



## Anti-Racism

### Questions for Candidates

- **What are specific examples of how your party will respond to the UN report on racism in Canada should your party win the upcoming election?**
- **What policies are in place to address any failure by your members to be inclusive? For example, what will happen if a party member uses discriminatory language on social media?**
- **As a whole government approach, how central is anti-racism to your party's framework for governing? (Is it a top 3 priority? Top 5? Top 10?)**
- **How does your party educate itself and its members on anti-racism issues? Who provides this education?**

### Why Ask These Questions?

"As an institution within society, the church has a responsibility to contribute leadership and advocacy towards overcoming racism."<sup>1</sup>

Yet evil does not—cannot—  
undermine or overcome the love of God.

God forgives,

and calls all of us to confess our fears and failings  
with honesty and humility.

God reconciles,

and calls us to repent the part we have played  
in damaging our world, ourselves, and each other.

(from A Song of Faith, 2006)

The United Church of Canada has made a commitment to anti-racism and aims to combat racism at an institutional level. The church's leadership promotes just practices and building capacity in its faith communities to deal with intersectionalities and work towards changing hearts and attitudes.<sup>2</sup>

### Background

Based on the 2018 report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination focused on four distinct concerns.<sup>3</sup> This report is the result of Canada's third Universal Periodic Review.

1. Absence of recent, reliable, and comprehensive data on the ethnic composition of the country.

- The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent recommended implementing a nationwide mandatory policy on the collection of data, disaggregated by race, colour, ethnic background, national origin, and other identities.

2. Racial hate crimes continue to be unreported.
  - There is a 61% increase in reports of hate crimes against Muslims.
  - The Black population is the most targeted group in Canada (44% of racial hate crimes).
3. Continuous racial profiling by police, security agencies, and border agents.
  - This profiling has negatively affected Indigenous peoples, as well as ethnic minority Muslims, Canadians of African descent, and other ethnic minority groups.
  - The arbitrary use of "carding" disproportionately affects people of African descent.
4. Recommendation to repeal the remaining discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act.<sup>4</sup>
  - In particular, historical discrimination against Indigenous women and their descendants was removed, ensuring their status equalled that of men and their descendants.
  - The UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights was also concerned about the remaining gender-based discriminatory provisions in the current iteration of the Indian Act.<sup>5</sup>

*"That they may all be one" (John 17:21) is central to the stance of The United Church of Canada on anti-racism. It seeks equality for all humanity regardless of their differences.*

1 From That All May Be One: Policy Statement on Anti-Racism, 2000 (search "That All May Be One" <https://commons.united-church.ca>).

2 Ibid.

3 More information is available at [Canada and the United Nations human rights system](#).

4 The United Church of Canada was involved in the development of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. More information is available at [Justice Initiatives: Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#).

5 After the completion of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the UN Human Rights Office [called for an examination of the Inquiry's finding of genocide](#). The United Church has [called for a national action plan](#) in response to the Inquiry.