

# White Anti-racist Summit II

April 29, 2006  
St. Louis, MO

## REPORT

By WACAN\*

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\* **Editorial note:** We have let the voice of the report wander from third person to first person, partly to describe the context, and partly to give a sense of how we experienced the event. In either voice, we do not mean to imply that everyone experienced the event as we did.

## A. Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge our seven co-sponsors of the summit. They are:

- AR15entertainment.com
- AWARE (Alliance of White AntiRacists Everywhere/Evolving)
- Catalyst Project
- CURE (Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation)
- European Dissent
- WACAN (White Anti-racist Community Action Network)
- White Friends (Quakers) Working to End Racism

We thank Eddie Moore, Jr. and WPC7 for providing space, recognition, and financial support for the summit.

We thank the Board of Trustees of the Center for the Study of White American Culture, Inc. to whom, ultimately, WACAN is accountable.

We thank the many groups who sent representatives to take part in the summit event.

Finally, we thank all those who were not present in St. Louis, but took time to connect with the summit as it happened, and to read this report after the fact.

--The WACAN Summit II Planning Team--

## B. Purpose of Summit II

Summit II was intended to accomplish several things:

1. Continue a line of organizing focused on building white anti-racist networks and community.
2. Reserve and step into an annual space where white anti-racist organizing is normative and highlighted.
3. Place an emphasis on representation and participation by groups.
4. Encourage participating groups to work toward accomplishing a set of summit outcomes proposed by WACAN (See our comments in **Section E.2. – Drawbacks.**)
5. Build upon WACAN's relationship with the White Privilege Conference.
6. Provide programming consistent with the WPC theme of "YOUTH: A Call To Action."
7. Produce online reports, audio recordings and photos of the summit experience to be shared with the broader white anti-racist community that was unable to attend, and to inform the general public about white anti-racist practice.
8. Provide a foundation on which to build next year's summit process.

## C. Planning of Summit II

The Summit II process was intended to build upon the experience of Summit I at WPC6 last year. Planning began with a request for a space on the WPC7 institute schedule. In late winter/early spring WACAN began to reach out to groups who had been present at Summit I to learn about their interest in planning and co-sponsorship of Summit II.

WACAN assembled an internal planning team. Inquiries to the field showed that there was interest in participating in the summit, but co-sponsoring groups were not able to share in an extended planning process. This was compounded by the fact that several groups already had commitments to do WPC7 workshops of their own. Also, a shared planning process between three groups, including WACAN, was taking place over the White Caucus. Since planning time was scarce, the WACAN group designed an open

structure that would be filled in as the summit approached. A call to co-sponsors and other groups invited those interested in doing presentations on their work to take a 1-hour segment of the summit. Two groups responded (European Dissent/Common Ground, and AR15entertainment.com), and a third group (Y-STEP) came in as part of AR15entertainment.com's segment.

The WACAN planning team wanted to hold an event that was better attended than Summit I. We also wanted to emphasize group participation and group representation, unlike Summit I in which no emphasis was made and both individuals, as such, and identified groups were present. Finally, we wanted to give time to the WPC7 theme of "YOUTH: A Call To Action."

A wrinkle in our planning was that the summit and the White Caucus had a schedule conflict on Saturday afternoon. We're grateful that the White Caucus planning group worked with us to hold a joint session during the last hour and a half on Saturday afternoon.

Registration details seemed to have gone better this year. We had no idea of how many people would actually attend the summit. Our own registration was 17 people, but WPC had registered some people also. And we expected some people who were not registered to come anyway. This included WPC7 presenters when they were not scheduled to do a workshop. Ultimately the space was able to accommodate the group size, which fluctuated somewhat throughout the day.

## D. What took place

### 1. Set up

The summit was scheduled to begin at 10:30 AM following a plenary session of WPC7. We started a bit late, what with folks filtering in over a period of time from the morning's plenary session and the WACAN Road Crew and Facilitators (Jeff, Lila, Bonnie and Peter) struggling with some logistical challenges.

