

Key Words:

Prejudice	Making a judgement on someone before knowing them. Opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience
Discrimination	Acting on that judgement in some way. The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of ethnicity, age, sex, or disability.
Stereotype	A form of prejudice where there is a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.
Scapegoating	The act of blaming a person or group for something bad that has happened or that someone else has done
Racism	Racism is when a person is treated worse, excluded, disadvantaged, harassed, bullied, humiliated or degraded because of their race or ethnicity.
Sexism	Prejudice, stereotyping, or discrimination, typically against women, on the basis of sex.
Islamophobia	The fear of, hatred of, or prejudice against the religion of Islam or Muslims
Ageism	Prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age.
Disability Prejudice	When someone is treated less well or put at a disadvantage for a reason that relates to their disability.
Black Lives Matter	A social movement that seeks to highlight racism, discrimination, and racial inequality experienced by black people, and promote anti-racism.
Terrorism	The unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.
Positive Discrimination	The practice or policy of favouring individuals belonging to groups regarded as disadvantaged

Overview:

The aim of this unit is to understand what discrimination looks like today and in history. You will learn about the causes of discrimination and you will look at some specific examples such as Islamophobia and the Black Lives Matter movement.

You will then look at different religious responses to discrimination

Causes of Discrimination:

Prejudice and discrimination have been caused by a variety of factors which include:

- Ignorance and lack of education
- Upbringing
- One bad personal experience
- Historical events
- Media
- Scapegoating
- Fear
- Expectations of a race/religion

Religious Attitudes to Prejudice and Discrimination:

Christian attitude

Christian denominations are universally against prejudice and discrimination.

They believe in justice – fair treatment for everyone.

Christians believe that all people are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)

'there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.' (Galatians 3:28)

James 2:1-9 – do not treat people according to their outward appearances.

Christians try to follow the example of Jesus in caring for all people. They might remember the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 where the Samaritan took care of the injured man even though they were meant to be enemies.

Hindu attitude to Religious Harmony

"Religions are different roads converging to the same point. What does it matter that we take different roads as long as we reach the same goal? In reality there are as many religions as there are individuals." (Mohandas Gandhi)

- Hinduism is so diverse that it sees religious tolerance as normal.
- Hindus believe that other religions can lead you to Brahman just as much as Hinduism can.
- Gandhi said he had no problem believing Jesus was God's son – only in believing that he was God's only son.
- Images of figures from other religions e.g. Abraham, The Buddha and Jesus can be found in Hindu Mandirs.

Islam on Discrimination

Islam believes that Allah created everyone as equal but different. This was Allah's design, so discrimination is unjustified (Qur'an)

Sikhism on discrimination

The Rahit Maryada states that 'Sikhs must in no way give offence to other faiths'. Guru Nanak said, 'There is no Hindu, no Muslim... I shall follow God's path.' Guru Gobind Singh said that different clothes and cultures did not stop all being the same flesh and blood creations of God. There are many examples from the life of Guru Nanak where he shows there should be no boundaries' and no discrimination because of religion – often rejecting exclusiveness which others claimed for their own religion. But Sikh history does include examples of troubles with other religions; usually when rules in an oppressive way by those of another religion.

Examples of Discrimination in more detail:

Islamophobia:

Negative treatment of Muslims and the religion of Islam happened before the 9/11 attacks. However, after the 9/11 attacks, hatred towards Muslims increased. Many people believed that Muslims were the cause of the terrorist attack and then stereotyped all Muslims negatively. The religion of Islam does not take responsibility for the attacks and the organisation of Al Qaeda is separate from Islam. Terrorists often have extremist or misinterpreted views or beliefs.

Racism:

The deaths of people like Stephen Lawrence and George Floyd amongst many other black people, have led to many people stating that there is racism within organisations such as the police. The Black Lives Matter movement was set up as a social movement to raise awareness of the negative treatment of black people compared to other ethnic groups. It is not stating that other lives don't matter but rather that black lives matter too.

Sexism:

Sexism has typically been aimed at women on the prejudiced basis that women are better at nurturing jobs, child care and running a home and less successful at the workplace and leading people. Sexism can also take the form of objectifying women in a way that only their bodies are being talked about in a sexual way and treated as sexual objects. In Sport, the BBC reported that 65% of top female sports women have experienced sexism. Many female sports people are paid less than men for doing the same sport.

Anti-Semitism: The word antisemitism means prejudice against or hatred of Jews. The Holocaust is history's most extreme example of antisemitism.