

Scenario Response Worksheet

A group of white community members have been inspired by recent protests, are aligned with a Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) chapter, and want to take action. They live in a predominantly white area, their organization has very few members of color, and they don't have a relationship with the few people of color-led advocacy organizations that exist in their area. The members of the group are in conflict over their next steps. Given recent events, published articles, and calls from leadership, one subset of the group believes they should approach a people of color-led organization in their area and ask them for direction. Another subset recognizes how much each of them needs to learn in order to do this work well, as they're all relatively new to conversations and advocacy around race. This subgroup would like to start with consciousness-raising activities focused on educating themselves. Adding to their confusion is that each subgroup includes at least one individual who has a long-term relationship with a person of color who affirms their position.

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 is privilege and/or racism manifesting?

4. How would you feel if you were in this situation?

5. What would you say in response? (*For faith communities: What spiritual/theological beliefs help ground you in that response?*)

In small groups:

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

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