

Showing Up for Racial Justice – Our Shared Values



****Calling people in, not calling out****

Our focus is on working with white people who are already in motion. While in many activist circles, there can be a culture of shame and blame, we want to bring as many white people into taking action for racial justice as possible.



**** Taking risks, learning and keep going****

We know that we will have to take risks. Everyday, people of color take risks in living their lives with full dignity and right now we are in a moment where young Black people are taking risks everyday. We challenge ourselves and other white people to take risks as well, to stand up against a racist system, actions and structures everyday. We know that in that process, we will make mistakes. Our goal is to learn from those mistakes and keep showing up again and again for what is right and for racial justice.



**** Tap into white mutual interest****

We use the term mutual interest to help us move from the idea of helping others, or just thinking about what is good for us, to understanding that our own liberation as white people, our own humanity, is inextricably linked to racial justice. Mutual interest means we cannot overcome the challenges we face unless we work for racial justice. It means our own freedom is bound up in the freedom of people of color. For Anne & Carl Braden, it was mutual interest that caused them to de-segregate an all-white neighborhood in Louisville Kentucky in 1954. It was a belief in what was right and the idea of showing up again and again for justice.



**** Accountability through action****

There can be an impulse for white people to try to get it right- to have the right analysis, language, friends, etc. What SURJ was called upon to do at our founding in 2009 was to take action- to show up when there are racist attacks, when the police attack and murder people of color in the street, their homes, our communities. We maintain ongoing relationships, individually and organizationally with leaders and organizations led by people of color. We also know it is our work to organize other white people and we are committed to moving more white people to taking action in our local communities, regionally and nationally for racial justice.

One more thing. You may not get the validation you hunger for. Stepping outside of the smoke and mirrors of racial privilege is hard, but so is living within the electrified fences of racial oppression – and no one gets cookies for that. The thing is that when you help put out a fire the people whose home was in flames may be too upset to thank and praise you – especially when you look a lot like the folks who set the fire. That's OK. This is about something so much bigger than that.

There are things in life we don't get to do right. But we do get to do them.

— Ricardo Levins Morales

White Privilege, Racism, and White Supremacy

- **White privilege** = advantages in all areas of life based on white skin
- **Racism** = social, cultural and institutional power + race prejudice
- **Racism** = a system of advantage and oppression based on race
- **Racism** = one group has power to carry out SYSTEMIC discrimination.
 - *Anyone can be prejudiced, bigoted, and discriminate. But in our society, only white people can be racist, because only white people AS A GROUP have that power. (Peace Development Fund)*
- **White supremacy** = the belief, theory, or doctrine that the white race is superior to all other races, especially the black race, and should therefore retain control in all relationships (Charles Mills, The Racial Contract)
 - *Leading anti racist scholars/activists like Cornell West and bell hooks encourage use of term "White Supremacy" instead of racism to broaden and clarify the understanding that the supremacy of the white race is a foundation stone of European and U.S. history. (Frances E. Kendall, Understanding White Privilege)*

Compiled by Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice: on Facebook and at www.showingupforracialjustice.org

Question for Pair Sharing:

How will you challenge stereotypes around gun violence and be part of the change needed?

In a group: Ways to Take Action!