are sorry for what they are being subjected to**
- C You rebuke the person who was abusive**
- D You notify the police**

A significant proportion of racism in Finland is direct racist abuse that occurs in public spaces. Ethnic minorities and people who look different to the majority are particularly vulnerable to direct racist insult or acts in public places. It is important that we immediately and visibly react to public expressions of racism. For the victim, it can be additionally traumatic if no witness is prepared to protest on their behalf.

It is wise to have thought about and rehearsed how you might react against such racism. Having considered beforehand what stance you would take makes it easier to react if you do happen to witness an act of racism. Action does not require heroism. It can take the form of demonstrating your respect for the victim by standing with them and saying something conversational. However, in a threatening situation, you must also take care of your own safety.

- **Direct racism = a person is treated worse than another on the basis of actual or perceived ethnic origin.**
- **Indirect racism = an apparently neutral act, criterion or practice that puts a person of an ethnic minority in a less favourable position than a person of the ethnic majority.**

## 3. QUESTION

**You are walking down the street. You hear a passer-by use a racial slur against another person. What do you do?**

- A You walk past them
- B You say to the person who was insulted that you are sorry for what they are being subjected to
- C You rebuke the person who was abusive
- D You notify the police



**Punainen Risti** 



## 4. REPLY

### B Discriminatory legislation

Activities, practices and structures within society may have features that unintentionally put an individual or an entire population group into a position of inequality, even though there may not be any actual racist motive behind the practices. Such racism can be difficult to detect, especially from a position of privilege.

For example, structural racism occurs where the power and right to speak up in a society is not equally available to all its members. Ask yourself, whose voice and experience is broadcast through the mass media? A concrete example of structural racism could be when a job-seeker is required to have a perfect command of Finnish or Swedish, even though language skills are not germane to the work itself.

Power structures and structural racism can also affect people's right to define themselves and their background, rather than have an assumed identity ascribed to them.

**• Structural racism is difficult to detect from a position of privilege or power. Whose interests are served by the apparently equal practices and regulations within society? How are people from ethnic minorities represented in the media?**



## 4. QUESTION

**Which of the following is an example of structural racism?**

- A Speaking negatively
- B Discriminatory legislation
- C Nazism
- D Being anti-Islam



**Punainen Risti** 



## 5. REPLY

### D None of the above

In Finland there is no law or regulation stating that any person residing or staying in the country is required to carry any form of identification. In accordance with the Finnish Constitution, all people are equal before the law and no one should be treated differently – for instance, on the grounds of ethnicity – without acceptable cause. Ethnic profiling by the authorities is prohibited.

Who looks foreign? Who looks Finnish? We have a lot of prejudices in connection with appearance, but in reality we cannot infer anything at all merely on the basis of how a person looks. The largest groups of foreign nationals in Finland are Estonians and Russians, people whose looks closely resemble those of ethnic Finns. Asking people to identify themselves on the basis of their appearance is in breach of the Non-Discrimination Act.

- **We cannot know anything about a person based on their appearance. What does a Finn look like? What does a foreigner look like? Associations based on appearance are stereotypes.**

## 5. QUESTION

**What should always be carried by anyone who looks foreign in Finland?**

- A Their passport
- B Their residence permit
- C Their ID card
- D None of the above



**Punainen Risti** 



## 6. REPLY

### No

People who migrate to Finland, and women in general, cannot be assumed to be born carers nor, indeed, anything else. However, a deep-seated perception persists that migrant women are particularly keen on nursing. For example, after the initial training given to migrants in Finland, the women are often encouraged to join training programmes in nursing, and may feel they have little choice but to agree. Women from Africa are often seen to represent community cultures in which it is considered natural for women to care for children and the infirm. Such expectations and the pressure felt by migrants to take up a given career are based on prejudiced misunderstanding and do not support the equal right of each individual to decide what education or work they want to pursue. Each person should be treated as an individual with their own strengths, weaknesses and plans for the future.

- **That someone is a woman or has migrated to Finland does not automatically mean anything. Everyone should have the same right to define their own identity and choose their own career.**

## 6. QUESTION

**Would it be valid to state that 'migrant women love to care for others and are therefore particularly well suited to working as nurses'?**

Yes / No



Punainen Risti 



## 7. REPLY

- A Discuss the matter with the doorman**
- B Ask to speak to the doorman's supervisor**
- C Report the crime to the police**

In Finland, the Non-Discrimination Act prohibits discrimination according to age, ethnic or national origin, nationality, language, religion, belief, opinion, health, disability, sexual orientation, or for any other personal reason. The law is binding both for the authorities and for businesses or employers.

