

EU: A WINDOW TO EQUALITY

The European Union's fundamental values are **respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law**. These values unite all the member states – no country that does not recognise these values can belong to the Union.

The main goal of the European Union is to defend these values in Europe and promote peace and the wellbeing of the citizens. For its part, the European Parliament seeks to ensure that these values are realised in the EU legislation.

The EU member states are pluralistic. Nobody may be discriminated against; instead, people and government representatives must respect others and be tolerant. Everybody must be treated fairly. Minority rights must be respected. Equality between men and woman is promoted. Responsibility must be shared.

The European Union works for social equality. It develops social security and tries to protect the weakest. It seeks to prevent social exclusion and discrimination.

All these fundamental values are defined in the Treaty of Lisbon

Among the fundamental rights, I have decided to talk about equality (racism and discrimination), because I think then I exist, that inequality affects us both to me and to all those around us..

If they ask, us if we are racist, without thinking twice we say no, but when it affects us it is something else, for example if I don't have a job and give it to an emigrant instead of me, I think that these Chinese, Jewish, black, Muslim, Polish ...should have stayed in their fucking country because they always come to steal our job.

Racism is the belief that a particular race is superior or inferior to another, that a person's social and moral traits are predetermined by his or her inborn biological characteristics. Racial separatism is the belief, most of the time based on racism, that different races should remain segregated and apart from one another

The five different forms of racism are

Type1: Pure racism

Pure racism is based on a belief of superiority, which is often direct. For example, certain people believing that people from another race group can't do a job because of perceived inferiority.

Type 2: Racial discrimination

Racial discrimination is when people aren't all given the same opportunities or treatment on the basis of perceived racial differences.

This form of racism is more subtle. The difference in treatment isn't directly expressed, but the effect of the difference results in prejudice.

For example, your company only appoints whites to senior management levels and see blacks only as labourers.

Type 3: Intolerance of race

This is subtle exclusion and a less openly manifested form of racism. An example of this is when the race that considers itself superior simply excludes the other race on both social and work levels, .

Type 4: Xenophobia

Xenophobia is the hatred and fear of foreigners or people belonging to a different ethnic group. This is a new form of racism and one that's particularly harmful.

You'll recall that in 2008, a series of xenophobic attacks took place all over South Africa. Over 60 foreigners were killed, several hundred injured and many immigrants were displaced.

Since then xenophobic attacks have become very common in South Africa. Staff members from other parts of the country are at the receiving end of xenophobic-driven exclusion by other staff members who are 'local'.

Type 5: Reverse racism

This is a perception driven by many in the workplace, the belief that the Employment Equity Act and affirmative action is nothing more than reverse racism. If you don't deal with this perception, it'll only breed resentment and polarisation in the workplace,

Racial discrimination is an attack on the fundamental principle underlying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that these are rights inalienable of each human being and which apply to all without distinction. The right not to suffer racial discrimination is one of the most basic principles of international human rights law. Almost all major these rights prohibit discrimination for reasons of race, color, language or origin national. However, racism and discrimination

continue to exist in all the countries of Europe, and are in different ways depending on the nature of the society. Racial discrimination often happens inadvertent, except when it leads to acts of extreme violence. People who suffer racial discrimination often leads to complex forms of racism, difficult to identify and easy to deny.

This is a testimony of an African emigrant who has felt racism in Spain:

At school, the children sang to me the song of the advertisement of the conguitos. "Those moments marked me", he recalls.

A racism during its childhood that is structured in a system that encourages discrimination. "Then there is the institutional racism reflected in the Aliens Act," he denounced. For African migrants, bureaucratic procedures are different from other immigrants, it is enough to have been born in the neighboring continent "if you are from an African country it takes five years to get the residence and ten years the nationality, they are laws that leave us forsaken.

So far I have been talking about laws and rights, but I have not stopped talking about daily reality, I am a good example for this work.

My name is Abebech, but almost everyone knows me as Abe or non-flying bird. I was born in Ethiopia, a beautiful country, therefore I am and always will be with black pride.

When I arrived in Spain, this different reality surprised me quite lot because everything around me was white, I turned around and saw white everywhere, white walls, white floors, white people too.

The teachers didn't know the way I felt, they asked me to do homework and they thought every time that I could do the problems on my own, but I never did a task in my life. At school every time I went to the bathroom, I saw myself in the mirror and I said, this is not Abebech ...

