

Back Ground Information

Anti-racism is different from not being racist. If you reviewed the Non-Racist to Anti-Racist spectrum provided earlier, you would have noticed the different behaviours associated with each point on the spectrum. As I review the points, please think about where you fit.

- Passive non-racist: being friendly to all people regardless of background, valuing diversity, educating yourself about racism, white privilege.
- Active non-racist: not participating in racist remarks, jokes, etc., including people with different backgrounds in your life, signing petitions, sharing info
- Ally behaviour: speaking up when you hear racist jokes, letting someone explain how/why something you said or did could be racist, being aware of the imbalances of power, educating others on diversity, challenging systemic racism
- Anti-racist advocacy: participating in rallies, advocating for equity, attending school board meetings/community boards to advocate for just treatment, campaigning for those who work for racial justice

Spectrum: From Non-Racist to Anti-Racist Advocate

(Examples adapted from [Marlon James video](#) & Dr. Gordon Hodson's article "[Being Anti-Racist, Not Non-Racist](#)" *Psychology Today*, 1/20/16)

Passive Non- Racist is:	Active Non-Racist is:	Ally behavior/action is:	Anti-Racist Advocacy is:
Individual: Being friendly & courteous to people of different backgrounds	Not participating in racist or derogatory remarks/humor in person or online	Expressing your surprise or disagreement; asking speaker for clarification; listening without interrupting when someone says to you "That's racist" or "white people..."	Participating in talks/ rallies/ protests against injustice & state-sponsored police brutality
Communal: Valuing diversity in your community	Extending your home to people of different backgrounds	Living in a neighborhood with people who look different from you; being aware of the imbalance of power and pointing out racism & injustice;	Working to secure equity in your spheres of influence (home, workplace, schools, place of worship, city, etc.); Advocating for equitable distribution of power, resources & opportunities
Educational: Building awareness by educating self: reading & learning about racism, white privilege & power	Observing how privilege & racism are in action in your own life and community; talking to family about respecting differences	Evaluating how you contribute to systems of oppression and working to change that in your circles: where do you get your news? How do you include people who don't look like you in your decision-making? Starting early in education by providing books on diversity to schools and supporting teachers who have culturally - responsive classrooms	Giving public attention to issues of inequity & injustice; advocating that kids in schools/activities are treated justly & have equitable opportunities for success; attending school board meetings & serving on community advisory boards
Systemic: Knowing who in power works toward racial justice	Signing online petitions or sharing with others information on Equity track record of companies, candidates & representatives	Building trust & relationships with others who can affect change on larger scale; challenging systemic racism when you experience unearned privileges	Campaigning for candidates who work for racial justice; using your spheres of influence to connect with larger groups & institutions to dismantle racism