

Scenario Response Worksheet

A social justice action group recently sponsored a speaker to deliver a presentation to their predominantly white community that included a strong message against colorblindness along within a discussion of racial identity development. The majority of participants readily acknowledged the problems associated with the colorblindness stance after the presentation, but did not agree that replacing it with race consciousness was a good alternative. During a small group conversation in which you were participating, several participants, one after the other, offered comments suggesting that 1) culture is a much bigger issue than race, 2) we're really all just human and need to begin focusing on our similarities to work against injustice, and 3) race is socially constructed and needs to be deconstructed, not strengthened by people identifying as white. Each of these statements seemed intended to distance themselves from taking their racial position seriously.

1. What are the tensions in this scenario?
2. To what degree do the themes in this scenario play out in communities of which you are a part? Where do you think they come from (culturally, theologically, etc.)? How are they supported?
3. How would you feel if you were in this situation?
4. What would you say in response? (<i>For faith communities: What spiritual/theological beliefs help ground you in that response?</i>)

5. How would you hope people would respond to this situation?

6. How could the use of “both/and” thinking inform the response?