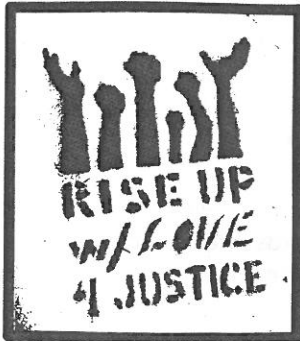


Commit to Racial Justice!

#BeyondDenial

#ICommit2



We are a collection of activists who are from the Pacific Northwest and around the country. We created this installation in collaboration with the Backbone Campaign 7th annual Localize This Action Camp.

We are responding to recent events of racism and to a request from people of color. We have been asked to educate ourselves in order to see racism, and then take actions to end it.

As a group, we are predominantly white activists who are looking inwards and reaching out to our peers to join us in this action. We are challenging ourselves, and others to commit to taking one concrete step towards racial justice and to share our challenge.

Pitch-in to support creative interventions justice:
LocalizeThis.org/



"I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group" -Peggy McIntosh

Recognize that everyone makes mistakes, and sometimes mistakes lead to positive results and offer opportunities for learning.	"I commit to viewing mistakes as opportunities for learning."
Recognize that sacrificing interests of communities of color in order to win victories for white people is seen as a default or norm in our communities.	"I commit to disrupting patterns of domination."
Recognize that defensiveness of people in power creates an oppressive culture. We must work on our own defensiveness, and name it as a problem when it is one.	"I commit to working on my own defensiveness."
Those without power are often unfamiliar with how decisions get made and who makes what decisions, and yet they are intimately aware of the impact those decisions have.	"I commit to including the interests of oppressed groups while making decisions that affect them."
Simplifying complex issues involving oppressed groups is a path to ignorance and maintains a system of oppression.	"I commit to respecting the complexity of issues in my community."
Those with power and privilege often do not see how their position in society dramatically differs from that of oppressed groups.	"I commit to disrupting the status quo in order to share power and privilege to all."
We often shy away from sensitive or uncomfortable topics. When someone raises an issue that causes discomfort, the response is often to deflect or ignore our own complicity.	"I commit to reflecting on topics that might feel uncomfortable."
In a capitalistic society, competition is valued higher than cooperation and there is little time or resources devoted to developing skills to achieve cooperation.	"I commit to promoting cooperation over self-interest."
Progress in companies and organizations frequently trumps the good of the whole. Success is too often viewed through the lens of profit as opposed to the well being of its people.	"I commit to serving the interests of people over my own personal objectives."
The belief that emotions are inherently disruptive or irrational is pervasive within our culture. Frequently people's deepest concerns are brushed aside – deemed counter-productive.	"I commit to recognizing the legitimacy of people's concerns."
We must deepen our analysis of racism and oppression within society to strengthen our understanding and empathy. In order to address the myriad of racial problems in our society, we must be able to identify with the suffering of others.	"I commit to educating myself and working to address the issues that contribute to oppression."

WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT?