



MuslimARC Glossary

- 1. Advocacy:** A process of pleading for, supporting, or recommending a particular cause or policy by individuals or groups in order to influence decisions in a political, economic, or social system/institution.
- 2. Affirmative Action:** Policy of providing special opportunities or favoring members of a disadvantaged group.
- 3. Ally:** One whose personal commitment to dismantling oppression is reflected in a willingness to educate oneself about oppression, challenge one's own prejudices, learn and practice the skills of anti-oppression, interrupt oppressive remarks, behaviors, policies, and institutional structures.
- 4. Ancestry:** One's family or ethnic descent that goes back to their point of origin.
- 5. Ansar:** Arabic for "helpers." The Ansar were the people of Medina who accepted and helped the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and the Muhajirun of Mecca after the Hijra.
- 6. Anti-racism:** Beliefs, practices, movements or policies that oppose racism and promote racial tolerance and respect in order to promote an environment free of racial discrimination.
- 7. Assimilation:** The blending of minority groups, cultures, or attitudes into the dominant society or status quo.
- 8. Attitude:** A firm way of thinking or feeling towards a person, place, thing, or event.
- 9. Barrier:** An obstacle that prevents movement or access.
- 10. Bias:** A prejudice towards a person, place, thing, or group that is usually accompanied by a refusal to consider alternative viewpoints.
- 11. Bigot:** Someone who has strong prejudices towards a group or idea and thus treats them/it with fear, hatred, or distrust.
- 12. Black/African American:** People of African descent and people who identify as such.
- 13. Chauvinism:** Excessive or prejudiced loyalty or support for one's own cause, group, or gender.
- 14. Colonialism:** The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.
- 15. Colorism:** Discrimination based on skin color.
- 16. Conciliation:** The action of mediating between two disputing parties.
- 17. Culture:** the mix of ideas, beliefs, values, behavioral norms of a group who share historical, geographic, religious, racial, ethnic or social context who transmit and modify those ideas, beliefs, and practices from one generation to another.

- 18. Disability:** Inborn or assigned characteristics of an individual that may prevent or require accommodations for full participation in society, including education, social life, economic, political, religious. Visible disabilities are apparent, while invisible disabilities are not readily apparent.
- 19. Discrimination:** Showing partiality or prejudice in treatment of an individual
- 20. Diversity:** Uniqueness of individuality that used to group people together, race, ethnicity, age, ability, gender, socio-economic status, religious perspectives, and affiliations
- 21. Dominant group:** The group with the most power and privileges in a particular society and context.
- 22. Emigration:** The process of leaving one's country or region for personal, economic, political, social, or religious reasons.
- 23. Enslavement:** To keep a person(s) in a state of bondage and reducing them to slavery.
- 24. Ethnic group:** Group of people with common traits, background, and associations. Refers to cultural background (i.e., language, food, and style of clothing).
- 25. Ethnicity:** Beliefs, behaviors, and traditions held by a group of people bound by linguistic, historical, religious, geographic, or racial identity.
- 26. Ethnocentrism:** Tendency to view one's own groups and customs as superior, to view others using your own group's customs and practices as the standard.
- 27. Eurocentrism:** Presumes European supremacy and the standard for judging others' culture, customs, and history.
- 28. Genocide:** Deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group
- 29. Hadith:** A collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad that, with accounts of his daily practice (the Sunna), constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims
- 30. Harassment:** Aggressive pressure or intimidation; persistent and on-going communication of negative attitudes, beliefs or attitudes towards an individual or group.
- 31. Human Rights:** The basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled to. Right that is believed to belong justifiably to every person. affirm and protect the right of every individual to live and work without discrimination and harassment.
- 32. Immigrant:** Person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country
- 33. Immigration:** The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.
- 34. Inclusive language:** Deliberate selection of language that seeks to avoid exclusion of particular groups
- 35. Integration:** The process of amalgamating diverse group within a single context (i.e. housing or education) in contrast to segregation. Unlike assimilation, integration allows people to maintain their cultural identity.
- 36. Interethnic conflict:** Individual, group, or community conflicts between different racial, ethnic or cultural groups
- 37. Internalized racism:** When an individual member of a racial group oppressed by a racist system supports the supremacy of the dominant group by upholding or participating in attitudes, behaviors, social structures and ideologies that support the dominating group's power.
- 38. Interpersonal racism:** Racism that occurs between individuals.

