

In Your Neighbourhood

18. Urge libraries at school and in the community to stock material that represents diverse cultures and addresses ways to overcome racism and bigotry.
19. Ensure that your public facilities do not give a platform to groups or speakers that promote bigotry and dissension.
20. Volunteer for human rights organizations like B'nai Brith and work to support their initiatives.
21. Organize a town hall meeting with residents and local political leaders to discuss how to stamp out prejudice and promote tolerance.



21 Ways to Fight Discrimination



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As victims and as victimizers, young people are often at the centre of hate crimes. Hatred subsists in the historic prejudices passed on from one generation to another. It survives in climates where the tendency is to whitewash acts of hate, believing them to be insufficiently serious as to merit the public's scrutiny and response. As parents, educators and community leaders, we must do everything we can to overcome intolerance by not only making clear that it is unacceptable, but by proactively working to promote tolerance and an appreciation for diversity.

When good people stand by and do nothing, hatred is allowed to thrive. The following suggestions are positive things you can do to fight discrimination, whenever and wherever it occurs.

At Home

1. Learn about your heritage and share it with those around you.
2. Explore other cultures through books, music and film and encourage your children and friends to do the same.
3. Invite friends and colleagues from other cultural and ethnic backgrounds to share the experience of your traditions and festivals.
4. Watch your language: steer clear of stereotypical thinking.
5. Challenge the bigoted, sexist, antisemitic and homophobic comments made by those around you.

In the Classroom

6. Suggest debates and discussion in the classroom on topics such as antisemitism, racism, sexism and homophobia.
7. Elect student leaders who are not afraid to stand up for what is right and who are prepared to foster a tolerant environment on-campus, inclusive of the diversity of the entire student body.
8. Hold Spoken Word contests where students read poetry and/or rap about discrimination and ways to overcome racist stereotypes. Promote the competition through student assemblies, talent shows and community gatherings.
9. For a class project, select an ongoing ethnic or racial conflict and stage a simulated peace summit in which students take on the roles of political leaders and try to resolve the crisis.
10. Research an incident involving civil unrest or racism in Canadian history such as the Asiatic Exclusion League in British Columbia, the Underground Railroad, or the Christie Pits Riot in 1933.



At the Office

11. Put respect for diversity at the centre of your company's corporate philosophy by highlighting it in the company's handbook and website.
12. Enlist the aid of human rights organizations to sponsor programs that spread awareness about the value of diversity for all employees.
13. Encourage your company to sponsor grassroots events that build active, integrated and caring neighborhoods in your community.
14. Offer to mentor students from other cultural backgrounds to create cross-community linkages and civic engagement.



In Your Religious Community

15. Urge your religious leaders to use their pulpit to condemn intolerance in all its forms.
16. Organize interfaith dialogues and retreats for young people in order to build understanding and lasting friendships between your congregation and other faith-groups.
17. Invite city councillors and other elected officials for a tour of your religious establishment to educate them about your religion and the activities your religious community is involved with.