

BOURNVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Race and Privilege in Europe

A study group held by Bournville Friends Meeting
on the second Wednesday morning of each month from 10.30 – 11.30
If you are interested please e-mail bournville@centralenglandquakers.org.uk
asking us to send you the login details.

The First meeting for learning:

Wednesday January 13th, 2021

EQUALITY

Further details below

The meetings will begin with around 20 minutes of Quaker worship,
and then a further 40 minutes exploring
how racism is embedded in our society
and what we can do to recognize it and change our ways.

Everyone welcome

Race and Privilege on Europe

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The book can be downloaded from the QCEA website:

<http://www.qcea.org/p/other-publication/>

Race and Privilege in Europe



Introduction

Race is a particularly difficult topic to talk about, especially briefly. This booklet has been written to help white people educate ourselves about racism. Racism is part of how we have built society, part of how political, social and economic relationships are maintained.

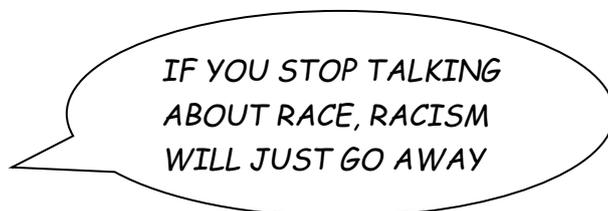
The structures of racism can be difficult for white people to see. White people may also assume that racism is a problem for people of colour to address. Many of us who otherwise seek social justice do not realise how our lives reinforce racism, or what can be done to reduce it.

Reading this booklet might be an early step in seeing racism afresh, and better understanding the relationship between race and privilege. However uncomfortable, an understanding of racism is necessary for any who seek community, justice and equality.

“Non-violent living requires the unravelling of one’s relationship to privilege and oppression.”
— Shelly Tochluk

Session 1: Equality, pages 10-18

- What is race and where did come from?
- Colourblindness
- Racism



Session 2: White privilege; Socialisation, pages 19-25

Being anti-racist is an expression of truth

In 1919 the Quaker William Braithwaite wrote:

“Evils which have struck their root deep in the fabric of human society are often accepted, even by the best minds, as part of the providential ordering of life. They lurk unsuspected in the order of things.”

Session 3: Unpalatable Truths, pages 26-35

- The invention of race
- Missing histories: slavery and race

“Some inequalities have become normal – we’ve adapted to them, making them hard to see.”

— *Owning Power and Privilege: Toolkit for Action*, Quakers in Britain 2018

Session 4: Racism in Europe, pages 35-49

- Race and belonging in Europe today
- Exclusion policy today

*I the metro driver,
was a Muslim like so many of the others
you never hear
you never see
But of whom there are oh-so many.*

— Poem by Mohamed El Bachiri, whose wife was killed in the Brussels bombing of March 2016

Session 5: Our Place in Community, pages 51-61

- White role to support, not lead
- White church



***I AM WHITE, SO IS EVERYONE IN MY
CHURCH, SO RACISM ISN'T DISCUSSED.
IT'S NOT AN ISSUE HERE.***

Session 6: Justice, pages 61-69

- Quaker history

Exploring privilege can be challenging and it can be uncomfortable. We need to show each other compassion and trust. Quakers are all sorts of people with the capacity for both good and bad actions, and we find it hard to do the difficult work of looking at ourselves. As a religious society we face the obstacle of pride. Real power will come if we cease to be merely “good respectable people” and be a community that knows weakness and frailty. We must learn our weaknesses and those of our Friends to live with one another. Through our tears we can find power.

— Part of **Minute 33, Britain Yearly Meeting, 2019**