








Stop racial harassment

In November 2020, [Universities UK published recommendations](#) to tackle racial harassment in UK higher education:

-  Publicly commit priority status to tackling racial harassment
-  Engage directly with students and staff with lived experience of racial harassment
-  Review current policies and procedures and develop new institution-wide strategies for tackling racial harassment
-  Improve awareness and understanding of racism, racial harassment, white privilege and micro-aggressions among all staff and students, including through anti-racist training
-  Ensure expected behaviours for online behaviour are clearly communicated to students and staff, as well as sanctions for breaches
-  Develop and introduce reporting systems for incidents of racial harassment
-  Collect data on reports of incidents and share regularly with senior staff and governing bodies

The guidance calls on university leaders to acknowledge that UK higher education perpetuates institutional racism. It also recommends training for senior leaders and governing bodies to improve their awareness; and it makes clear that efforts to address racial harassment will only succeed if the entire university community – including students, staff, alumni, and local partners – are engaged and encouraged to take shared responsibility for change.

Efforts to tackle racial harassment should be closely linked with wider work by universities to address racial inequalities in their local communities, as well as throughout UK society and culture.