

## White Supremacy Culture – Definitions

### **Culture:**

Culture refers to the knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, concepts of the universe, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving. Culture is the knowledge shared by a group of people.

A culture is a way of life of a group of people—the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and that are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.

Culture is a collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another.

Source: <http://www.dismantlingracism.org/white-supremacy-culture.html>

### **White Supremacy Culture:**

Many people ... associate the term white supremacy with extreme and explicit hate groups. However, for sociologists, white supremacy is a highly descriptive term for the culture we live in; a culture which positions white people and all that is associated with them (whiteness) as ideal.

White supremacy captures the all-encompassing centrality and assumed superiority of people defined and perceived as white, and the practices based upon that assumption. White supremacy is not simply the idea that whites are superior to people of color (although it certainly is that), but a deeper premise that supports this idea—the definition of whites as the norm or standard for human, and people of color as an inherent deviation from that norm.

Thus, when race scholars use the term white supremacy, we **do not** use it the same way as mainstream culture does. Nor, do we use it to indicate majority-versus-minority relations. Power is not dependent on numbers but on position.

**We use the term to refer to a socio-political economic system of domination based on racial categories that benefit those defined and perceived as white.**

This system rests on the historical and current accumulation of structural power that privileges, centralizes, and elevates white people as a group.

Source: <https://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/no-i-wont-stop-saying-white-supremacy-20170630>