

WHAT IS ANTI-BLACK RACISM?



- Anti-Black Racism is prejudice, attitudes, beliefs, stereotyping, and discrimination directed at people of African descent and is rooted in their unique colonized history and experience of enslavement.
- Anti-Black Racism is a form of prejudice, bias, and discrimination that selectively targets people of Black African descent.
- Anti-Black racism draws distinct correlations to the institutional history of the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, and the way racism is experienced by people of African descent.
- Anti-Black Racism does not only exist within elementary and high school, Black children can often start to feel the impact as early as PreSchool/Daycare.
- Anti-Black racism in Canada is can be direct as well as subtle and is generally not accompanied by overt racial slurs or explicitly prohibitive legislation.
- Anti-Black racism is deeply entrenched in Canadian institutions, policies, and practices so much that anti-Black racism is functionally normalized or rendered invisible to the larger White society.
- Anti-Black racism manifests as a lack of opportunities, lower socio-economic status, higher unemployment, significant poverty rates, and overrepresentation in the criminal justice system.

Types of neglect in the education system include, but are not limited to:

- Isolating a student due to normal child-like behaviours
- Refusing to teach a student or providing a below-standard education
- Refusing to follow or revisit students' Independent Education Plans (IEP)
- Not expressing to parents the educational needs of the child until the last minute
- Ignoring a child's concerns in or outside of the classroom
- Disregarding instances of bullying or emotional harm to Black students
- Separating Black children from others

Acts of anti-Black racism in the education system include, but are not limited to:

- Using texts and teaching materials that degrade Black people
- Refusing to reprimand students for the use of the N-word
- Applying harsher discipline for Black children
- Low academic expectations
- The adultification of Black children
- Surveilling Black children at school
- Disrespecting parents and family members of Black students
- Targeting students or families due to race
- Gaslighting parents, family members and students who come forward with complaints and concerns
- Threatening to call Children's Aid Society if a Black parent is late one time to pick up their child
- Accusing Black children of being overly aggressive

Links to Resources:

- [Contact Your Local Student and Family Advocate](#)
- [Black Legal Action Centre](#) - Offers free legal counsel for low and no income families
- [Ministry Rules on Reporting and Responding to Incidents in School](#)

