

# Burning Questions

Recorded by participants of Summit IV

## First sheet of newsprint...

--When we are constantly dealing with limited time together – how do we challenge each other in the spirit of growing through dialogue?

To AWARE: what actions have you organized – other than Saturday workshops?

- 1) Talking, meeting & organizing is important – but is there any space/need/requirement for radical OVERT acts of anti-racism? If so, where?
- 2) Is there any space for ANGRY white anti-racists in all of this? Is anyone else pissed off?? aaggghhh!
- 3) How do you (your organization) help people with the upset, pain and/or anger that come up for white folks about racism and about each other in the work?
- 4) What has CROSSROADS been engaged with concretely? I heard only feel-good generalities
- 5) What self-education is AWARE involved in regarding the crucial issue of CLASS understanding – especially in the context of your coalition/ally work?
- 6) In the opening plenary I was reminded that Jews get [cannot read word]. Studying white privilege I keep hearing about Europeans. I am Jewish my homeland is israel, Asia. Europeans killed half of my ancestors in WWII. The way you talk makes me feel like an “other.” My POC sisters can call me white. But as long as you are Eurocentric and Christian-centric, I will not let you define. Don’t call me white until you solve the jewish question! Who wants a non-euro/non-christian/non-Atheist caucus? (Sara Ferah)

- 7) Are there underlying differences in theories of social change among us (spoken or unspoken)?? If so, what impact does this have on our relationships/networking w/ each other?? How can we respond productively to this so it doesn't fragment us??
- 8) How do you balance accountability between white anti-racists and people of color when there is such a great divide in the sense of urgency between the two?

## **Second sheet of newsprint...**

- 1) What are potential organizing strategies to use within white communities?
- 2) What does it mean to build an accountable base & mobilize within white communities for racial justice?

## **Third sheet of newsprint...**

What does accountability to people of color look like in your experience (formal/informal)?

What does it mean to meet people where they are at and at the same time constructively challenge them, e.g. when it come to the language we use?

What are ways that I can claim, share and speak to my long-time accumulation of living an anti-racist life in action & spirit, and not step in to seeming (or real) sense of competitiveness or one-upping (or having to manage others interpretations of that) where & how do we pass on the history/legacy?

To AWARE: If "white elite" are in control, doesn't that let all of us who benefit from white supremacy off the hook? i.e. does it serve as an effective organizing strategy?

How is internalized racism/history related to building an anti-racist base?

How doe we get beyond the duality of "Institutional Change work" vs. "community organizing " work and come together fir mutual support and accountability?

How do i/we account for the legacy of legitimizing white people & still trust myself as leadership in our anti-racist movement?

How do we get beyond “Damage Control” – that says that others are f’ed up, but were anti-racist experts who can educate them? How do we see collective responsibility for the white community’s actions? Develop new leadership? Keep all learning from each other?

Would it be useful to us to develop a common definition of “organizing”? There are nuanced ways that we think about it; I wonder how we can engage that conversation w/o having the fear of movement rift.

How are groups working w/ generational divides? What ways are young people dismissing the wisdom of “elders”? What ways are elders holding too tightly to the past?

What kind of concrete leadership support do we need from each other ( as local, regional, & cross-national antiracist groups)? What kind of support do we want to develop today before we leave this room?

### **Fourth sheet of newsprint...**

How do we coordinate our work so not duplicating efforts?