

RACISM



Journalist and television host B.V. posted on X congratulating the Italian volleyball team on winning gold at the Olympics, writing: ‘Congratulations to Paola Enogu [Ed. Egonu] and Myriam Sylla: talented, black, Italian. An example of successful integration.

(Case from Chronicle of ordinary racism’s database, 11-08-2024)

*“A journalist from a mainstream TV channel approached me to ask whether I wanted to tell her ‘my story’. That is **pure racism**. She did not stop for a second to consider that I was also a journalist, a colleague of hers. She saw me as a testimony”*

(From one of the interviewees of MILD research)

These are two different **examples** on how racism can manifest in daily life. In the first case, the skin colour of two athletes is unnecessarily emphasized. By referring to **“integration”**, the lives of two young women born in Italy are framed within a migration narrative.

In the second case, a professional is reduced to the role of a witness rather than being recognized as a producer of information, in relation to **perceived racialised features**. In both cases, racism is not explicit, but it operates as the underlying driver of these behaviours.

We define Racism as “a system of ideas, discourses, acts, and social practices that attributes to human groups and to the individuals who belong to them essential, generalised, definitive, and quasi-natural differences, in order to legitimize practices of stigmatization, discrimination, segregation, exclusion, or extermination.”

(Rivera A. Razzismo in Diritti umani. Cultura dei diritti e dignità della persona nell’epoca della globalizzazione, 6 voll., Utet, 2007.)

DISCRIMINATION



“If in Spain we do not even see Andalusians or people from the Canary Islands reading the news, it is very unlikely that there will be Moroccans or Colombians”

“Sometimes it is difficult to step outside the role you have been assigned: if you are a migrant, you cover stories about migration. And yes, it is important to be able to tell these stories, but it is equally important to be able to report on other things too... The ability to practise journalism should not be limited by our origins.”

(From the interviewees of MILD research)

Two **examples** from MILD research show how discrimination occurs in the media field and how it can also happen in more **subtle ways**, rather than openly discriminatory acts.

Underlying discriminatory motives, mainly for prejudices connected to the quality of education the person received in another country, or their language or perceived accent, lay behind the decision of **not having people with a migrant background in front of a camera**.

The same applies to the second example, in which professionally “ghettoising” people with a migrant background underlines a minimisation of the person to their personal experience.

Racist Discrimination is defined as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on ‘race’, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

(UN)

HATE SPEECH



In 2024 during a radio show, an Italian journalist while commenting on a news story connected to the death of a 19-year-old boy with a migrant background, stated “Yes, I don't like Muslims...But I would shoot them in the mouth” and “Everyone, everyone. I am not at all ashamed to consider Muslims to be inferior races. Races”

(Il sole 24 Ore)

While many argue that expressing comments like the one in this **example** falls within the scope of the right to freedom of speech or others may consider these comments to be simply politically incorrect hyperbole, this is not true when **it entails inciting violence** in a public setting.

The term “ **hate speech** is understood as all types of expression that incite, promote, spread or justify violence, hatred or discrimination against a person or group of persons, or that denigrates them, by reason of their real or attributed personal characteristics or status such as “race”, colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation”.

(Council of Europe)

HATE CRIME



In Drogheda, Ireland, an asylum seeker accommodation was set on fire in October 2025. The CCTV footage shows a person starting the fire from the building's stairs with the use of an accelerant.

(The Irish Times)

At first glance, acts like the one described in the **example** above may appear ordinary criminal offences, such as arson or property damage. However, when a crime sparks from hatred linked to real or perceived personal characteristics or status of the targeted group or individual, it constitutes a hate crime and requires a distinct legal and policy response.

“**Hate crime** is understood as a criminal offence committed with a hate element based on one or more actual or perceived personal characteristics or status, where:

- a. “hate” includes **bias, prejudice or contempt**;
- b. “personal characteristics or status” includes, but is not limited to, “race”, colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.”

(Recommendation CM/Rec(2024)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate crime)