

ABOUT



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The Power of Origins

If we look back at the history, we will notice that the ideas of the origins could be very influential. The large part of the current Europe map was sketched during the formation of the small European nations in XIX century. According to a social anthropologist Benedict Anderson, the people finally started to identify themselves more with their nation than with the Church. In addition, the mythology helped to convince that a nation is the descendant of the heroes and has a potential to bring the glorious past back to their days. However, the images of the extraordinary nation chosen among the others eventually led to painful extremes by causing genocides and massacres.

Hence, the origins might be misleading and dangerous can we give up them? Actually, they have a lot of to do with the identity which is essential for every individual or a social group. For example, the Croatian historiography is full of Illyrian myths. However, they tell a reader more about the community values and beliefs than discover any of historical facts. Having in mind globalisation, is it still important to “know” and care about your origins? I guess that is a very personal question to consider.

And still, it is our choice how to use the power of origins.



Why?

It can be uncomfortable to talk about this, but there are a lot of very good reasons to talk about discrimination. Even the fact that the topic is uncomfortable is enough to warrant a discussion about it.



So, why do we do it? It is natural for humans to categorize people and objects. It is a normal cognitive behavior. This is a key learning tool in a child's development. It helps them distinguish, at first, between their mother and father, and with time other people that are close to them. This is called „social discrimination”. The ability to categorize is about the feeling of belonging, of safety and being able to create relationships with people that share your beliefs and your world.

The problem occurs when this factor goes away from its intended phase, of learning and finding out „who people are”, to seeing how are the ones that are not like yourself. This is what discrimination is, at its base, a destructive generalization that leads to negative actions or behaviors towards another group.

The basic motivation for discrimination is fear. Being afraid of your way of life changing, fear for your own personal safety, fear because people that look like us, act differently.

So, can we put an end to discrimination?

Fear of something that we don't know, or of something that we don't understand can be countered with information. One very promising strategy for overcoming discrimination is enhancing the contact between people. Such conditions provide opportunities for personal, self-revealing interactions and working together toward a common goal. "This process is especially effective when different groups realize they need each other because neither group can achieve a given goal on its own." (APA Help Center, Gwendolyn Keita, PhD)



The possibility of stamping out discrimination, in all forms, it's not a realistic goal. In diverse groups, conflict is a natural occurrence. Human-differences-based diversity conflict is productive conflict when it enhances individual, group, and organizational performance. As a society, we can only strive to learn more as we are presented with these obstacles, and working together we can build a more tolerate world.

Do We See Discrimination?

It is the main question which we have to ask ourselves about. Maybe it is around us, but we do not realize that something wrong is happening? To know much more about do people see that, we had a questionnaire in which 25 people took part in, age from 18 to 33, from Lithuania, Turkey, Romania, Poland, Greece, Cyprus and Italy. Through interviewers were 11 men and 14 women.

The first question was: 'Have you ever been a witness of discrimination?' and mostly, the respondents said that it is true for them. Only 3 of the interviewers said that they haven't been a witness of discrimination. Amidst them were 2 women and 1 man between the ages of 20-25.

The second question was: 'Do you think that banning cultural aspects is discrimination?' 2 people said that it is not. It was a woman and a man, ages 20-26. 23 people who took part in this agree that banning cultural aspects is discrimination.

A similar situation was about the dietary needs. The question was: 'Do you think that not respecting dietary needs is discrimination?'. 22 people agree with this, 3 of interviewers said that it is false. Through this 3 people were 2 women and 1 man in age 21-32.



The most diversified were answers on the question 'Do you think that it is right to break the law when you do not know it?'. 8 of interviewers answer 'YES'. 3 of them were women and 5 men. 17 people answer 'NO'. 11 were women and 6 men. We can see that almost half of the men did not agree with this question.

This questionnaire shows us, that people mostly see discrimination in their life. The last question present, divide the people in a situation that they did not have enough knowledge about, about a country they did not know and the actions that have another meaning. More than one third of interviewers think that it is fine, but is it true? Can we do wrong things and just say after that we did not know that it is not legal? It is hard to say 'YES' or 'NO' on this type of question. In situation like that maybe we should just learn about other countries and their culture? If we do this, we will know more about each other and we can understand it better.

Discrimination is around us and we can see it. If we can see it, let's do something with this. Let's learn about each other and be tolerant!

The Refugee Child. Lonely in the Dark...

Finding yourself in a different environment without even knowing why and how. When there are dozens of unanswered questions in mind, you cannot hear any sound. It's like being born again, but the memory isn't empty.

We want children to overcome things that even an adult can't; to survive in a very different culture where a different language is spoken, all alone. There are a few refugee children in every class I've seen. The other students try to get used to them when they come to them. I watch them at the break times; they walk alone in the yard, sitting alone, not participating in games. During lessons, their eyes just stare into space. Their body is there but their mind is somewhere else. An overwhelming feeling of being excluded and discriminated fills their hearts. It just doesn't matter where you are or who the victims are. It is a situation that cannot be accepted easily. It feels like waking up one morning in a forest where you have no food, nothing to drink. Actually everything is around but not the things you're looking for. There are people but they cannot make friends with you. They don't understand your language, so they can't ask about your miseries.

You're on a bridge. Either direction you head means new problems.

