

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: Casual racism
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I'm from Colombia and one of the things that most people think is I am, somehow, related or following the steps of Pablo Escobar the infamous drug lord. I feel offended and very uncomfortable when it happens, people should educate themselves a bit better and not base their opinions on movies and TV shows like Narcos (Netflix).

There was recent article on SBS
<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/english/it-offended-me-colombian-student-left-stunned-over-cocaine-joke-during-police-stop> where an international student from Colombia had to deal with 2 police officers making a 'joke' because of her nationality.

I have been living in Australia for over 15 years now but the stigma of being born in a country where drugs have been an issue for decades has not worn off at all. It does not happen that often anymore though but when it does, I can not help to feel uncomfortable and to wonder why some people are so ignorant and just plane rude.

There has been only a handful of occasions where people refer to Colombia's biodiversity, cinema (that does not include narcotraffic) or strong contestants in Miss Universe instead.

It would be a great to find a way of showcasing positive aspects of countries like Colombia based on their cuisine, geography, education, biodiversity, coffee, science and technology for example. No more Miami Vice or Narcos.

¡Gracias!

Regards,

Diana Zappone

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