

# Can one person make a difference?



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



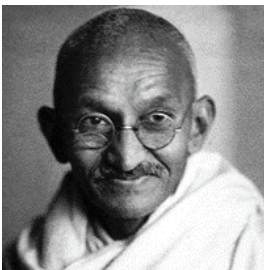
Mother Theresa



Rosa Parks



Gloria Steinem



Gandhi



Greta Thunberg



Angela Davis



Malala Yousafzai



Mary Brave Bird

# How can you make a difference?

*"In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist,  
we must be **anti-racist**."*

-Angela Davis

## WHAT IS RACE? IS RACE BIOLOGICAL?

"The concept of race has no genetic or scientific basis," stated Craig Venter, a pioneer of DNA sequencing in 2000.

Research has indicated that humans are all related and have the same collection of genes. Studies of genetic diversity have allowed scientists to reconstruct a kind of family tree of human populations. That has revealed that in a very real sense, all people alive today are Africans. <sup>\*\*</sup>

Race is a cultural construct that changes and morphs over time. A cultural construct is the idea that the characteristics people attribute to social categories, such as gender, illness, death, status of women, and status of men, is culturally defined.

For many people, it comes as a surprise that racial categorization schemes were invented by Dr. Samuel Morton, a scientist in 18th century to support worldviews that viewed some groups of people as superior and some as inferior. Some groups that are considered **White** in the United States today **were considered non-White in U.S. Census data in previous eras**. For example, Irish, Italian, and Greek people were all considered non-White at one point in time.

The way in which racial categorizations are enforced has also changed over time. For instance, the racial designation of Asian American and Pacific Islander changed four times in the 19th century. That is, they were defined at times as White and at other times as non-White.

On the other hand, ethnicity is a social construct that divides people into smaller social groups based on characteristics such as a shared sense of group membership, values, behavioral patterns, language, political, and economic interests, history and ancestral geographical base.

\*National Geographic, "The Race Issue," January 2017

## WHAT DO YOU SAY IF...

...someone says: "but slavery and the Civil War were so long ago!"

**You can say:** "That is correct, but the effects of slavery and the subsequent Jim Crow laws still have a strong hold on our society. We cannot ignore the immoral legacies left behind by slavery."

...someone says: "...Shouldn't people be over it by now?!"

**You can say:** "The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1968. That was half a century ago. The disparities caused by America's racist history have not been cured or forgotten. It is impossible to "get over it" when police brutality is ignored as an ongoing epidemic. Black men, despite making up 32% of the general population make up 56% of the prison population, and Black offenders typically receive longer sentences compared to White offenders. In 2018, median black household income was 61% of median white household income."



## HOW CAN YOU EDUCATE KIDS TO PREVENT RACIST BEHAVIOR?

- **Curb racist remarks or jokes** from others in front of children.
- **Learn** about America's culture of racism.
- Talk to your children about race and racism. Here are some **children's books** to make that talk easier, *Racism and Intolerance (Children in Our World)* by Louise Spilsbury and *Dealing With...: Racism* by Jane Lacey.
- **Don't make excuses** to explain why people are racist. Explain that in our social world, there is injustice against people of color, just because they are people of color, and this is morally wrong.
- Encourage children to **be open to all races and ethnicities** and to make friends from different cultures and races.
- Engage meaningfully with other cultures, encouraging children to read books, watch movies, and television shows with **non-White casts**, such as *Bao*, *Spiderman: Into the Spideverse*, *Big Hero 6*, and *Coco*.

## TERMS THAT ARE GOOD TO KNOW

**Bystander:** Someone who doesn't speak up when they see something wrong.

**Discrimination:** The unequal treatment of members of various groups based on race, gender, social class, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion and other categories.

**Implicit Bias:** The unconscious attribution of certain qualities to a member of a social group. Implicit stereotypes are shaped by experience and based on learned associations between particular qualities and social categories, including race and/or gender.

**Microaggression:** The everyday verbal, nonverbal, and environmental slights, snubs, or insults, whether intentional or unintentional, which communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages targeting persons based solely upon their marginalized group membership.

**Prejudice:** A pre-judgment or unjustifiable, and usually negative, attitude of one type of individual or groups toward another group and its members. Such negative attitudes are typically based on unsupported generalizations or stereotypes.

**Racial Equity:** Racial equity is the condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer predicted, in a statistical sense, how one fares.

**Racism:** Involves one group having the power to carry out systematic discrimination through the institutional policies and practices of the society and by shaping the cultural beliefs and values that support those racist policies.

**Redlining:** The systematic denial of various services to residents of specific, often racially associated, neighborhoods or communities, either directly or through the selective raising of prices. Often these decisions were arbitrarily based on the area's racial composition rather than income levels.

**Upstander:** Someone who recognizes when something is wrong and acts to make it right.

As part of "The Art of Healing" performances at Florida CraftArt, this pamphlet was created by interns Charlie Farrell and Lucie Talneau; Katie Deits, editor.



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