What can be done here is actually very simple:

TIME HEALS EVERYTHING.

Time is going to make everything easier. As the wounds heal, one will forget where they were.

TIME IS EVERYTHING.



Discrimination in Sport

It's hard to believe that less than 30 years ago monkey's sounds were being thrown around football stadiums and the sight of fans throwing bananas at a black player were normal, everyday occurrences. It is connected with gender or whether they are gay, straight or bisexual and especially with skin colour.

There are humans examples like that of Eugenie Bouchard who was asked to twirl in front of the Stadium at the Australian Open by one of the organisers. Female candidates are seen as eye candy rather than serious athletes.

In 2015, the FA was criticized for sending out a "sexist" tweet which said: you could now go back to being "mothers, partners and daughters" after praising the England women's team following their World Cup heroics.

In January 2013, Kevin Prince Boateng, a player from Ghana for AC Milan, walked off the pitch with his teammates after alleged racist chants and monkey sounds were festured by supporters of the opposing team.

In 2005, Australian Rugby Union player Justin Harrison was accused of verbally abusing the oppositions teams' player with racist remarks.

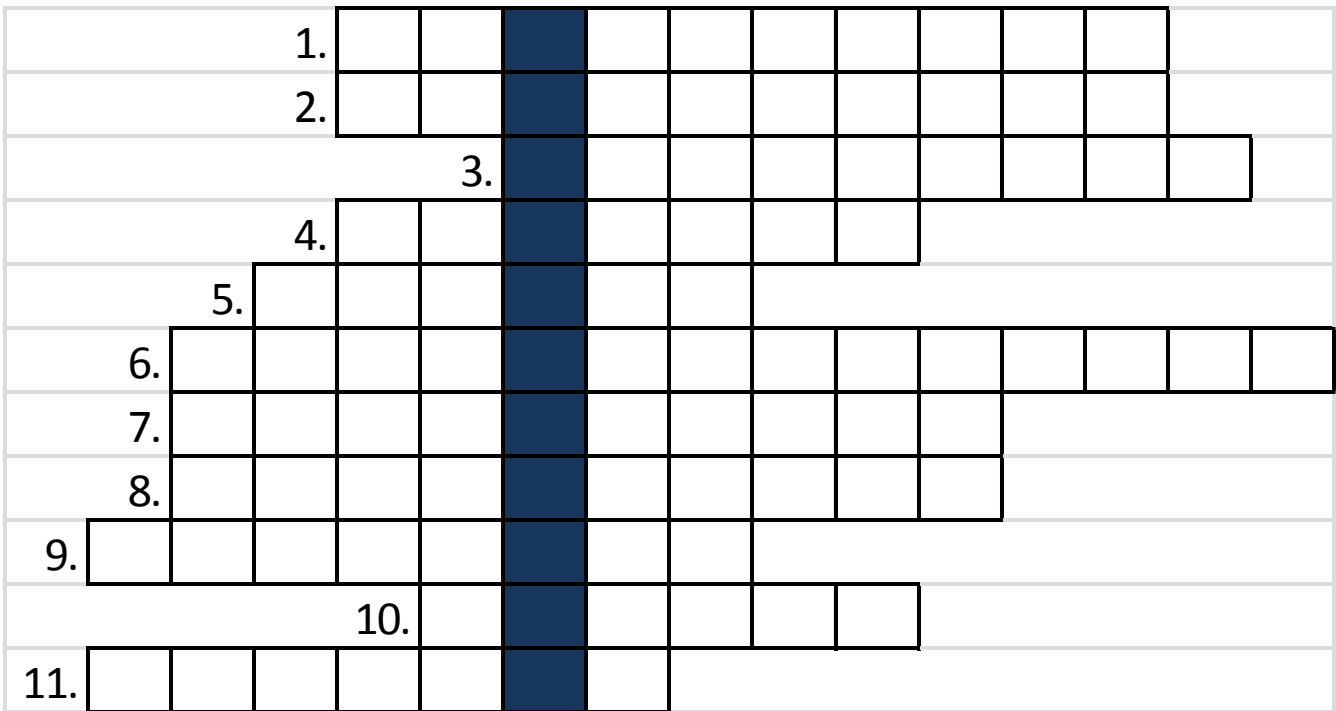
According to ESPN, in 2003, during a Wetherty League match in Yorkshire between Great Preston and St. Chad's, 4 Asian players were allegedly at the receiving end of various racist comments – including being referred to as "al-Qaida members".



Sport brings together millions of people, regardless of their sex, colour, gender, age, nationality or religion. There are many organisations which deal with this kind of situation, for example UEFA or EUA (European Union Agency).

You could almost be forgiven for thinking that the war against discrimination in sport has already been won. It is obvious that this problem existed, exists and will exist but thanks to ministration of many people the whole sport world becomes a better place.

CROSSWORD



1. Leaving for various reasons.
2. The smaller group of people within a country.
3. As accepting as possible.
4. The place where homeless people live.
5. The place where something begins.
6. Being prejudicial to a person or a group.
7. A sympathy for the referring or others.
8. The provision of medical help.
9. A prolonged armed struggle.
10. A principle armed struggle.
11. A principle of action adopted by an accident.
12. A state of being in agreement.



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