### 2. Opening

Once participants had assembled and seated themselves in a circle, Jeff opened the summit with an apology. The WPC7 description of the summit listed Jeff as the person offering the summit, when in fact it was WACAN. He noted he was proud to be associated with WACAN, and the summit was intended to be for groups and not something done by individuals per se. The fact that his name appeared in place of

WACAN was left over from past years when he was doing events under his own name, but it gave the wrong impression of what the summit was about this year.

Jeff then said that he found white anti-racists were often very needy, and this was for several reasons. As white anti-racists we tend to be marginalized in our own culture. Often we turn to cultures of color for support, and receive some support in doing so. But ultimately we cannot be fully part of a culture of color either. So we are left to rely on each other to create the support systems we need.

Yet when white anti-racists come together, it seems we're not sure we are fully ready to embrace one another in community. Most of the hurts we have experienced in life, personal pains and social marginalization, have been at the hands of other white people. So we carry a lot of baggage into an event such as the summit. While we are very needy, we are also brave. We carry out our work in the face of marginalization within our own culture and a lack of support systems of our own. And we keep at it. Coming together as we have for the summit is a success, he said.

In order to help us overcome our neediness and make the event work, Jeff asked each participant to do a visioning exercise and recall a person of color, a personal acquaintance or historical figure, who has helped the participant on her or his anti-racist journey. He then asked participants to bring that person into the room by calling out the person's name. Participants called out names of people as they came to mind. Jeff then repeated the exercise, this time asking participants to call the name of a white person. Participants had no difficulty in calling names, and in fact found the exercise to be very moving and powerful. We began by feeling connected to the many people who came before us and helped us on our way.

### 3. Learning who was in the room

Based on our opening, support was in the room for seeing ourselves in the context of others; envisioning a Collective that reaches back through history and stretches beyond us into the future.

It was within this frame that newsprint paper and markers were distributed, and folks were asked to make "posters" for the white anti-racist organizations they were a part of. People were encouraged to be creative – and the spirit really moved some of them!

Then folks took turns introducing their groups to the rest of the gathering – sharing a bit of their mission, history, etc. After finishing their mini-presentations, people put their posters up on the walls and were given a sticker (or stickers, in some cases) to place where their organizations were located on a map of the U.S.

The result was visually and emotionally stunning. The names of white anti-racist groups – many that had been in existence for 5 years or more – wallpapered our meeting place. We all took a moment to bear witness to this moving vision.

## 4. Pointing to four outcomes

Before the summit began, Lila and Bonnie had taped up the list of our Four Desired Outcomes for the Summit. (See **Document F.4., Desired outcomes for summit.**) Lila took a moment to review them with the group. Addressing them one by one, she ensured that folks had more than enough to think about before we broke for lunch.

## 5. Working lunch (Issues and concerns)

It was almost time to go into our breakout groups for lunch. Peter posted the question on a large sheet of paper in front of the room which was to be pondered during the break: “What are your Issues and Concerns for Organizing White Anti-Racists?” There would be many.

The WACAN Road Crew broke together in the student center, as did most groups, and discussed all we’d covered up until that point. Soon enough, it was time to get back to the room. The first thing we noticed upon our return was that our sign-in and email sheet, which we’d left behind in the room when we went to lunch, had gone missing. After checking carefully, we were still unable to locate it. Jeff informed everyone that the conference heads had requested a copy from us and that it was most likely they who had taken it. We passed around another sheet and asked everyone if they could please repeat the sign-in process with their names, and this time include contact information in addition to email.

The report back was facilitated and scribed by Lila. She helped people put down their ideas without judgment or criticism. There were times when we struggled together as a group as to whether to put up ideas that other folks present did not necessarily buy into. When one point seemed to cause conflict amongst some participants, Lila posted it in any case, adding that if something was causing this much of a “firestorm,” it probably should be added to the list. Later on people would get the chance to review all of the issues and concerns and decide which ones resonated most with them as individuals.

## 6. Reports from the field

Since the WPC7 was dedicated to “YOUTH: A Call To Action,” the planning committee was very happy to find some youth-led organizations stepping forward to present themselves in more depth, and to dialogue about their work with other organizers. We felt this could facilitate networking and strategizing among our gathering – especially across generations.

