

Cases and rulings

Country Code	Year	Reference details title	Reference details URL	Hate Bias motivation	Court / Body	Key facts of the case	Results (sanctions, outcome) and key consequences or implications of the case	Main reasoning / argumentation	Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case	Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details
Belgium	2014	Belgium / Court of First Instance of Antwerp / No. AN56.LB.48751-12		Racial or ethnic origin	Court of First Instance of Antwerp (Rechtbank van eerste aanleg van Antwerpen/Tribunal de première instance de Anvers)	The case concerns a suspended punishment for racism and discrimination. A couple had been refused to rent a property by a real estate agency because of their origin (which was evident from their names). According to the couple, this was explicitly mentioned to them by a staff member of the agency. The agency manager denied the accusations. He argued that the apartment was rented to someone else who was on a waiting list. However, the existence of a waiting list could not be confirmed and the Court did not accept it as an argument.	The court decided to impose a suspended punishment under certain conditions because the parties had participated in mediation. The suspended punishment, for a period of 3 years, consisted of a monetary penalty of 4,200 EUR.	The court considered the acts committed to be serious, and considered that cause individuals to feel as inferior citizens. The court observed that the accused had been willing to participate in mediation with the victims of the racist act. In this context, the accused had provided statements indicating that discrimination is not acceptable. The court took this into account and decided to impose a suspended punishment under certain conditions.	No new interpretations or explanations.	"De feiten zijn ernstig. Onze maatschappij bestaat uit vele individuen van verschillende origines die verder samen een toekomst moeten uitbouwen. Onze maatschappij heeft dan ook nood aan verzoenende en samenlevingsopbouwende initiatieven. Daden die ertoe leiden dat bepaalde personen zich als minderwaardige burgers behandeld voelen, brengen ernstig leed teweeg bij de betrokkenen, bemoeilijken het samenleven van de verschillende gemeenschappen, en brengen ernstige schade toe aan het vaak nog broze evenwicht tussen de verschillende groepen." "The facts are serious. Our society consists of many individuals of different origins who need to build a future together. Our society therefore needs reconciling, constructive initiatives. Acts leading to a situation where certain individuals feel treated as inferior citizens cause severe suffering, hinder the coexistence of the different communities, and cause serious harm to the still often delicate balance between different groups."

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