

## Discriminatory

Discriminatory abuse is unwanted conduct based on a person's social identity (i.e. age, sex, race, disability, culture, religion, sexual orientation, nationality or any other personal characteristic of the individual), which affects the dignity of the victim. It may be persistent conduct or an isolated incident. The key issue is that the actions or comments are perceived as demeaning and unacceptable by the recipient.

Abusive Action	Signs & Symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Racism</b></li> <li>• <b>Sexism</b></li> <li>• <b>Harassment on the basis of a disability</b></li> <li>• <b>Harassment on the basis of sexual preference</b></li> <li>• <b>Age discrimination is also a form of discriminatory abuse</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of choice;</li> <li>• lack of privacy and dignity;</li> <li>• lack of personal belongings;</li> <li>• tendency for withdrawal and isolation;</li> <li>• use of punishments – for example withholding food and drink;</li> <li>• lack of disabled access;</li> <li>• expression of anger/frustration/ fear/anxiety;</li> <li>• being refused access to services or being excluded inappropriately.</li> </ul>

The indicators of discriminatory abuse may take the form of any of the other types of abuse already mentioned. The difference lies in that the abuse is motivated by discriminatory attitudes, feelings or behaviour towards an individual.

**NOTE:** The following lists under each category of abuse contain examples of possible indicators. The presence of one or more of these signs or symptoms does not necessarily confirm abuse. Remember if you are ever uncertain you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team for advice, guidance and support.