In that spirit, three presentations covered the work of four organizations - **European Dissent / Common Ground** (one veteran, one novice, both based in New Orleans), **Y-Step** (Youth Step Towards Addressing Racism; based in San Francisco), and

**AR15entertainment.com** (AntiRacist15; based in Los Angeles, but belonging to the Country).

These three presenting groups – European Dissent / Common Ground, Y-Step and AR15entertainment.com – demonstrated three very unique ways to work toward undoing racism. In the face of catastrophe; with the use of curriculum; and in the celebration of culture all three organizations are analysing, articulating and inspiring for change. Mistakes and small incremental successes have been made along the journey. Sharing their stories helped us all on our way.

All of these organizations rose to the challenge and then some, leaving ample time for questions and feedback. The following are brief reviews of what they shared:

### **EUROPEAN DISSENT / COMMON GROUND**

First up were Laura Manning and Rebecca Mintz reporting from New Orleans

European Dissent is a white anti-racist group founded many years ago by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond (PI). They currently meet bi-weekly at rotating venues throughout New Orleans, with an agenda set under the guidance and principles of PI.

The greater share of the presentation focused on Common Ground because Laura and Rebecca had an immediate need to share their struggles and receive support with their work with college volunteers involved in post-Katrina rebuilding efforts. They touched on their challenges in having such a limited amount of time to work with students who had come down to help out for usually only two to four weeks at a time. They discussed their difficulties in incorporating young people into the process and painted a picture of dirty, white, affluent youth, living in tents; hungry to get to work and do something, but lacking any analysis. They looked for answers regarding leadership – which consists of three African American men, only one of whom is actively part of the grassroots community and who share no common analysis: What does accountability look like in that situation? they wondered. They described the challenges of trying to radicalize youth; of trying to transmute a feeling of charity into one of solidarity among the volunteers.

Their efforts have yielded some successes – which include study groups and some effective one-and-one mentoring. But the work is arduous and slow; the opportunities fleeting, at best.

Some veteran organizers reflected on Laura and Rebecca's despair and shared their suggestions for both coping and becoming more effective in the work. Peers shared their experiences. There was praise for what had been done so far, and questions as to how best "help the helpers" become more conscious about white privilege.

### **Y – STEP**

Patricia Bory and Chelsea Boilard of Youth Step Towards Addressing Racism stepped up themselves next. Working out of the Bay Area, they have long-term relationships with both PI and the Challenging White Supremacy workshops. Based on parts of the curriculum from those trainings and organizing experiences, and with the cooperation of those anti-racist organizations, Patricia and Chelsea developed a curriculum/practicum tailored for middle and upper-middle class white youth as well as some white youth from inner-city, POC – dominated settings.

Their main question for the gathering was: Are we working with the right people (primarily affluent whites)? No definitive answer was arrived at, but a brief yet lively discussion ensued about who we serve and who our “target market” should be.

### **AR15entertainment.com**

Our last presenters were AR15entertainment.com: Jeb Middlebrook (aka Jus Rhyme) and Trevor Wysling (aka Raw Potential) who elaborated on the theme of marketing (or branding) the work that we are doing and the vision that we collectively hold. These two white boys travel the country drawing crowds to social justice fund-and-consciousness raising events using their unique brand of hip-hop and anti-racist principles.

Jeb and Trevor showed a brief film clip from a documentary about them. They then launched into a power-point presentation outlining their business model – they call it “for-prophet” – and posing the provocative question: If McDonald’s can use branding to sell tons of junk food – why can’t we use branding to sell tons of social justice? This approach challenges the common ethos in social justice movements that the capitalistic model can not be a tool for good – and the group did some grappling with that idea come Q & A time. (Which Jeb opened with the invitation – “Hey, we grow from questions – tell us how we suck!”) Some questions were critical, but the replies were thoughtful. AR15entertainment.com is pushing the envelope.

