



Please cite as: EUAA, '[Race](#)' in *EASO Practical Guide: Qualification for international protection*, January 2022.

Race

According to the [QD](#), the concept of **race** shall in particular include considerations of:

colour

descent

membership of
a particular ethnic group

Colour relates to the traditional definition of race, which is used to refer to major groups of humankind according to physical features and appearance.

Descent refers to groups bound by common ancestry such as members of a tribe, a clan, a caste or a particular hereditary community.

There is no commonly agreed definition of **ethnic group**, but it is generally viewed as a community (including a minority and/or an indigenous people) with common characteristics such as language, religion, common history, culture, customs and mores, way of life or place of residence.

Ethnicity is a ground which can be considered both under race and under nationality (see the subsection 'Nationality').

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu