



**ISSU**  
IRISH SECOND-LEVEL  
STUDENTS' UNION



**SCHOOL STUDENTS  
AGAINST  
DIRECT PROVISION**

# ANTI-RACISM

# RESOURCES

**SCHOOL STUDENTS  
AGAINST  
DIRECT PROVISION**

We, the Irish Second-Level Students Union, stand in full solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

We cannot ignore racism and discrimination. We must confront it, in ourselves, in our society and especially at school. ISSU is a union founded on the principles of equality and fairness for all.

We believe in a system that promotes the welfare of all students and in our work, we strive to represent every student, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

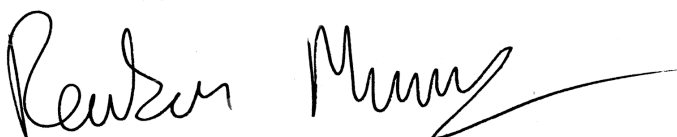
No-one should feel afraid to be who they are. We strive to promote a system that will nurture, grow and value black people, people of color and ethnic minorities, just as we all hope to grow and be valued.

Unfortunately that is not the case. Neither Ireland nor Irish schools are free from racism and discrimination. Across Ireland racism is a terrible reality for too many people, a regular occurrence that is ingrained in our system. We must challenge it - first in ourselves and then in others.

We must educate ourselves, and show empathy. But then we must act. Over the coming days, the ISSU will be sharing resources to help you to safely take action and to help you understand and support this Global Movement.

Stand together,  
You can be a catalyst for change,  
You can help create a better, fairer Ireland around you.  
Together, we can overcome institutionalised racism.  
It starts with challenging it.

Black Lives Matter



ISSU President

# RACISM IN IRELAND

Racism in Ireland, as much as we wish it was, is not extinct. Ireland is not innocent. It comes in many forms and can be seen in every village, town and city.

Reports of racist incidents in Ireland have increased from 390 in 2018 to 530 in 2019, a figure that is consistently growing. Ireland is rated 2nd in the EU for racist behaviour. Things need to change.

If you or someone you know witnesses a racist attack, please report it on [iReport.ie](https://www.ireport.ie) or to your local Garda station

Source: European Union agency for fundamental rights (2018)

## Microaggressions

Microaggressions are defined as

*"a statement, action, or incident regarded as an instance of indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of a minority group such as a racial or ethnic minority."*

Microaggressions are one of the most common forms of racism in Ireland, they're so common people might not even realise that what they're saying is racist.

Commonly used microaggressions include:

- "Where are you *really* from?"
- "You speak good English"
- "I don't see colour" or "we're all one race, the human race"
- "I'm not racist I have *black/traveller/asian/etc.* friends"
- "You're not like other *black/traveller/asian/etc.* people"

# BEING A GOOD ALLY

## What is an ally?

An ally is someone who is an open supporter and friend of various minority groups and someone who is willing to:

1. Educate themselves about different identities and experiences.
2. Challenge their own discomfort and prejudices.
3. Learn and practice the skills of being an ally.
4. Take action to create change in their life and their community.

## How to be a good ally

**Educate yourself:** Educating yourself is the first step to becoming an ally to any minority group. Do your research, learn about the eras of history and historical events that have been whitewashed, speak to people of colour about their experiences and listen to people of colour who are speaking out.

**Recognise your privilege:** White privilege does not mean you don't face problems it just means that the colour of your skin isn't the cause of those problems. White people do not suffer to the hands of institutionalised racism, in fact, we actively benefit from it.

**Use your voice:** Using your voice can be as simple as sharing a post on your Instagram story. Help raise awareness by talking about racial discrimination and using your platforms, no matter what size, to speak up, confront racism when you see it and educate your anti-black/racist friends and family members.

# WHITE PRIVILEGE

## What is White Privilege?

White Privilege is white people actively benefitting from the oppression of people of colour. It doesn't mean you haven't faced difficulties in your life, but it does mean the colour of your skin isn't the cause of those difficulties.

## Recognising Your Privilege

Recognising your privilege is a major step we all need to take in becoming actively anti-racist. Once you accept that you have privilege understand that yes, being white does give you a step up in life, you can use your privilege for good.

Feelings of guilt or defensiveness are common responses, but ultimately, they're counterproductive. Rather than focusing on your own feelings of discomfort, think, what actions can I take to help?

## What can I do?

- Learn when to listen, when to amplify and when to speak up.
- Educate yourself and fellow white people.
- Sign petitions and donate
- Attend peaceful protests
- Share information online

# GETTING EDUCATED

Educating yourself on racism is so important. Things won't change unless we all make an effort to learn about the different kinds of racism and its harmful consequences.