## **7. Joint session with White Caucus**

When all the reports from the field were said and done, the group turned its attention to the infusion of folks from the White Caucus which was meeting this day in joint session with the summit. The summit had responsibility for a remaining hour of program. Then the closing half hour was in the hands of the White Caucus.

### **a. Identifying (initialing) issues one believes are important**

Before catching everyone up on the field reports from the group presentations, Lila talked to the newly joining participants about how, earlier we’d scribed the groups’ many issues and concerns for organizing white anti-racists and posted them on the walls around us. Participants joining from the White Caucus were asked to go around the room and check out the postings, initialing the concerns that resonated most with them. (See the document, G.3. Issues and concerns in organizing white anti-racists.)

## **b. Review of the summit**

Lila asked participants from the circle to summarize our ‘reports from the field’ both for review, and for the benefit of those that had joined us afterwards. For example, the Road Crew’s own Bonnie Cushing did a sum up of the Common Ground Collective and went through all the points that Laura and Rebecca had spoken with us about. Thomas Harris from the University of Wisconsin- LaCrosse did a sum-up of AR15entertainment.com’s presentation. The reviewers helped to bring the new participants up to speed so that we were all in the same place. Next came the quadrant exercise.

## **c. The Quadrant Exercise**

Now that we were all pretty much on the same page, Lila began the next group exercise. She stepped to the easel and, on a fresh sheet of paper, drew a cross which separated the page into four equal quadrants. In the top left quadrant she wrote: “Passive Racism,” and in the lower left she wrote “Active Racism.” The upper right quadrant was labeled “Passive Anti-racism” and, finally, in the lower right she scribed “Active Anti-racism.” The group was given index cards on which to draw our own diagrams and fill in the quadrants with examples of each.

Beginning with the upper left quad, and working her way counter-clockwise around the diagram, she questioned the group as to what examples we’d arrived at. Apathy/ignorance, not paying attention to the concerns of folks of color, were among the group’s examples of passive racism. DWB... classroom tracking... the Rockefeller drug laws in New York; many of us had easily come up with blatant examples of active racism as well. Some of the examples given for active anti-racism showed the groups determination to get to a place where we can all organize for positive social change/justice.

However, when we finally got to the fourth and final quadrant- “Passive anti-racism,” the group came to a standstill. *Are there any forms of Passive Anti-racism?* Peter questioned Lila as to whether or not “...just being here (at WPC7) and not committing to anything afterward was a form of passive anti-racism”. She asserted that that would be more a form of passive racism. The group thought about it for a bit and then moved on to the strategizing session.

## **d. Strategizing about four outcomes to the summit**

The desired outcomes for the summit that had been posted acted as an accountability tool and also lent us focus as a group for our strategizing. Sheets of paper were handed out to each participant and we were asked to write down some of our ideas for further organizing subsequent to the conference. Despite peaks and dips in energy during the day, this was one of the times when energy seemed at its highest. Perhaps folks perceived this part as the “down-to-business” portion of the event. For a full list of the strategies we

came up with collectively, see G.4. Strategies for summit outcomes and furthering the work, in the documents section of this report.

## 8. Summit ends. Closing of White Caucus by Unitarian Universalist Young Adults

The summit ended, and it came time for the White Caucus to hold a closing ritual. In the actual moment, summit and caucus participants joined together somewhat seamlessly in a closing ritual designed and led by the Unitarian Universalist Young Adults. To begin, they lit a chalice in the center of the room. As they did this, they passed out index cards and asked us all to write down the actions we would commit to taking after the WPC7 was over and we were back home.

To seal the deal, we began to build a web of commitment. At this point the chalice and flame were removed, and we tossed a ball of red yarn back and forth across the circle creating a big, red web connected by all the participants. Whenever someone was tossed the ball of yarn, they were prompted to say a few words about what it was they had personally committed to doing upon their return home and then to pass it on to another participant. When the web was completed, we used a scissors to cut just a little piece of the web off for ourselves to serve as a reminder of all of our hard work, the ongoing hard work of our colleagues and of our commitment to being agents of change.

And then we were done.

