

Marsha P. Johnson Group

Me and White Supremacy - July 15th, 2020 (Days 1-7)



Check-In - Danielle



Day 1 - You and White Privilege

White privilege as a legislative, systemic, and cultural norm which has existed for a long time (33) - it “describes the unearned advantages that are granted because of one’s whiteness or ability to “pass” as white.

- Not part of the natural order of life
- Race is social, not biological



Day 1 - You and White Privilege

1. In what ways do you hold white privilege?
2. What negative experiences has your white privilege protected you from throughout your life?
3. What positive experiences has your white privilege granted you throughout life that BIPOC generally don't have?
4. In what ways have you wielded your white privilege over BIPOC that have done harm (whether intended or not)?
5. What have you learned about your white privilege that makes you uncomfortable?



Jamaal Barber, "To Be Free", wood block, 2017

Day 2 - You and White Fragility

White fragility: a state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable, triggering a range of defensive moves. (40)

- it protects ppl who are white-passing (40)

- tends to foster shallow conversations on race, filled with platitudes (41)



Delphine Fawundu, "What Do They Call Me? My Name is Aunt Sarah", 2010

Day 2 - You and White Fragility

1. How does your white fragility show up during conversations about race? Do you fight, freeze, or flee?
2. Describe your most visceral memory of experiencing white fragility
3. How have you weaponized your fragility against BIPOC?
4. How do you feel when you hear the words *white people*? Do they make you feel uncomfortable?
5. How has your white fragility prevented you, through fear and discomfort, from doing meaningful work around your own personal antiracism to date?

Day 3 - You and Tone Policing

Tone policing: a tactic used by those who have privilege to silence those who do not by focusing on the tone of what is being said rather than the actual content (46).



Deborah Roberts, "The Righteous One," 2017

Day 3 - You and Tone Policing

1. How have you used tone policing out loud to silence, shut down or dismiss BIPOC?
2. What tone policing thoughts have you harbored inside when you've heard BIPOC talk about race or their lived experiences, even if you didn't say it out loud?
3. How have you derailed conversations about race by focusing on *how* someone said something to you rather than *what* they said to you?
4. How often have you made your willingness to engage antiracism work conditional on people using the "right" tone with you?
5. Have you discounted BIPOC's real pain over racism because the way they talk about it doesn't fit with your world view of how people should talk?
6. How have you discounted BIPOC in general because of the tone they use to talk?

Day 4 - You and White Silence

White silence: when people with white privilege stay complicity(sic) silent when it comes to issues of race and white supremacy.



Yehimi Cambron, "Monarch Butterfly," 2017

Day 4 - You and White Silence

1. Have you ever stayed silence when it comes to race and racism?
2. What types of situations elicit the most white silence from you?
3. How has your silence been complicit in upholding racist behavior?
4. How do you benefit from white silence?
5. Whom in your life do you harm with your white silence?

Day 5 - You and White Superiority

White superiority: stems from the belief that people with white or white-passing skin are better than and therefore deserve to dominate over people with brown or black skin.



Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Le Jour ni l'Heure*, detail, 1988

Day 5 - You and White Superiority

1. Think back on your life, from childhood to where you are in your life now. In what ways have you consciously or subconsciously believed you are better than BIPOC?

Don't hide from this. This is the crux of white supremacy. Own it.

Day 6 - You and White Exceptionalism

White exceptionalism:
the belief that you, a person holding white privilege, are exempt from the effects, benefits, and conditioning of white supremacy and therefore that the work of antiracism does not really apply to you.



By Kati So (on the theme of being mixed race)

Day 6 - You and White Exceptionalism

1. In what ways have you believed that you are exceptional, exempt, “one of the good ones,” or above the conditioning of white supremacy?
2. In what ways have you acted out of a sense of white exceptionalism when in racial conversations with BIPOC?
3. How has your white exceptionalism prevented you from showing up in allyship to BIPOC?
4. Think back on your childhood. How did society (parents, schools, the media) teach you white exceptionalism?
5. If you are a parent, in what ways are you teaching your children white exceptionalism?

Day 7 - Review

What have you begun to see and understand about your personal complicity in white supremacy that you were not able to see or understand before you began this work?



PARKER BRIGHT, *CONFRONTING MY OWN POSSIBLE DEATH*, 2018