

White People We NEED You!

As white people, we **need** to be in the streets in solidarity with Ferguson and with Black and Brown people in Pittsburgh resisting racism and white supremacy. We **need** to break white silence about racist violence, mass incarceration, gentrification, and all the other ways that racism manifests. We **need** to reclaim our humanity by rebelling against racist violence done in our names. We **need** to do so in a way that respects Black leadership and does not reinforce white supremacy by putting white people at the center. We **need** to become more aware of ourselves and how our white privilege operates. We **need** to strive to be in solidarity.

So how can we strive to be allies in this moment?

We say “strive” because “ally” is not an identity we claim with our words, but one that we earn through our commitment and our actions.

Listen to Black voices. Really listen. We cannot begin to understand the impacts of the racist system we benefit from until we listen to the experiences of Black people. Do not talk over people of color. Ask yourself: am I allowing space for people of color to lead or is my eagerness to contribute actually reinforcing white supremacy?

Recognize that white people chanting “All Lives Matter” or “I am Mike Brown” is offensive to many people of color. Ferguson is about the racist murders of Black people perpetrated by a system of white supremacy. We do not face racist police violence and our lives do not need to be affirmed because they are affirmed every second by white supremacy. We need to keep Black lives at the center.

It’s rude to pass out and promote information about your group during speeches by Black people. It’s important to network, just be sensitive to when you do it.

Act out of a mutual interest in dismantling racism. Recognize that you have an interest in ending racism because it takes away from your humanity and because it upholds other systems of oppression which nearly everyone is impacted by. That does not mean that the ways white people and People of Color are impacted by white supremacy are at all equivalent or that we should be in leadership positions but it does mean that we have an authentic supporting role to play and a reason to organize other white people.

Do not provoke the police. By yelling at or threatening the cops you are risking the safety of people of color far more than your own. Instead work to reduce the risk of police violence by putting your body between the cops and people of color and documenting police actions with photos and video. Learn about, and coordinate with others to work on de-escalation techniques, acting as an effective police liaison, and legal/jail support.

Engage counter protestors. These white folks are saying things which are deeply hurtful to people of color. We need to take responsibility for taking the brunt of this racist hatred, de-escalating the situation, and moving them along.

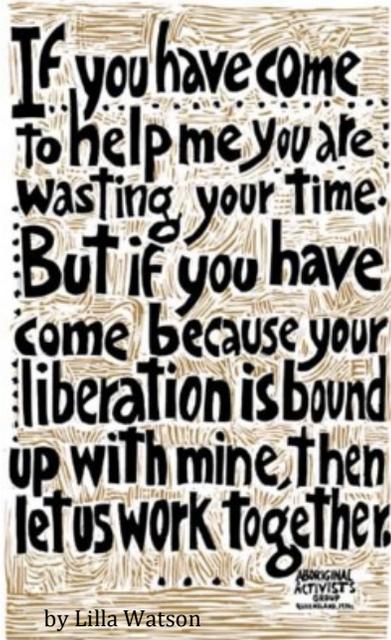
Respect the need for people of color-only spaces. Sometimes its important for us just not to be there. Sometimes people of color just need a break from white people.

Don’t take things so personally. This is challenging.

Challenge your internalized racism. None of us are free from racism. Challenge the parts of your mind which tell you that white people are at the center of human experience and that Black lives don’t matter. For real. This is deep shit.

Educate yourself about white supremacy, Black liberation, and the tradition of white anti-racism.

Commit to racial justice for the long haul. This didn’t start with Ferguson and it won’t end with Ferguson. We need to commit ourselves to dismantling racism and white supremacy in our heads and in the world, everyday for the rest of our lives



White people we need you in this moment in this movement to

Fight for Racial Justice!

This is not about policing white people's behavior or calling anyone out. It is not about shaming other white people or competing to be the best white person. We all fuck up. And we're gonna fuck up again...and as a matter of fact we have to. We must try and fail and learn and try and fail and learn, making new mistakes.

It is impossible to credit everyone who has informed this pamphlet. It is a reflection of years of work by activists and thinkers of color and some white folks too including Janeé Woods, Mikael (owning-my-truth.com), and Brian Dominick



Kim Moore @SoulRevision · Nov 29

She asked why people were protesting so I started from the beginning. Not from Mike Brown's murder, but from Jim Crow laws and lynching.

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How White People Can Show Up in Solidarity With Ferguson

Showing Up for Racial Justice offers these Key Messages

Here are the main ideas we, as white people can communicate at actions and in public as we stand with #Ferguson: showingupforracialjustice.org (connect with SURJ to link with a national network of anti-racist white people)

1. **CONTEXT:** What happened in Ferguson is not the exception but the rule in a system based on white supremacy. People of Color have endured hundreds of years of systemic racism and oppression. Today one of the main sources of oppression is the mass incarceration system that disproportionately targets People of Color, and a judicial system that does not offer all of us equal protection under the law. At SURJ, we believe that the level of anti-black racism and violence endemic in our system didn't allow for a fair grand jury hearing in Ferguson.
2. **SOLIDARITY:** What is happening in Ferguson and around the country through an increase in police violence impacts all our struggles. When government (via the police) is allowed to kill without consequence, People of Color carry the brunt and all our civil liberties are at risk. This puts a chill on all activism. White people need to identify our mutual interest with People of Color and what our stake is to make deep and systemic change.
3. **WHITE SILENCE:** White silence stokes the racism that divides People of Color and White working class people, who have every reason to stand together for better wages, better air, affordable housing, and an end to war. We need to stand together with communities targeted for police abuse, because otherwise, we cannot build the unity we need to move forward. It is in the interest of white people to stand against this repression for our own lives and those of people we love.
4. **NATIONAL CRISIS:** People of Color have called for White people to act. People of Color are putting their bodies on the line and it is time for White people of conscience to do the same. White people need to make a choice, right now. All over the country, White people are already taking nonviolent action, from marching in the streets to creating legal defense funds. These issues affect us all.