



Racial Vilification

What is racial vilification?

Racial vilification is against the law. It is a public act that could incite hatred, serious contempt or severe ridicule towards people of a particular race.

Public acts include:

- communications that can be seen or heard by the public (this includes print, radio, video or online)
- signs, flags or clothing that could be seen by the public
- distributing and sharing information to the public.



What can I do if I experience racial vilification?

If you feel you have been vilified, you can contact us to make a complaint.

If you are unsure if you have experienced racial vilification or need more information, you can contact our enquiry service.

Public acts that threaten or incite violence

Any public act that threatens or incites violence towards a group of people on the basis of their race, religious belief or affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status or HIV/AIDS status is a criminal offence that should be referred to the police.

Useful contacts

Translating and Interpreting Service – 131 450

Law Access – 1300 888 529

Complaint case study

Rhonda* is an Aboriginal woman. She has been having a dispute with one of her neighbours for many years.

Her neighbour often complains about Rhonda's yard and where she parks her car. On several occasions, Rhonda heard her neighbour yell out to her on the street and verbally abuse her. The abuse included calling her a black bastard, black mongrel and telling her she was not welcome in the neighbourhood and should 'go back to live with the other black mongrels'.

Rhonda lodged a complaint with ADNSW.

At the conciliation conference, the neighbour said he had not verbally abused Rhonda but acknowledged that there had been an ongoing dispute between the two of them. The complaint was resolved when the neighbour provided a written assurance to Rhonda that he would not verbally abuse her or damage her property in the future.

Note: If a party to a written conciliation agreement is of the opinion that a breach of the agreement has occurred, that party can within six months of the date of the agreement apply to the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal for the agreement to be registered. If the Tribunal agrees that the provisions of the agreement could have been the subject of an order of the Tribunal and that a breach has occurred, it can register the agreement which can then be enforced as an order of the Tribunal.

*Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the individual.



This factsheet has general information about vilification and there are exceptions to the law. Please contact us if you have questions about racial vilification or you would like information about how to make a complaint.

Anti-Discrimination NSW

Enquiries

Phone: 02 9268 5544

Free call: 1800 670 812

Email: complaintsadb@justice.nsw.gov.au

Postal address

Locked Bag 5000

Parramatta NSW 2124

Website

antidiscrimination.nsw.gov.au