

Intercultural Speakers Bureau (ICSB) Calls to Action to Counter Bigotry

The Intercultural Speakers Bureau (ICSB) is Islamic Networks Group's newest bureau which examines the roots of Islamophobia in other forms of bigotry (such as anti-Blackness and anti-Semitism) and the interconnectedness of all bigotry directed against Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native American populations. The following strategies and resources below help panel attendees take action based on their new understanding of the history and sources of bigotry and how to begin to deconstruct racism.

Strategies & Tools for Countering Bigotry: Personal

- Understand that we are all impacted by biases and be open to criticism
 - Listen, apologize, avoid excuses, hold yourself accountable.
- Undo your biases
 - Recognize that every human being has biases towards others.
 - Challenge your instinctive thoughts and assumptions.
 - Strive and take initiative to overcome your biases.
 - Repeat these steps to make them habitual.
- Call out bias and name it when you see it.
- Be an upstander: speak up when you hear or witness bigotry.
 - Don't allow the critique that you are oversensitive to faze you.
 - Practice calling out yourself and your friends, whatever their or your comfort level.
- Check in with neighbors/co-workers/classmates who might be experiencing bullying/bigotry.
 - Ask if they need support and in what form.
 - Avoid making assumptions about their experiences.
- Join community spaces to heal from the impact of bigotry.
- Volunteer for community organizations that counter bigotry.
- Intentionally engage with people who are different from yourself.
- Continue educating yourself about these topics (see additional resources below).

Strategies & Tools for Countering Bigotry: Institutional

- Promote training and education about implicit bias.
- Promote cultural diversity education in your institution.
- Name racism for what it is regardless of the intent.
- Join or start groups or clubs to discuss these issues.
- Write for your school/organizational newspaper or blogs.
- Create art projects, e.g., a piece memorializing forgotten pieces of US history.
- Stay informed on potentially oppressive laws and policies.
- Continue conversations about the roots of racism in America.
- Build community among people across differences.

Additional Reading and Resources (Developing List)

- Articles
 - “How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism,” Teaching Tolerance: www.tolerance.org/magazine/how-to-respond-to-coronavirus-racism
 - “Speak Up! Responding to Everyday Bigotry,” *Teaching Tolerance*: www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/speak-up
 - “Test Yourself for Hidden Bias,” *Teaching Tolerance*: www.tolerance.org/professional-development/test-yourself-for-hidden-bias
 - “7 Ways We Know Systemic Racism Is Real:” www.benjerry.com/home/whats-new/2016/systemic-racism-is-real
 - “Race: The Power of an Illusion:” www.racepowerofanillusion.org/
 - Hollaback!’s Guide to Bystander Intervention: www.ihollaback.org/app/uploads/2016/11/Show-Up_CUPxHollaback.pdf
- Books
 - Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage, 1979)
 - Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, (Penguin, 2010)
 - Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility* (Beacon, 2018)
 - Ibram X. Kendi, *Stamped From the Beginning* (Bold Type Books, 2017)
 - Charles C. Mann, *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* (Vintage, 2006)
 - Howard Zinn, *A People’s History of the United States* (Harper, 2015; original publication 1980)
 - Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, *An Indigenous People’s History of the United States* (Beacon, 2015)
- Videos
 - Institutional racism in US explained through a Michael Jackson song: www.youtu.be/MdOCyqPcp2o
 - “Who, Me? Biased?” video series: *New York Times*, 2016:
 - i. Peanut Butter, Jelly and Racism: www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000004818663/peanut-butter-jelly-and-racism.html
 - ii. “Check Our Bias to Wreck Our Bias”: www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000004818668/check-our-bias-to-wreck-our-bias.html
 - iii. “The Life-Changing Magic of Hanging Out”: www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000004818671/the-life-changing-magic-of-hanging-out.html
 - *13th* by Ava DuVernay (*Netflix*, 2016)
 - *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross* (PBS)
 - *Latino Americans: The 500-Year Legacy That Shaped a Nation* (PBS)
- Podcasts
 - Code Switch: www.npr.org/podcasts/510312/codeswitch
 - Ibram X. Kendi on the difference between “antiracist” and “not racist,” *CBS This Morning*: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ibram-kendi-talks-how-to-be-antiracist/>
- Community Organizations
 - Islamic Networks Group: www.ing.org/
 - Chinese for Affirmative Action: www.caasf.org/
 - Asian Americans Advancing Justice: www.standagainsthater.org
 - Interfaith Youth Core: www.ifyc.org/
 - Southern Poverty Law Center: www.splcenter.org/
 - Not in Our Town: www.niot.org/