



SEEKING JUSTICE TOGETHER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION
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RACISM

Racism is the belief that one's own race is superior.

Racial prejudice is present in us all to some degree and must be rigorously countered.

Racism can be subtle and embedded, even though people avoid using direct racist terminology.

Racism can also be overt, systematic and cruel, as epitomised by the slave trade, the Holocaust, apartheid, the caste system and the treatment of indigenous people.

The category 'race' has no scientific basis. Biologically every ethnicity is identical. The idea of different races is a social construction.



The only race is the human race.

'All human beings belong to a single species and are descended from a common stock. They are born equal in dignity and rights and all form an integral part of humanity.'

United Nations Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, 1978

The Human Race

All humans are created in the image of God. This divine likeness is unique in creation and is 'the breath of God' in us.

The Bible emphasises that all humans share one blood. 'From one man he made all the nations,' says Paul. (Acts 17:26)

The People of Israel

Beginning with the Hebrews, to the fact that Jesus was born and crucified as a Jew, Scripture records the unique role embodied by the people of Israel.

Indeed, relations between Jew and Gentile are a major part of the salvation story.

Citizens of Heaven

Scripture depicts the global reconciliation plan of God.

Ultimately a multitude 'from every nation, tribe, people and language' stand before his throne. (Revelation 7:9)

Followers of Christ find essential unity in him, rather than in ethnicity.

This is a powerful counter cultural force.

TO PONDER

Data indicates that oppressed people groups invariably experience poor health and housing services, reduced life expectancy, fewer employment opportunities, lower high school graduation rates, increased homelessness and more incidents of violence.

Racial Reconciliation Champion Story

The Empowerment Center, Ferguson, Missouri - modelling racial reconciliation for divided communities

Before the name 'Ferguson' became an international byword for racial divide in the USA, the Midland Division Salvation Army had been aware of great need throughout north St. Louis County, Missouri.

The majority of its social service cases originated in Ferguson.

So, before the 2014 violent civil unrest provoked by the tragic shooting death of teenager Mike Brown, the local Salvation Army leadership began to think about a response that could prevent Ferguson from returning to a state of emergency.

'We believe that God has this ability to do what we as human beings can't do. And most importantly that's reconciliation,' said Lieut-Colonel Lonneal Richardson, at the 2016 dedication.

'He not only redeems broken people, which the Army does in a tremendous way ... but I believe God redeems broken systems.'

'We believe that for Ferguson. We believe that for Missouri and for St Louis and for our country.'

And, we would add, 'for the world'.

newfrontierchronicle.org.

How Do We Seek Justice Together?

Take personal action against racism by being motivated by the example of Jesus Christ and respecting the image of God that is in every person

Seek to influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial stereotypes, slurs and jokes

Raise families to appreciate the diversity of cultures and ethnicities

Combine with others to bring about justice for the victims of racism