

Racism Toward One's Own Racial Group

Union of Saints

Several terms describe White people who express racism, hostility, prejudice, or contempt toward their own racial group. The most appropriate term depends on the specific behavior and beliefs being expressed.

1. Internalized Racism

When a person adopts negative stereotypes, prejudices, or beliefs about their own racial group and applies those beliefs to themselves or other members of their group.

2. Self-Directed Racism

When a person directs racist attitudes, hostility, or prejudice toward their own racial group.

3. Anti-White Racism

When a person expresses prejudice, hostility, or discriminatory attitudes toward White people. A White person can express these attitudes toward other White people, including members of their own community.

4. Racial Self-Hatred

When a person expresses contempt for, rejects, or feels ashamed of their own racial identity.

5. In-Group Derogation

When a person disparages, demeans, or expresses negative attitudes toward members of their own social, cultural, or racial group.

6. Out-Group Favoritism

When a person favors an outside group over their own group. Although this may reflect a strong preference for another group, it does not necessarily indicate racism or hostility toward their own group.

Which Term Is Most Appropriate?

Internalized racism is generally the most appropriate term when someone adopts negative racial stereotypes about their own group.

Anti-White racism may be more appropriate when a person expresses prejudice or hostility specifically toward White people, regardless of the person's own racial identity.

Racial self-hatred may describe a person who expresses contempt for their own racial identity, although the term should be used cautiously because a person's motives cannot always be determined from their statements.

For example, when someone repeatedly demeans White people as a group, portrays them as inherently inferior, or assigns collective blame to individuals solely because they are White, the behavior may be described as anti-White prejudice or racial stereotyping. If the person is also White, the behavior may involve in-group derogation or internalized racism, depending on the circumstances.

The Principle of Equal Treatment

Racial prejudice should be evaluated consistently, regardless of the race of the person expressing it or the group being targeted. No racial group should be subjected to blanket condemnation, dehumanization, or discriminatory treatment because of its members' racial identity.

Criticism of specific individuals, historical events, institutions, or political positions is not automatically racism. The distinction lies in whether someone criticizes particular conduct or instead assigns negative characteristics, inferiority, or collective guilt to people because of their race.