## E. Our reflections on the event

### 1. Encouragements

#### **a. Assembly and continuity**

We felt we were successful as a group of participants in doing what it took to come together. We were able to produce more numbers in terms of participation, compared to Summit I. We were also successful in drawing group participation and representation. Participants at the summit worked together to make the exercises and dialogue successful. Together these felt like steps ahead.

#### **b. Highlighting white anti-racist practice**

We also felt we were able to establish a space in which white anti-racist organizing was normative and highlighted. This informed our planning for the entire day. We were happy

to be able to highlight and feature field reports that were responsive to the WPC7 theme of “YOUTH: A Call To Action.”

### **c. Building upon WACAN’s relationship with WPC**

That our participation showed greater numbers, and the registration process went smoother, are two signs of an evolving relationship with WPC. WPC provides an incubator for the summit to develop.

### **d. Provide a foundation on which to build next year’s summit process**

We believe the contact we made collectively, the experience we had in meeting one another, the evolving relationship with WPC, the contact list and listserv, the critical reviews of the summit that people and organizations have shared with us, and the general expansion of white anti-racist activity across the country per se, all place us in a good position for planning a meaningful event for Summit III at WPC8.

## **2. Drawbacks**

### **a. Not enough time for people to network**

The greatest drawback to the summit, based on feedback from participants, was that not enough time and opportunity was given to networking and holding discussions on strategy and coordination among groups. Our pre-summit literature and call had said we would make such opportunities available. In the press of the schedule, and our concern for showcasing the work of young white anti-racists, we shortchanged the networking and coordinating part of the summit.

For at least some participants, this promise of networking was the most important feature of the summit. Also, our failure was not in seeing the need, but rather in not meeting it. In other words, WACAN believes networking is important and we want to support it. In our planning for Summit III, we will be more intentional about incorporating networking space and time.

At the same time, we hope we have laid some groundwork for that to take place. Simply assembling groups in the room was an important first step. We have circulated a contact list, and we have set up a listserv. At some point when we begin planning for Summit III, we will be contacting summit co-sponsors and participants to join in the planning process. All these activities have promise of creating networking opportunities.

### **b. Four outcomes diminished in importance**

WACAN's working model is one in which a multiracial group oversees our organizing and programming, and this applied to the Summit II planning. We came to an understanding, with the urging of members of color on our team and agreement by white members, that we would try to make four outcomes take place. These outcomes were expressed in general terms, such that they might apply to any group of white anti-racists. We hoped the summit would encourage groups to work to achieve each outcome. See **Document G.4., Desired outcomes for summit.**

During the course of the summit, the importance of the outcomes we had designed seemed to fall into the background. This is a concern for us because the four outcomes represented the role of accountability in our working relationships at WACAN. So from our standpoint, we didn't achieve what we set out to do.

It's possible there was a failure in facilitation on our part. Just as likely, it seems that with the many groups in the room, we could not readily transfer an accountability model that works for WACAN into the larger process in which several organizations, with presumably many different working models for accountability, all joined in supporting outcomes we had devised.

The summit did have opportunity to do some thinking on the outcomes, as reported above, and that was encouraging. Also, we know from our working relationship with many groups that several are already doing work that supports one or more of the outcomes. But we are not able to attribute any influence of the summit toward increasing attention and action relating to the four outcomes.

It remains an open issue how the summit process will be accountable to anti-racist people of color. Whatever the means, it probably needs to be present at the top planning level, even as that top level itself needs to broaden and reflect a range of white anti-racist practice.

### **c. Recording and reporting of event was incomplete**

We had hoped to make voice recordings of the presentations and to take photos of participants, but we drew back from these activities because we did not have a good approach for obtaining permission from summit participants. So no recordings were made, and our photos were limited to the posters hung on the walls.

WACAN continues to believe it's important to record and disseminate information about white anti-racist gatherings as a means of building connections between groups who are not able to send representatives, and as a means of sharing the experience we accumulate in holding events and gatherings like the summit. However, we need to put some more thought into how to balance this need with the potential privacy concerns of participants.

