

Welsh Language Race and Ethnicity Terminology

A list of selected terms by the Working Group on Welsh Terminology in the field of Race and Ethnicity Equality, established by the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Division, including usage notes for discussing issues of Race and Ethnicity in Welsh.

English Term	Acronym	Welsh Term	Definition	Usage note
antiracist		gwrth-hiliol		
Black / white		Du / gwyn	As a descriptor of people, 'Du' ('Black') usually refers to an identity originating fully or partly from sub-Saharan Africa. It may include cultural elements, and therefore does not always contrast with 'gwyn' ('white') which does not include a corresponding sense of belonging to a distinctive identity.	As far as possible, capitalize the word 'Du' ('Black') when referring to people, but do not capitalize 'gwyn' ('white') in similar contexts. The only exception is where consistency is required in a document published in both languages and where the translation must follow the style of the original. DO NOT use colour adjectives nominatively (i.e. instead of nouns) when referring to groups of people e.g. 'y Duon' ('the Blacks') / 'y gwynion' ('the whites'). DO NOT use the plural forms of the adjectives 'du' ('black') or 'gwyn' ('white') when referring to people (i.e. 'pobl Ddu' not 'pobl Dduon', and 'pobl wyn' not 'pobl wynion'). In some phrases, e.g. 'bywydau Duon' ('Black lives'), it may appear as if the word 'Duon' is used nominatively rather than adjectivally and this, as noted above, is best avoided.

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Black, Asian and minority ethnic	BAME	Du, Asiaidd ac ethnig leiafrifol	People from a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic background	Do not use the English term or acronym 'BAME' if this can be avoided. It offends some of those it is attempting to describe, by over-generalizing ethnic groups and emphasising some whilst excluding others. It is included here only to provide guidance to those who must translate it into Welsh. Use the full Welsh term if you need to translate the English acronym 'BAME'. Where possible describe people by their individual ethnic community, not by skin colour or generic groupings. If you must generalize, use a phrase such as '<i>cymunedau ethnig amrywiol</i>' ('diverse ethnic communities') or '<i>mwyafrif bydeang</i>' ('global majority').
Blackness		Duder	A positive term that defines the characteristic of having dark skin colour and the positive cultures that may be associated with this, especially in the United States of America.	Capitalize where possible to reflect the cultural dimension of this description of people. The only exception is where consistency is required in a document published in both languages and where the translation must follow the style of the original.
colourism		lliwiaeth	Prejudice within or across ethnic groups based on the darkness of skin tone.	

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ethnic community (plural: ethnic communities)		cymuned ethnig (plural: cymunedau ethnig)	A social unit that shares an identity based on characteristics such as origin, language, history, traditions, religion, or common culture. Sometimes, the terms ' <i>grŵp ethnig</i> ' ('ethnic group') and ' <i>cymuned ethnig</i> ' ('ethnic community') are considered synonyms, but ' <i>cymuned</i> ' ('community') contains a stronger sense of belonging. The use of ' <i>grŵp</i> ' ('group') is more prominent in Government statistics.	
ethnic group (plural: ethnic groups)		grŵp ethnig (plural: grwpiau ethnig)	A category of people who share an identity based on characteristics such as origin or common culture. For census of population data collection, the	

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			classifications used for ethnic groups are Asian, Black, Mixed, White and Other, with subcategories for each of these.	
global majority		mwyafrif byd-eang	A positive description of Black, African, Asian and Brown people, people of dual heritage, those native to the global south, and / or those who have been racialized as 'ethnic minorities'. These groups include about 80% of the world's population.	
intersectionality		croestoriadedd	The way different aspects of an individual's identity, e.g. ethnicity, class, sex, gender and disability, work together in a way that often reinforces inequality. Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw was the first to use the	

English Term	Acronym	Welsh Term	Definition	Usage note
			term in the context of discrimination.	
macroaggression		macroymosodia d <i>(enw rhif / count noun)</i> macroymosode dd <i>(enw cynnull / mass noun)</i>	Prejudiced and negative comments or actions which are directed at members of minority or marginalized communities, and which cause harm. This may occur on a structural level with the intention of targeting and excluding such people. Taken individually these attacks may appear to be small, but their impact is cumulative.	
macroaggressive		macroymosodol		
microaggression		microymosodia d <i>(enw rhif / count noun)</i> microymosoded d	Everyday prejudiced and negative comments or actions which are aimed at members of minority or marginalized communities. Such	

