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# Development

**xenophobia, culture and identity**

Volume 52 • Number 4 • December 2009

Racism and xenophobia are a global and persistent phenomenon, but the harsh and often violent manifestations of intolerance often sit uncomfortably within mainstream development. Development practitioners and policymakers alike often fail to confront its impact, avoiding the implications of hostility on the streets or deeply entrenched prejudice within government institutions. They also miss that xenophobia pervades the language and the attitudes behind development policy.

Articles in the issue of *Development* boldly take up how the mindset of development practitioners need to change with a look at: the rise of Islamophobia, the hate attacks on Roma people in Europe and violence against refugees in South Africa; the marginalizing of Palestinians in Israel; the distrust of African migrants in Sweden; the exclusion of indigenous people in Latin America; the neglect of Bushmen in Botswana; the racist policies directed at Aboriginal Australians in Australia; and the inherent racism in the Pacific.

The journal issue highlights both the difficulty people who endure racism face and the courage of those who are trying to end unjust state policies, media misrepresentations and the violent behaviour against 'others'.



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