Throughout my life, living under a white roof I have accepted that they are the same as me, they speak, they laugh for everything and they cry for nothing. When my mother enrolled me in a school in Murcia, I was very happy and super embarrassed because she told me that I would meet more children like me, but they were not black like me, they were white. I was so jealous of them because they were related to each other and I was almost always in a single corner.

I wonder why there are so many posters that only appear white, so many protagonists of movies and only four are black, Are we living in a country of racism? When I turn on the television I see only white programs, where have they hidden my race? Are we so ugly for millions of people that we are only five or ten known?.

I have been asked a lot of questions that I have had to endure throughout my life and all of them have had to do with my skin tone, the questions were like:

Why do you get moisturizing cream?

Do you want to be white?

Can a black man burn?

Since you are black, don't you speak African?

Is your blood red?

Does your hair get wet?

Why do you have white palms if you are black?

Is there makeup for black people? What color is your flesh?

Where are you from ?

Honestly, I don't mind being asked those questions, but there are some questions.... I understand so much curiosity, but we must know that the curiosity killed the cat.

For example, you are very beautiful to be black, or I am that I have never been with a black woman but you are different, you are beautiful, you also speak very well to be black. I'm very grateful for those statements, and in the way they ask, it's so funny that when I get home I make a bowl of popcorn and I enjoy your jokes, of course I am being ironic.

I have suffered racism but I did not want to see it from that perspective, I let myself be carried away and instead of being angry and feeling bad, I preferred to laugh with them.

I have cried many times, because I thought that being black in a white world would never find someone who loves me, I told my mom that by the time I grow up and see that I don't have someone by my side, that I love myself, I will go to a different country, to a country that does not look at you badly if you are with a Chinese person, or with a black man, a Muslim, or a Jew ...

I've been dating a guy, and what? There is the problem, if he is white again people started asking me questions like this: Is your boyfriend white? What, I do not have the same right as you to be with someone? Do your parents know? Yes! my parents know, my parents know everything, too much bullshit to endure, more if they are type: as you are black, you will not have a shower, will you?, because the dirt doesn't show. You go first, because I've seen in a movie that they kill blacks first.

Every day these white people "surprise" me more

Blacks also have privileges, a great example that has happened to me many times is when in the classes we gave the geographic maps and after studying several continents suddenly they name "Africa" and as I almost always sat behind the others turned their heads and looked at me hoping that it was I who will explain the African continent.

See that black woman? Well it's great, this has happened to me many times, every time when I play football, basketball, athletics and any other sport with my teammates.

This, it is a letter dedicated to me

Dear Abe, I turned on the television, and only saw the white skin, they joked about me and about my dark skin, like the night, and the only prayer that I made to God was that I would wake up lighter skinner, when it was done in the morning it was so excited to see my new skin ... I refused to look down at myself until I was in front of a mirror, because I wanted to see my fair face first, and every day I experienced the same disappointment, that of being as dark as the day before. I tried to negotiate with God, I told him that I would stop stealing lemons from my neighbors in the morning if he gave me what I wanted. But, I guess God was not impressed with my offers because he never listened to me. My mother often reminded me she thought I was beautiful, but she did not comfort me, she is my mother, of course she's supposed to think I am beautiful

Another day, I turned on the TV and saw a famous model, she was dark as the night, was in all the gangplanks and in all the magazines, and they all were speaking of her like beautiful and she was called her beautiful. It could not believe that people were embracing a woman who looked so much like me as beautiful. My color of skin always it has been an obstacle that to overcome, When I saw a black model, without realizing I saw a reflection of my same that could not deny. Now, I tape-worm a strong motivation, because one was sorry that they were looking at me, was feeling me more estimated by the " guardian of the beauty ", but my around he preferred the white skin. For whom it was mattering for myself, I still was not beautiful and my mother continued saying the beauty to me it is not possible to eat, it doesn't not feed you, and these words plagued and bordered me, were not satiating and stand me, I didn't understand them ... until finally I understood that the beauty is not anything that I could acquire or consume ... it was something that simply tape-worm that to be. And what my mother wanted to say when he said that it is not possible to eat the beauty, was referring that one cannot depend of how you shine to support in the life, which really supports us.

This type of beauty inflames the heart and is charmed with the soul. We remember the beauty of his spirit, enclosedly when the beauty of his body it has vanished. So I wait that my presence on his screen and in magazines, could guide the young girls to having a similar trip to my. That sit the validation of his exterior beauty but that also manage to be beautiful within. There is no shade in this beauty

ABEBECH PAULA CUESTA DIAZ 3º A

IES EL CARMEN