

On *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, consider:

Racism is the process by which systems and policies, actions and attitudes create inequitable opportunities and outcomes for people based on race. Racism is more than just prejudice in thought or action. It occurs when this prejudice – whether individual or institutional – is accompanied by the power to discriminate against, oppress or limit the rights of others.

Racial discrimination and the *legacies of slavery and colonialism* continue to destroy lives and curtail opportunities, preventing billions of people from enjoying their full human rights and freedoms.

While **International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination** aims to raise awareness, promote educative practice, and campaign to dismantle racism in social hierarchies, some countries have chosen to focus on celebrating multicultural diversity:

Race Relations Day is celebrated every year in **New Zealand** on March 21. It is a day aimed at celebrating and acknowledging the multicultural and racial differences within the country.

Harmony Week is celebrated in **Australia** and Harmony Day on 21 March. Harmony Day is an attempt to acknowledge the contributions of multicultural communities to Australian society. It is often celebrated with community festivals and local events with global food and music and traditional dress.

In Sharpeville, Gauteng, South Africa, IDERD is marked as a **Day of Remembrance and Mourning**.

SOURCES: UN: UN Human Rights; UNESCO; UNESCO UK; Human Rights Commission Australia; OHCHR.