

Give racism the red card reading text

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Many young football players move to live in new countries, where they have to learn a new language, try new food, get used to the weather and learn about the cultures around them. However, there is a very strong relationship between racism and football. We see racism in players, managers and fans, and despite increasing punishments, the problem continues. Players have said racism is a cultural thing: 'If every day you hear adults saying "Go back to your own country", then one day the child will say the same thing'.

2. _____

An increasing number of players are taking action against racism. There are now many legal cases against fans for abuse of players and their families. Some players like Patrice Evra (Manchester United) and Anton Ferdinand (Queens Park Rangers) have won cases against other players for abusive language and behaviour.

3. _____

Since 2004, stricter laws have included punishments of stadium bans and jail for racist behaviour from fans, including jail sentences for racial abuse online. Football clubs can also be given fines or be closed if their fans take part in racist behaviour. Despite the laws, there was a peak in football-related racial abuse between 2018 and 2023. 'Kick It Out' received a record 1,007 reports of discrimination during the 2022–23 football season.

4. _____

In April 2021, online abuse became so bad that all Premier League, English Football League and Women's Super League clubs collectively boycotted social media platforms for four days to protest. Organisations like 'Show Racism the Red Card' and 'Kick Racism Out of Football' work to end racism through educational resources and campaigns. Their goal is to celebrate the contributions of ethnic minorities and foreign players, provide ways for reporting hate crimes, and support survivors of abuse.

5. _____

Unfortunately, racism isn't just limited to the men's game. The England women's 2023 World Cup team lacked racial diversity, with only two women of colour in the 23-player squad. Additionally, former professional player Sapphire McIntosh reported that she faced discrimination due to her ethnicity, and no one in her team talked to her during her first year with the Leeds United youth teams.