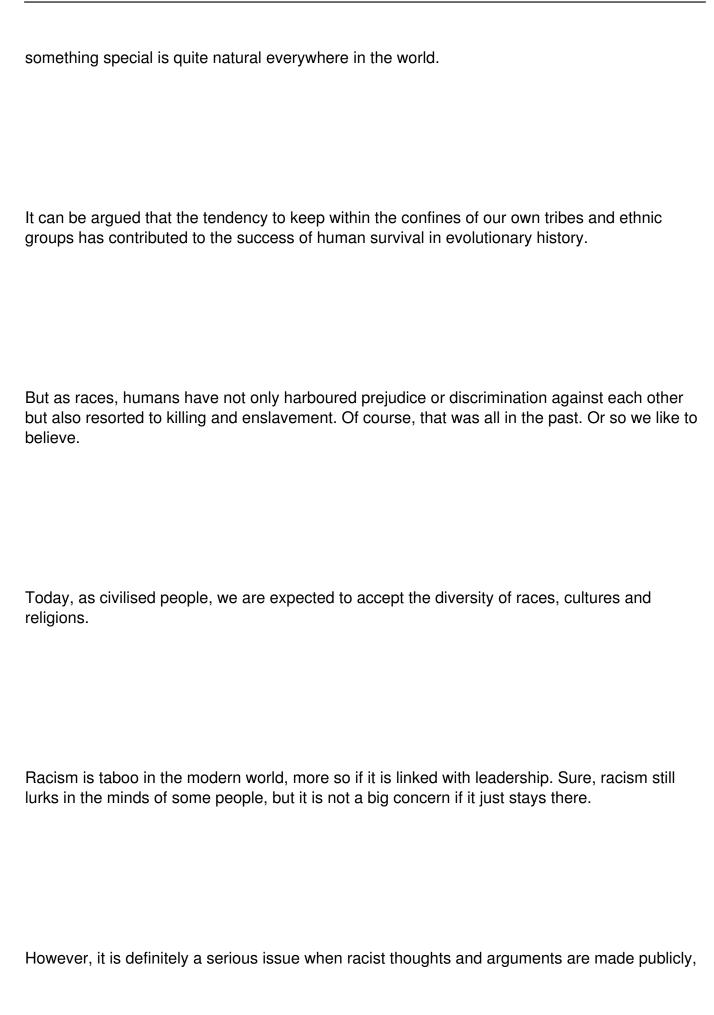


RACISM
First publihed in <u>The Star</u>
Along The Watchtower by M. Veera Pandiyan
Racist remarks should not be swept under the carpet, as this can only result in the entire party sharing the blame and bearing the consequences.
LET'S face it: most people have inherent racist thoughts, leanings or prejudices.
It's part of being human. The propensity to defend one's own ethnic group and regard it as

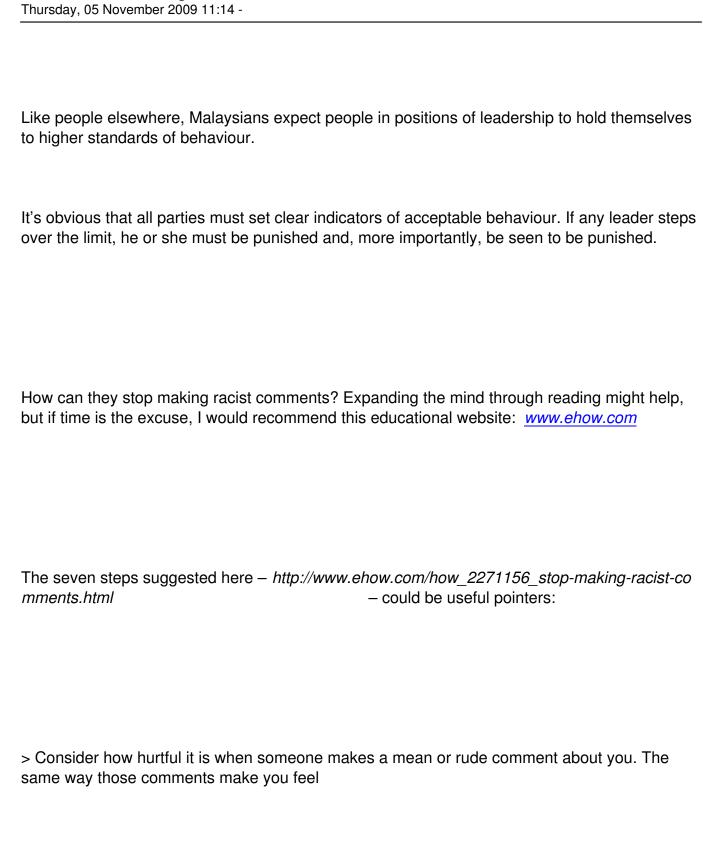




Thursday, 05 November 2009 11:14 -
Rakyat.
One prominent glib-tongued one has long mastered the art of saying one thing to supporters who are of his race and religion, and another to racially mixed crowds
I still remember the old days when he was in a very powerful position. He would bluntly tell reporters covering his event: "What I said in my speech was only meant for the Malay media Others need not report (it)."
But I digress. The point is, racist politicians should neither be disregarded nor ignored.
Their remarks should not be swept under the carpet, as this can only result in the entire part sharing the blame and bearing the repercussions.

Whether or not there are one or several such politicians in a party, they should be censured quickly and made to apologise publicly.

feel.



angry, hurt or embarrassed is the same way your racist comments make someone of that race

> Think before you speak. Take two to five seconds to consider how someone might take your words offensively before you say something. This pause can give you the time to word your thoughts in a considerate way.
This can be the difference between saying a racist comment and opening a positive dialogue between different races.
> Choose good friends. The old saying, "birds of a feather flock together," is quite true. If all of your friends are constantly making racist comments, this will influence your thoughts and behaviour.
Try talking to your friends about why it's harmful to make racist comments, but, if they continue it may be time to find different friends.
> Get some history books and read about the long-term consequences of racism. Hatred and discrimination against people simply due to the colour of their skin or their ethnic origin has been the cause of great poverty, wars and even death.
Whether one is the oppressor or the oppressed, there are grave consequences that both sides eventually have to deal with because of the hatred.

> Stop stereotyping people based on their race. Every person is an individual and does not fit into one category simply because their skin looks the same.
If someone of your race committed a murder, you wouldn't want to be convicted of their crime simply because their skin matched yours.
When you stereotype based on race, it's just like convicting someone of a crime they didn't commit.
> Know that all races have good and bad people. Every race has people who have suffered due to racism and every race has people who are racist.
Accept that there is no superior race and all people are created equal. Base your judgments of others on their character and behaviour, not their race.
> Learn about other cultures. Often, it is ignorance of other cultures or a person's upbringing that causes him to make racist comments.
As you start to look at people of other races as someone's mother, father or sister who struggles, cries and has dreams just like you, you might even find a new best friend of a different race.