

ETS BIPOC Voices (ETS Drivers)

**Please note - these submissions are unaltered and may contain mature language*

Driver 1 (Black)

Most of the time the reason for any altercation is fares. They think they can fool us, pass on expired transfers, or show an old bus pass. Most of the time we let it go, but if we do challenge it, then we get abused. Most of the abuse is because of my race. It is always because of my race.

Driver 2 (South Asian)

Do we get racially abused? All the time, all the time. I don't think I have gone one day without some kind of abuse. Mostly they are homeless, and sometimes mentally ill, but many times they are well dressed. Just the other day, in Millgate a well dressed lady got on the bus and began abusing me, telling me I am taking away the jobs... I see this all the time, even when I was a taxi driver. In seventeen years, I have seen everything all the time. Most of the time I don't do anything or speak up, but sometimes we will call security, but by the time they come the passenger has already gone.

Driver 3 (South Asian from Africa)

Just the other day a lady with a city ID card came on the bus and showed me the card. The card is not valid for transit, but I let it go. The next time she came, I told her that the card is not valid, and then she started yelling at me. Telling me I am gross, and I should go back to where I came from. She didn't listen to anything I said. I didn't do anything. Sometimes I will call security, but most of the time, we keep our head down and just drive the bus.

Driver 4 (South Asian)

I am a new driver, and so far I have not got much racial abuse. The majority comes from mentally ill people and them I will forgive, because they don't know anything. Homeless people can also abuse a lot, but I understand their fate. The city needs to do something about homelessness, it is a serious problem, for all of us.

Driver 5 (Black)

I get abused all the time, and mostly it is because of my colour. I have been called names all the time, especially if I don't let them on because of fares. White drivers also get abused, I think, but it is a lot less than us. Northside is worse, especially buses like 1,3, 8 and 9. They go a long way and pick up all sort of people. Sometimes I call security, but usually I don't. Too much trouble.

Driver 6 (POC)

I couldn't give a free ride, because I got into trouble for it, and I had to fill out a report. But when I say that I will get abused a lot. Mostly also because of my colour and accent. One lady wanted to ride on an expired fare and I said I can't give you a ride, and she started abusing me. Sometimes security will help, but it is hard to get them on the bus right away.