What Is Structural Racism?

Part 3: What Is Racism?
Words to Know in Part 3

discrimination

Discrimination is treating someone unfairly because of who they are.

people of color

People of color are people who are not white, or who belong to more than one race.
**race**

Race is one way that society groups people. There are different races people can belong to. Each person can be part of one race or multiple races.

Some examples are:

- Black
- White
- Asian
- Latinx

**racism**

Racism is when people discriminate against others because of their race.

**white supremacy**

The racist idea that white people are better than people of color.
What is racism?

Racism is when people discriminate against others because of their race.

When someone discriminates, they treat someone unfairly because of who they are.

In the US, racism affects people of color.

People of color are people who are not white, or who belong to more than one race.

For example, someone can be Black and white. This person can experience racism. They are a person of color.

Some white people believe that they are better than people of color.

A lot of the people who made rules and laws for the US throughout history believed this.
The idea that white people are better than people of color is called **white supremacy**.

Saying that racial groups are based on science is part of white supremacy. It is not true.

White supremacy is wrong!

White supremacy is racist.

White supremacy is a big problem in the US!

White supremacy is also a big problem in other countries.

This toolkit is about racism in the US.
There are different kinds of racism.

Sometimes individual people do racist things.

People treat others unfairly because of their race.

They might do this because they believe lies about people from certain races.

People can be racist without knowing they are being racist.

For example:

Bob is renting out an apartment.

Harold wants to rent the apartment. Harold is Latinx.

When Bob meets Harold, Bob thinks that he doesn't want to rent the apartment to Harold.

Bob doesn't think that this is because Harold is Latinx.
Bob just thinks he “has a bad feeling” about Harold.

But the bad feeling is only because of racism.

Bob is being racist without knowing it.