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		(<i>enw cynnull / mass noun</i>)	comments or actions may harm or hurt those individuals, even if these consequences are unintended.	
microaggressive		microymosodol		
minority community (<u>plural</u> : minority communities)		cymuned leiafrifol (<u>plural</u> : cymunedau lleiafrifol)	Any community that is not a part of a territory or area's majority community.	
minority ethnic community (<u>plural</u> : minority ethnic communities)		cymuned ethnig leiafrifol (<u>plural</u> : cymunedau ethnig lleiafrifol)	A community of people who belong to an ethnic minority within a territory or area.	The term 'ethnic minority community' is occasionally used in English but the same order of words is recommended when translating either term into Welsh.
minority ethnic group (<u>plural</u> : minority ethnic groups)		grŵp ethnig lleiafrifol (<u>plural</u> : grwpiau ethnig lleiafrifol)	A group of people who belong to an ethnic minority within a territory or area.	The term 'ethnic minority group' is occasionally used in English but the same order of words is recommended when translating either term into Welsh.
minority group		grŵp lleiafrifol	Any group of people who do not belong to the majority in a	

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(plural: minority groups)		(lluosog: grwpiau lleiafrifol)	particular situation. There is a general shift away from using 'minority' to describe groups since this is considered disparaging. [See also 'minority community' and 'minority ethnic community'].	
non-BAME		pobl nad ydyn nhw'n perthyn i grwpiau Du, Asiaidd ac ethnig leiafrifol	People who are not from a Black, Asian or other minority ethnic background.	Please see the usage note for 'BAME'. In more formal language registers, '<i>pobl nad ydynt yn perthyn i grwpiau Du, Asiaidd ac ethnig leiafrifol</i>' may be appropriate. In less formal language registers, '<i>pobl sydd ddim yn perthyn i grwpiau Du, Asiaidd ac ethnig leiafrifol</i>' may be appropriate.
person of colour (plural: people of colour)		person o liw (plural: pobl o liw)	People from ethnic backgrounds other than those which are considered 'white'.	Where possible, it is better to avoid terms that refer to the colour of other people's skin. '<i>Pobl o liw</i>' should only be used where 'people of colour' needs to be translated from English. Where possible, use terms that refer to ethnicity rather than skin colour.

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				DO NOT use the Welsh adjectives ' <i>croenliw</i> ', ' <i>croenddu</i> ', ' <i>croenwyn</i> ' since they place too much emphasis on the colour of skin.
race		hil	One of humanity's supposed subdivisions based on physical characteristics or common lineage. The concept of 'race' is problematic, and it is accepted that it is a social construct rather than an objective physical / biological category.	The acceptability of this term depends significantly on context, but when 'race' does not have to be translated directly into Welsh, it may be more positive to use alternative terms such as ' <i>pobl</i> ' ('people'), ' <i>cymuned</i> ' ('community') or ' <i>grŵp ethnig</i> ' ('ethnic group') rather than ' <i>hil</i> ' ('race').
racial		ar sail hil		If ' <i>ar sail hil</i> ' (literally, 'on the basis of race') is not suitable in a particular context, it may be possible to use ' <i>hil</i> ' ('race') adjectivally, e.g. ' <i>gwahaniaethu ar sail hil</i> ' ('racial discrimination') but ' <i>strategaeth hil</i> ' ('racial strategy'). DO NOT use ' <i>hiliol</i> ' since this term is reserved to correspond to 'racist'.
racist / racialist		<u>Adjective:</u> hiliol <u>Noun:</u> person hiliol	<u>As an adjective:</u> showing prejudice and hostility towards people from a different ethnic background,	Sometimes it may be worth considering rewording the original text and the phrase ' <i>bod yn hiliol</i> ' ('being racist') may be a useful alternative in some contexts.

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		(plural: pobl hiliol)	particularly minority backgrounds and those who have historically been persecuted. <i>As a noun:</i> a person who displays the characteristics above.	
white privilege		braint pobl wyn	Unfair advantages that white people have in a society characterized by unfairness and inequality based on skin colour and ethnicity.	Include the element ' <i>pobl</i> ' ('people') in the phrase for clarity. DO NOT use ' <i>braint y dyn gwyn</i> ' (literally, 'white man's privilege') since the use of ' <i>dyn</i> ' ('man') would be ambiguous.
white silence		distawrwydd pobl wyn	White people's failure to speak out against unfairness and inequality which is based on skin colour and ethnicity.	Include the element ' <i>pobl</i> ' ('people') in the phrase for clarity.
white tears		dagrau pobl wyn	The tendency by some white people towards self-pity in situations where they feel wronged and that people from other ethnic backgrounds	

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			are receiving an unfair advantage, or where they attempt to direct sympathy towards themselves rather than a person of colour or different ethnic background who has really suffered a wrong.	
whiteness		gwynder	This term is sometimes used to contrast with ' <i>Duder</i> ' ('Blackness') as a characteristic describing skin colour, but it has no corresponding distinctive cultural dimension.	DO NOT capitalize ' <i>gwynder</i> ' ('whiteness') since the term has no cultural dimension. The only exception is where consistency is required in a document published in both languages and where the translation must follow the style of the original.