



Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
Durban, South Africa
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News release

South Africans report racial discrimination by employers and courts

2016 is a landmark year in South Africa's nation-building process. April 15 marked the 20th anniversary of the first hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which sought "to provide for the investigation and the establishment of as complete a picture as possible of the nature, causes and extent of gross violations of human rights" committed during apartheid. The TRC has served as a model for transitional justice in Africa and globally, though it has faced criticism for failing to address structural injustices.

Over the past few months, racist rhetoric on social and traditional media has renewed the national debate on discrimination and the lack of socioeconomic transformation since the transition from apartheid.

Findings from Afrobarometer's 2015 survey in South Africa provide some evidence that these initiatives are indeed needed.

Key findings

- Although consistently low since 2006, the proportion of South Africans who believe that the government "always" or "often" discriminates against members of their ethnic community increased by 15 percentage point with a divergence between black and minority race groups.
- At least three in 10 Coloured, Indian and white respondents now feel discriminated against by the government versus at least one in 10 black citizens.
- A majority of citizens are most likely to feel discriminated against by employers, courts and potential landlords in the North West (59%), Gauteng (56%), and Western Cape (55%) provinces.

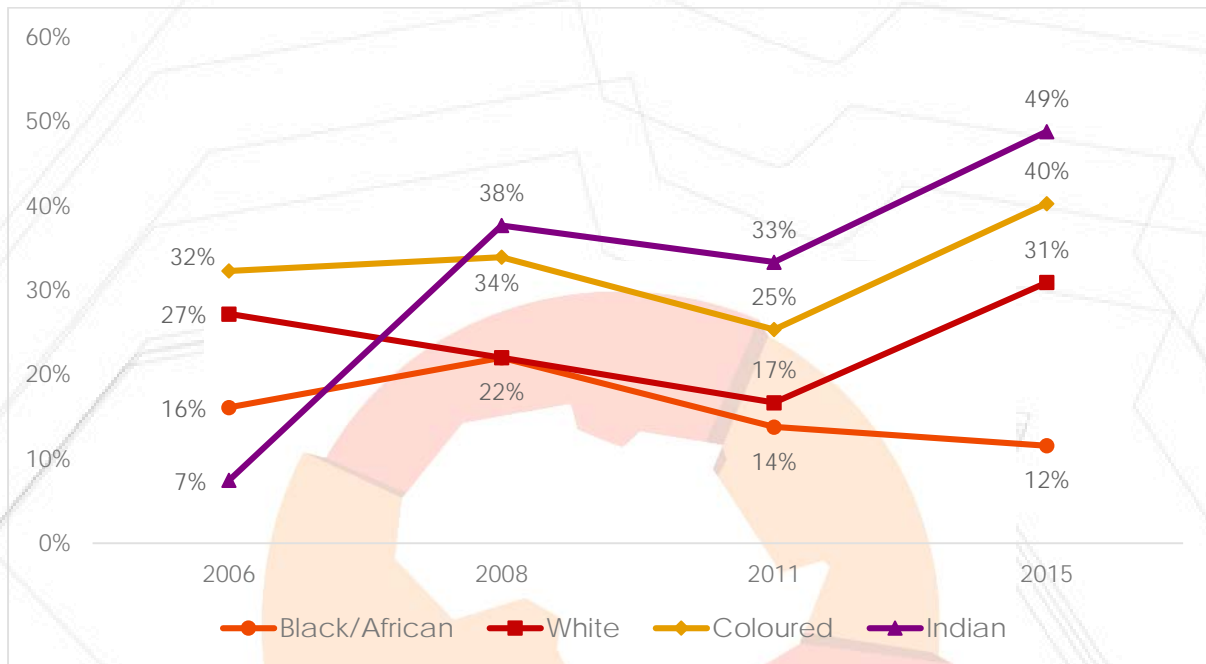
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in South Africa, led by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) and Plus 94 Research, interviewed 2,400 adult South Africans in August and September 2015. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of [$\pm 2\%$] at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in South Africa in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2011.

Charts

Figure 1: Perceptions of government discrimination against ethnic groups | by race | South Africa | 2006-2015



Respondents were asked: How often, if ever, are [members of respondent's ethnic group] treated unfairly by the government?

Table 1: Racial discrimination by employers, courts, and landlords | by province | South Africa | 2015

Province	Employers	Courts	Landlords	Average
North West	70%	54%	54%	59%
Gauteng	64%	69%	35%	56%
Western Cape	51%	61%	52%	55%
KwaZulu-Natal	57%	59%	40%	52%
Free State	65%	54%	32%	50%
Eastern Cape	48%	51%	41%	47%
Northern Cape	43%	48%	35%	42%
Limpopo	37%	37%	18%	31%
Mpumalanga	56%	16%	4%	25%

Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often in this country are people treated unequally because of their race by: Their current or prospective employers? The courts? Potential landlords? (% who say "often" or "always")

For more information, please contact:

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