We managed to post some reports online at WACAN.org. But our inexperience with online communications from the road led to several set backs. We were unable to use FTP. Our Internet connection that the hotel kept dropping, causing us to lose work. At the summit site, we were unable to obtain an Internet connection because we were “not authorized to use the University of Missouri – St. Louis network.” Still, we learned some work around solutions, and we know what to plan for next year.

## F. History

The White Anti-racist Community Action Network (WACAN) was founded in 2003 in response to the White Anti-racist Leadership Conference held in New Orleans in November 2002. WACAN was intended to be a means for building networks and developing community among white anti-racists. From inception it has had both an online and an on-the-ground component to its practice.

In April 2004 WACAN facilitators held a 2-day institute at WPC5 titled “Finding White Anti-racist Community.” The event was well-received by participants, but the focus was on individual participation and there was little organizing that took place as a result of the event. In 2005 WACAN shifted the focus to a 1-day event at WPC6 called the “White Anti-racist Summit.” About 15 people attended. The theme involved a close look at accountability and what it meant for white anti-racists.

The 2005 White Anti-racist Summit did encourage some organizing. Two of the principal organizers of the October 2005 Washington State White Anti-racist gathering (Gillian Burlingham and Joan Wimmatt) attended the summit to share ideas and experiences. Although the Washington State event was already in planning, the summit continued a line of activity dating back to New Orleans in 2002. Connections were also renewed with Paul Kivel and Catalyst Project. Paul helped with a morning session on the history of white resistance to white supremacy, while Catalyst Project put together a dynamite presentation on accountability in the afternoon.

## G. Documents

# 1. Pre-summit description of the event.

The annual [White Privilege Conference](#) (WPC) has become the largest informal gathering of white anti-racists each year. Of course, WPC covers a lot of ground and is not just about white anti-racism. But it makes sense to have a gathering of white anti-racists and allies at WPC. The atmosphere is rich. Many people are already there. A gathering of white anti-racists and allies supports WPC goals. WPC has the infrastructure to support the event. We can plan with confidence that it will be an annual, recurring event.

One of WPC's four main goals is:

To provide participants the opportunity to organize groups and networks to sustain, enhance and expand anti-racist activity on an ongoing basis.

**The summit takes place on Saturday, April 29, and is on the WPC schedule as a Saturday Institute.** The institutes meet from 11:00am to 5:30pm. For registration information, go to [www.wacan.org/WAS.asp](http://www.wacan.org/WAS.asp). The WACAN registration offers a special conference rate for summit participants. You may also register for the summit through the regular WPC7 process at [www.WhitePrivilegeConference.com](http://www.WhitePrivilegeConference.com).

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Why a summit? What is a summit?

sum-mit

n. A conference or meeting of leaders, usually called to shape a plan of action.

The summit is intended to be a space in which groups supporting white anti-racism can gather, reflect, plan and collaborate. The summit is a long term project. The intention is to convene at WPC over a period of conferences. In time the summit can spin off from WPC with its own process. Presently the summit has its own registration process, tied to that of WPC.

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This year's approach:

The first summit, last year, invited people to participate simply as individuals. This year we are encouraging and developing participation by group representatives. The summit is also moving from a sense of being a one-time event to an event intended to operate over several annual meetings of WPC.

We will use the principles of the Peoples' Institute as guides for our time together. These principles are: Undoing Racism, Learning from History, Sharing Culture, Internal Dynamics of Leadership Development, Accountability, Networking, Internalized Racial Oppression, Internalized Racial Superiority, Gatekeeping, Undoing Militarism ( [see People's Institute description](#) )

The summit this year, in part, is taking up the concern of WPC in general: Youth. We can look at many questions, including: Who are the youth doing white anti-racist organizing today? What are they doing? How do youth approach inter-generational relationships and organizing? How do older people approach inter-generational relationships and organizing?, and more.

