

Know Your Rights – People of Color (PoC)

Information on Protection Against Racial Discrimination in Switzerland

What is racial discrimination?

Racial discrimination occurs when a person is treated unfairly because of their skin colour, ethnic origin, nationality, religion, or perceived background.

Examples

- 1 Housing and access to accommodation
- 2 Employment and working conditions
- 3 Access to services (restaurants, shops, clubs)
- 4 Interactions with authorities
- 5 Police identity checks or controls

Protection under Swiss law

The anti-racism provision (Art. 261bis Swiss Criminal Code) prohibits public incitement to hatred or discrimination, racist insults, denial of genocide, and refusal of public services based on race or religion.

Equality before the law

Art. 8 of the Swiss Federal Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on origin, race, language, religion, or way of life.

International protection

Switzerland is also bound by international agreements such as ICERD, the European Convention on Human Rights (Art. 14), and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 2).

Support in Basel

- 1 Opferhilfe beider Basel – Victim Support
- 2 Frauenhaus beider Basel – Women's Shelter
- 3 Stopp Rassismus – Advisory Service against Racism