Read books, watch movies and listen to people of colour when they speak out about racism.

Below are some books, films, podcasts and websites we recommend for getting educated about racism.

## Books

- 'This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work' - Tiffany Jewell
- 'How To Be An Antiracist' - Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- 'Me and White Supremacy' - Layla F. Saad
- 'So You Want to Talk About Race' - Ijeoma Oluo
- 'White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism' - Robin DiAngelo, PhD
- 'Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race' - Reni Eddo-Lodge

## Podcasts

- Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast
- Intersectionality Matters!
- Pod For The Cause
- Seeing White

# GETTING EDUCATED

## Movies/TV/Documentaries

- The Hate U Give (2018) - George Tillman Jr
- 13th (2016) - Ava DuVernay
- Moonlight (2016) - Barry Jenkins
- When They See Us (2019-) - Ana DuVernay
- King In The Wilderness (2018) Peter Kunhardt

## WEBSITES

### **Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI)**

MASI is the collective Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland, a platform for asylum seekers to join together in unity and purpose. MASI demands the end of direct provision, the right to work and education and opposes deportation. They seek justice, freedom and dignity for all asylum seekers. They're independent: not an NGO, not affiliated to any NGO or political party.

**For more information:** [www.Masi.ie](http://www.Masi.ie)

### **iReport**

The iReport.ie system was launched in July 2013. It allows the people, communities, and organisations of Ireland to confidentially report racism nationwide.

For more information: [ireport.ie](http://ireport.ie)

**For more information:** [www.iReport.ie](http://www.iReport.ie)

# GETTING EDUCATED

## **Irish Network Against Racism (INAR)**

INAR is a national network of over 100 anti-racism civil society organisations which aims to work collectively to highlight and address the racism in Ireland through the promotion and monitoring of Irish, EU and global trends and anti-racist initiatives.

**For more information:** [www.inar.ie](http://www.inar.ie)

## **#BlackLivesMatter**

BlackLivesMatter was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martins murderer. Thier mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities.

**For more information:** [www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com)

## **Abolish Direct Provision Ireland**

Abolish DP is a Grassroots campaign with a collective of diverse people working together to bring an end to Direct Provision

**For more information:** [www.directprovision.org](http://www.directprovision.org)

## **European Network Against Racism (ENAR)**

ENAR is the European anti-racism network. The organisation was set up in 1998 by grassroots activists on a mission to achieve legal changes at European level and make decisive progress towards racial equality in all EU Member States.

**For more information:** [www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)



# GET INVOLVED

## SIGN PETITIONS

Signing a petition is a simple way to demand change, it takes less than 20 seconds from your day and can make a mountain of difference to peoples lives. You can find petitions on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) or at the end of this resource book.

## USE YOUR VOICE

Nowadays, almost everyone is on some form of social media making information extremely accessible. Share information on your social media, speak out about the issues you're passionate about and use your platform, no matter what size, to educate others.

## DONATE

Supporting protesters, the families of victims of racial attacks, and groups carrying out anti-racism campaigns is vital. Many of these groups rely on donations from the public as their main source of funding. If you are in a position to donate, please do, every penny counts.

## EDUCATE OTHERS

Educating others is extremely important. Use the information you know to call out racism when you see it. No matter how uncomfortable it may make you, imagine how those experiencing it must feel. It's not the job of people of colour to educate us. Put in the work, educate yourself and educate those around you.

# PETITIONS AND DONATIONS

## DONATIONS

Donating money is an act that can change peoples lives, many organisations and NGOs rely on public donations as funding to keep actively fighting racism

If you are in a position to donate, please do so, we recommend websites such as:

- [\*\*Gofundme.org\*\*](https://www.gofundme.org)
- [\*\*NASCireland.org/donate\*\*](https://www.nascireland.org/donate)
- [\*\*blacklivesmatters.com\*\*](https://www.blacklivesmatters.com)

## PETITIONS

Signing petitions takes 20 less than seconds and can make serious change, if you're looking for petitions to sign we'd recommend websites such as:

- [\*\*change.org\*\*](https://www.change.org)
- [\*\*amnestyinternational\*\*](https://www.amnestyinternational.org)
- [\*\*blacklivesmatter.com\*\*](https://www.blacklivesmatter.com)
- [\*\*petition.org\*\*](https://www.petition.org)

**For more information, donation links and petitons go to**  
**[BlackLivesMatter.caard.co](https://www.BlackLivesMatter.caard.co)**