- 39. Intersectionality:** Interconnected nature of forms of oppression against particular groups of people. An approach largely advanced by women of color, arguing that classifications such as gender, race, class, and others cannot be examined in isolation from one another; they interact and intersect in individuals' lives, in society, in social systems, and are mutually constitutive.
- 40. Intolerance:** Unwillingness to accept views, beliefs, or behavior that differ from one's own
- 41. Institutional racism:** Institutional policies and practices that advantages privileged race(s) and disadvantage marginalized race(s), resulting in different outcomes for different racial groups.
- 42. Islamophobia:** Term that means the unfounded hostility towards Muslims, and therefore fear or dislike of all or most Muslims, with attitudes that include depicting Islam as a monolith that cannot adapt to new realities, that Islam is an inherently violent religion that supports terrorism, Islam and Muslims are inferior to the West and that Muslims do not share common values with people of other faiths.
- 43. Majority:** The political party, group, or faction having the most power by virtue of its larger representation or electoral strength.
- 44. Marginalization:** To relegate or confine to a lower or outer limit or edge, as of social standing
- 45. Minority:** A racial, religious, political, national, or other group thought to be different from the larger group of which it is part.
- 46. Muhajiroon:** Arabic for "emigrants". The initial Muslims who followed the Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) on his Hijra (emigration) Mecca to Medina.
- 47. Multiculturalism:** Of or relating to a social or educational theory that encourages interest in many cultures within a society rather than in only a mainstream culture.
- 48. Nationalism:** Devotion to the interests or culture of one's nation.
- 49. Oppression:** The act of subjugating by cruelty, force, etc or the state of being subjugated in this way
- 50. Prejudice:** Prejudgment that is not based on reason or actual experience.
- 51. Peoples:** English translation of *shu'uban*, used in Quran 49:13; one of the groupings which Allah has created among human beings. The Arabic term refers to a larger grouping, hence people or nation, as compared with a tribe or smaller grouping.
- 52. Privilege:** Benefits or advantages given to members of a dominant group in society because of their membership in this group, and from which members of other groups are excluded in part or all.
- 53. Quran:** The Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad (s.a.w.) by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic. The Quran consists of 114 units of varying lengths, known as *suras*; the first sura is said as part of the ritual prayer. These touch upon all aspects of human existence, including matters of doctrine, social organization, and legislation
- 54. Racial Profiling:** When a person is singled out for reasons of public security or safety on the basis of their perceived membership in a racial group, typically based on stereotypes about members of that group.
- 55. Race:** A group of persons related by common descent and ancestry.

- 56. Racial slurs:** Insulting or disparaging statements made about members of a racial group or to people perceived to belong to that group.
- 57. Racism:** The systematic unequal distribution of rights, privileges, resources, and protections along racial lines and the assignment of worth, ability, and value according to race.
- 58. Shadeism:** Discrimination against individuals based on skin tone, often considered synonymous with colorism (q.v.). Shadeism can occur within communities of color and often takes the form of preference for lighter skin tones.
- 59. Slavery:** Slavery is a social and economic relationship in which a person is controlled through violence or its threat, paid nothing, and economically exploited (taken from *New Slavery: A Reference Handbook* by Kevin Bales).
- 60. Social justice:** A situation where all members of a society are able to fully participate in the society and have the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives and to develop their potential; a movement which aims to establish such a society through removing obstacles (such as poverty, racism, or other structural inequalities) that block people from achieving these aims.
- 61. Social media:** The creation and exchange of information and ideas among communities or networks; technologies that allow such creation and exchange. Includes social networks such as Twitter and Facebook, blogs, collaborative project sites, content communities, and virtual worlds.
- 62. Stereotype:** Fixed mental picture or image of group and ascribing those characteristics to all members of a group regardless of their individual differences.
- 63. Sunnah:** The way of life prescribed as normative for Muslims on the basis of the teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad saws and interpretations of the Quran.
- 64. Systemic Discrimination:** This is the kind of discrimination that is built into the way organizations and governments operate. This often involves informal activities and cultures. Systemic discrimination is more hidden than adverse effect discrimination.
- 65. Taqwa:** Arabic for “righteousness”. It is explained as a shield against wrongdoing and further expounded as to be “conscious of Allah” or to have “fear of Allah” or to be “cautiously aware of Allah”
- 66. Tolerance:** Fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose, opinions, practices, race, religion, nationality, etc. differ from one's own; free-dom from bigotry.
- 67. Tribe:** Any aggregate of people united by ties of descent from a common ancestor, community of customs and traditions, adherence to the same leaders, etc.
- 68. Wali/Awliya:** These are Arabic terms Awliya is the plural of wali and means is an Arabic word, its lexical meaning being “supporter”, “guardian” or “protector”. The word can also mean “ally” or “friend”. The word (in various forms) appears about 200 times in the Quran.
- 69. Unity:** The state of being one; oneness
- 70. White:** Relating to a race of people who have light-colored skin and whose ancestry is primarily from Europe.
- 71. Xenophobia:** An unreasonable fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers or of that which is foreign or strange.

Sources:

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