# Real-life experiences of racism in Scotland



# Easy Read



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| CEMVO Scotland and BEMIS | Report by the Scottish Human Rights Commission with thanks to CEMVO and BEMIS |

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## Who we are

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| Scottish Human Rights Commission logo | We are the Scottish Human Rights Commission. We are called SHRC for short. |
| People in a circle around a woman protecting her underneath a Scotland flag. | Our job is to protect people’s **human rights** in Scotland. |
| Woman pointing to herself | Human rights are rights that every person has. For example, the right to be alive and the right to go to school. |

## What this report is about

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| Report: Two white men talking about a South Asian woman who looks confused. | This report is about people’s real-life experiences of **racism** in Scotland.  **Racism** is when people are treated differently because of the colour of their skin or where they are from. |
| People standing in a circle and talking | To write this report, we went to events and talked to people who had experienced racism. |
| CEMVO Scotland and BEMIS | The events were set up by groups of experts called CEMVO and BEMIS. |
| 2 reports | We sent this report and another report about racism to the United Nations.  Read the other Easy Read report on our website: [Report on Human Rights and Racism in Scotland](https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/projects-and-programmes/treaty-and-international-work/international-treaty-monitoring/the-international-convention-on-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination-icerd/) |

## What people at the CEMVO events told us

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| Asian woman standing with her arms up in confusion | People did not know what the Scottish Government was doing to stop **hate crimes**.  A hate crime is being harassed or attacked because people think you are different. |
| Black man stands with his hands facing up and looking confused. White man stands aggressively with fists up in the air | People had experienced violence and harassment, but they did not know if it was a hate crime. |
| Black man stands talking to two white police officers. | People did not think the police would take hate crime seriously. |
| People sitting on a bus. Black woman edging away from a white man who is sitting too closely with clenched fists. | People felt unsafe in some places, including at their jobs, in school and on public transport. |
| Teacher stands in front of a blackboard. | People agreed that school was important so that children could learn about other cultures and ways of life. |
| School desks arranged before a whiteboard. | People also thought that racism happened a lot in school.  They thought some schools dealt with racism differently than others. |
| Man stands with hands facing up looking confused, surrounding by benefits including the Personal Independence Payment and Jobseekers Allowance. | Most people at the event had not applied for benefits in Scotland and had not heard of most of the available benefits. |
| Black woman crying. Above her head are thought bubbles, one has food in it and another one has money. | People thought that the rules that mean migrants cannot get help from the government were unfair. |
| Man sits on a chair looking sad. A doctor wearing a mask and gloves leans over him. | Everyone thought that there were problems accessing healthcare in their communities. |
| Man smiling in a doctors office with a tick. Below is a woman looking confused at the doctors office with a cross. | Some people had very good experiences of the NHS.  Other people felt they were treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin or where they are from. |
| Doctor shows a man a brain scan. | People thought that people who work in the NHS did not always take them seriously. |

## What people at the BEMIS events told us

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| Woman scratching head and looking confused next to a question mark | People thought that it is too complicated to access services they need. |
| Black man in wheelchair points to himself next to a document which says "Equality act" | People thought that the laws which should protect them from being treated unfairly are not working well enough. |
| Plan with Scotland flag on it | People thought that Scottish Government’s plan to stop racism is not a big enough priority. |
| Black man reading a newspaper | People thought that the things politicians and the news say make the public think bad things about people from different communities. |
| Black man looking scared. A group of shadowed people behind her | People were worried the police would not take them seriously if they reported a hate crime. |
| Group of school desks facing whiteboard | Many people sometimes felt unsafe in places like schools and on public transport. |
| Aeroplane flying towards a map of Scotland | People were very worried that the **immigration** system was not fair.  Immigration is when people move here from another country. |
| Black woman crying. Above her head are thought bubbles, one has food in it and another one has money. | People thought that the UK immigration system is too hard, expensive, and treats people badly. |
| Two white men talking about a South Asian woman who looks confused. Hand pointing to an empty hospital bed. | People thought that racism leads to poorer health and wellbeing. |