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Here is the description of the summit as listed in WPC7 materials:

*White Anti-racist Summit II with Jeff Hitchcock (WACAN.org) The summit offers an annual opportunity for white anti-racist organizers and allies to reflect and connect, using WPC as a backdrop. The summit will incorporate a mix of facilitated discussion and participant-led dialogue. Consistent with the WPC goal of encouraging ongoing anti-racist activism, participants will be invited to engage in visioning and planning a white anti-racist agenda for social change.*

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Here are things you can do:

1. Spread the word.
2. In particular, alert groups.
3. Attend the summit.
4. Send a representative.
5. Co-sponsor the summit.
6. If you cannot attend, go online on WACAN.org while the summit is in session, and send your comments.
7. Send supportive comments beforehand to [admin@wacan.org](mailto:admin@wacan.org).

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Co-sponsorship

The Summit II is looking for co-sponsors. Co-sponsorship consists of 1) allowing your name to be listed as co-sponsor in our outreach efforts and our report of our activity, and 2) having your representative(s) attend the summit.

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Co-ordination with WPC7

WACAN.org has the responsibility of handling registration and coordinating with WPC7.

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Contact WACAN.org at [admin@wacan.org](mailto:admin@wacan.org)

## 2. Call for participation

### **The Call**

The White Anti-racist Summit II calls anyone who has been organizing white people to challenge and oppose racism. This includes white people in anti-racist support, educational, study, consciousness-raising and action groups, and people of color working in relationship with these white people. During the summit participants will network, share information, report on group and organizing activities, distill lessons from local groups around the country, and support and encourage one another in our work. We invite people of all colors with an interest in developing and furthering a white anti-racist agenda.

The speaking order and format for presentation will be worked out dynamically as participants join in the summit process. The program will remain open until the summit convenes. We anticipate the program will consist largely of reports, sharing of stories, and discussion of issues that have presented themselves in the field. We are particularly interested in hearing from local white anti-racist organizing efforts underway across the country.

### 3. List of groups represented at Summit II

- Antiracist White Student Union of Western Washington University
- AR-15 entertainment.com
- A.W.A.R.E. (Alliance of White Antiracists Everywhere/Evolving)
- Catalyst Project
- Coalition for Acceptance and Understanding (UW-LaCrosse student organization)
- Coalition of Antiracist Whites
- Common Ground Collective
- C.R.A.W.P. (Confronting Racism and White Privilege Project)
- C.U.R.E. (Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation)
- Damascus Road (Antiracism Program of the Mennonite Central Committee U.S.)
- dR Works (Dismantling Racism Works)
- The Episcopal Church in the USA
- European Dissent
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- First Unitarian Society
- Groundwork
- Haymarket People's Fund White Caucus (The Diversity and Equity Working Group)
- Heads Up Collective
- M.A.A.F.A.C. (Madison Area Family Advisory/Advocacy Council)
- Northfield Mount Hermon School White Affinity Group
- The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond
- Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty and Genocide
- Rise One
- Social Justice Program at the University of Minnesota
- Tyree Scott Freedom School
- Unitarian Universalist White Allies (not official name)

- United to End Racism
- U.U.A. Joseph Priestly District Journey Toward Wholeness Team
- U.U.'s for Social Justice
- The Virginia Organizing Project
- W.A.C.A.N. (White Anti-racist Community Action Network)
- W.E.R.C. (Whites Exploring Racism and Culture)
- White Caucus for Racial Justice and Equity
- White Friends (Quakers) Working to End Racism
- Y-Step (Youth Step Toward Addressing Racism)

### **Not In Room**

- Challenging White Supremacy Workshop
- Long Road Collective
- Resistance in Brooklyn
- Ruby Affinity Group
- Rural Organizing Project

#### 4. Desired outcomes for summit

White anti-racists will implement specific strategies for helping whites understand white privilege and its role in maintaining institutionalized racism.

White anti-racists will make a conscious effort to identify how ageism impacts and diminishes an anti-racist movement, and take on new practices that support and encourage intergenerational leadership and community.

White anti-racist groups, in response to a specific incident or condition of racial injustice, will develop and use a strategy that educates white voices, as many as possible, to become advocates for change, in a way that continues to keep the incident or condition of racial injustice on the table for dialogue and action

White anti-racist groups will take shared ownership and responsibility for the annual summit process.