The wearing of any form of national dress or traditional clothing is not in itself a valid reason for denying a service to anyone. When reacting to a racist situation it should be remembered that in business, the public services or in the workplace, it is a criminal offence to discriminate against a person or people on grounds of their origin. Any such instances of discrimination should be reported to the police or, at the very least, dealt with in some other manner. It is easier to file a report if you have noted down in writing the details of what happened, including the time and place, who the perpetrator was, and whether or not there were any witnesses.

## 7. QUESTION

**You queue, dressed in traditional Roma clothes, to get into a nightclub. The doorman asks to see your ID card. Having seen it, he refuses to let you enter. What should you do?**

- A Discuss the matter with the doorman
- B Ask to speak to the doorman's supervisor
- C Report the crime to the police
- D Walk away



Punainen Risti 



## 8. REPLY

**A A friend or the nearest adult**

**B A teacher**

**C The police**

A racist action (such as incitement to racial or ethnic hatred, racist violence and slurs) is a criminal offence and should be reported to the police. In reality, the police are only informed of a small proportion of the racist acts that occur. Studies show that, typically, only extreme forms of racist activities, such as violence, are reported to the police.

You should always tell someone in authority about a racist incident that you have either experienced or witnessed, even if it was one of the more subtle forms of racism, such as unspoken discrimination or a verbal insult. We should all be ready to react to any form of racism. However, deciding what corrective action needs to be taken is the responsibility of adults. People who have experienced racism should not be left to deal with this issue on their own, and should not feel that the responsibility of reaction lies only them.

**• A significant proportion of racist actions are never made public. But we can all be part of creating a climate in which it is safe to talk about a person's experience of racism and other forms of discrimination. At worst, doing nothing gives rise to the impression that racist behaviour is acceptable. Such a culture of silence and non-involvement provides a breeding ground for racism.**



## 8. QUESTION

**Who should you notify about racist activities?**

- A A friend or the nearest adult
- B A teacher
- C The police
- D Nobody, it should be kept a secret



**Punainen Risti** 



## 9. REPLY

### A Racism

A crime committed against a person or group of people is called a 'hate crime' when it is motivated by prejudice against or hatred of the victim's perceived or actual ethnic or national background, religious conviction or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability.

In 2012, some 87% of all hate crimes in Finland included a racist element. The next most common motive (approximately 6%) was related to the victim's religious conviction or belief. In 2012, a total of 957 racially motivated crimes were reported in Finland.

Most hate crimes occur in real life, not online. Only a small proportion of hate crimes are perpetrated online. Most hate crimes occur in public places, on the streets, in restaurants or bars, or in residential buildings where the victim lives, and in stairwells. Of the hate crimes committed online, most reported cases occurred on Facebook.

**Hate crimes online should first be reported to the administrator of the site. If the harassment continues, contact the Finnish web police at <http://www.poliisi.fi/nettipoliisi>**

## 9. QUESTION

**What was the biggest motive for hate crimes in 2012?**

- A Racism
- B Religion
- C Sexual orientation
- D Disability



**Punainen Risti** 



## 10. REPLY

### No

Racism is difficult to eradicate unless we know how to identify and name it. The public debate on racism should focus on whether or not an action or words are disrespectful and hurtful to a person's human dignity and what impact it has on an individual.

Discussing racism creates an arena in which its victims can talk about their experience. Raising the subject of racism signals to other people that we object to all forms of racism and want to help victims of it so they don't have to fight it on their own or have to learn to live with it. There is no justification for staying silent about racism – it clearly exists and will not go away without people being made aware of it.

- **It is difficult to fight racism if we don't identify and name it. Identification requires an open discussion on racism. Talking about it signals that racism is not acceptable.**

## 10. QUESTION

**Source:**

**Is it true that racism increases when it is talked about?**

Yes / No



**Punainen Risti** 



**[www.eirasismille.fi/asennetalkoot](http://www.eirasismille.fi/asennetalkoot)**

**More information:**

[www.eirasismille.fi](http://www.eirasismille.fi)

Kanninen, Satu & Markkula, Heli 2011. R-sana:  
Kirja rasismista ja siihen puuttumisesta (Pelastakaa Lapset ry)

[www.equality.fi](http://www.equality.fi)

[www.keks.fi](http://www.keks.fi)

[www.poliisi.fi](http://www.poliisi.fi)