

# EQUALITY AND FAIR TREATMENT

## PREJUDICE:



Prejudice is forming an unfavourable opinion or feeling about a person or group of people without full examination of the situation. E.g of prejudice is on a basketball team , african american players being quickly judged as the better players.

## DISCRIMINATION:



Discrimination is making a distinction against a person or thing based on the group, class or category they belong to. E.g joke or insult directed at someone because of their race, colour, sex, gender, sexual orientation etc. Discrimination reflects an ignorant attitude towards others and buddhists believe that ignorance and craving cause people to suffer - known as dukkha.

## Why are they wrong?

Discrimination is not always wrong. Rather, discrimination is like fire. In some contexts, it gives heat and sustains life. In other contexts, it kills. To say that all discrimination is wrong is a failure to appreciate the difference. Our lives are full of discriminatory acts. Some is positive discrimination, some is wrong.

Prejudice is wrong because you can't generalise traits throughout an entire race/gender/hair colour/political party etc just because they belong to that group. It doesn't work like that, so there's not much point in hating a whole group because of the actions of just a few. And by not fully

assessing the situation you may not understand what is going on so it is wrong to judge before you do. If you want to achieve karuna, as buddhists believe you should, you must try to reduce the suffering of others.

## Equality

Mahayana buddhists believe that everyone should be treated equally and to do this it is best to try to avoid certain types of discrimination and prejudice. They believe we all have tathagatagarbha i.e. the ability to become enlightened; it does not matter your race, culture or background, once enlightened there are no divisions at all.