## 5. Issues and concerns in organizing white anti-racists

**Compiled at the White Anti-racist Summit II**

**St. Louis, MO**

**4/29/06**

**The numbers in parentheses represent the number of people who indicated they identified strongly with that issue. t**

How to fit the work into current life responsibilities (2)

Answering the question: “What are we organizing for?” (4)

Answering the question: “What does accountability mean?” (4)

As defined by POC?

Made transparent to Black-led organizations?

Looking at models of accountability (5)

Look to principles;concrete groups led by POC

How we are with each other? (2)

Internal relatedness

Struggle with righteousness among allies

Politically Correct language as a barrier to communication

Defining membership: “Who can belong?” (1)

External messaging (4)

i.e. focus, approach, strategy, language used to get white people to the table

Wanting a quick fix/ results NOW (3)

Talk about analysis without action (2)

Developing a culture of learning (3)

Re-evaluating structure and replacing or revamping at regular intervals (1)

Developing shared governance / inclusive leadership (3)

Enlarging your circle of work

Taking time to frame your mission and purpose and define who you are

Developing a collective white anti-racist voice – “Where is it?” (8)

Internalized superiority and how it plays out (3)

What does the “white anti-racist movement” describe? (2)

Limitations of monocultural group

Individualism

Sustaining a group over time (2)

Differences in consciousness (1)

Forming regional relationships based on history, demographics, politics (2)

Talking, but not doing: feeling good at the conference – but “what do we do when we leave here?”

Supporting white male executives in being AntiRacist in their organizations

## 6. Strategies for summit outcomes and furthering the work

**Compiled at the White Anti-racist Summit II  
St. Louis, MO  
4/29/06**

Build in accountability as part of establishing your group(s)

Support other anti-racist projects, suspending judgment

Use every form of media

Support leadership development, cutting across ageism

Host or sponsor events to increase awareness

Establish monthly forum/communication (i.e. regional dialogue)

Create a space where there can be a youth speak-out

Connect people and pass along information you know to others – don't assume they know

Communicate/share curriculum

Create assessment/evaluation criteria with clear goals

Keep records; maintain historical memory

Learn compassionate listening (re-evaluation counseling)

Ask People of Color to facilitate

### WRITTEN STRATEGIES SUBMITTED FROM THE GATHERING

In addition to call-outs that were scribed by Lila during the Summit, many people handed in written strategies before leaving at its conclusion. The following is a transcription of those suggestions:

Youth Leadership is so important – vital. We need to have this energy and wisdom in order for the movement to survive

Let go of some of our need to be “in control.” Know that we will make mistakes, and be willing to be taught by others – especially youth and other oppressed groups.

Don't be ashamed of the work. If you are genuine and doing righteous work – celebrate that; share that; spread that.

Have monthly communication / keep in touch with regional, especially, but also national ally contacts made at the WPC. Maybe this could be refined – monthly commitment by many to participate in WACAN online discussion, etc?

Identifying and drawing on multiple resources that already exist (Y-Step model)

Learn from local active organizing on current issues (AR15 model)

Meet / connect with white anti-racists in my community to share WPC information and explore working together in our community

Follow-up on connections made during the conference with white anti-racists throughout the country

Strategize with co-workers to find ways to address white privilege at work

Support leadership development in local organizations

Allow space for new voices to emerge

Eliminate “expert/ professional organizer power

Revision dominating teacher / learner paradigm

Create space for youth speak - out to the entire group at end of the WPC

Create space at Conference for people of color and white folks to give feedback to Conference participants on how white privilege played out and on the WPC

Facilitate connections with other groups of allies and members of different generations to strengthen inter-generational collective actions, as well as building accountable relationships that model accountability to people of color

Make emotional connections and relationships with the struggles of racism and anti-racist work

Develop personal relationships with organizers in other organizations

Engage in active listening

Present anti-racist training that is informed by focus groups before, during and after regarding experiences with white privilege and white supremacy

Organize faith communities' anti-racists

Organize an affinity group as a follow-up to WPC7, and bring lessons learned / strategies to next year's WPC(8)

Organize Regional anti-racist affinity groups to share lessons learned and strategies