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Witnessing Whiteness: The Need To Talk About Race And How To Do It Second Edition



Synopsis

Witnessing Whiteness invites readers to consider what it means to be white, describes and critiques strategies used to avoid race issues, and identifies the detrimental effect of avoiding race on cross-race collaborations. The author illustrates how racial discomfort leads white people toward poor relationships with people of color. Questioning the implications our history has for personal lives and social institutions, the book considers political, economic, socio-cultural, and legal histories that shaped the meanings associated with whiteness. Drawing on dialogue with well-known figures within education, race, and multicultural work, the book offers intimate, personal stories of cross-race friendships that address both how a deep understanding of whiteness supports cross-race collaboration and the long-term nature of the work of excising racism from the deep psyche. Concluding chapters offer practical information on building knowledge, skills, capacities, and communities that support anti-racism practices, a hopeful look at our collective future, and a discussion of how to create a culture of witnesses who support allies for social and racial justice. For book discussion groups and workshop plans, please visit www.witnessingwhiteness.com.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On Witnessing Whiteness Shelly Tochluk calls us to witness racial practice in the U.S. Compelling remarkable and invaluable material about racial justice. A call to witnessing from a renewed white identity, building a new white culture, the author asks us, it is possible? What is put forth here is a proposal to build a new white identity aware and ready to make a stand for racial justice. A new

white identity able to take part in the transformation of what a new racial dynamic can bring to the political, social, and economic fabric of the United States of America. It is not only a proposal, but a well documented and compelling analysis supported by historical data and a number of reputable contemporary voices in the forefront of the fight to end racism. Tochluk takes us to witnessing and invites us to look at positive contribution forms of participation and value added inclusion to the social equation from every group, especially white witnessing practices. The author widens the scope uncovering the ways racism is practiced in our 21st century. Through a number of paired interviews she conducted, she takes us through hidden forms of racism and conflict in interpersonal relations, work and educational settings. She uncovers patterns and presents us tools to deal with every situation. This book not only makes us aware, but calls for action through very specific organizations, a kind of road map conceptually to make a difference through witnessing practices. Antonio Lainez

A real eye opener for those seeking to understand bias. The practice exercises are also excellent. Lots of food for thought - i've read this and referred back to it many times.

Now the word "privilege" has a whole new meaning for me. I think we all need to better understand the difference between a "privilege" and a "right." What a better place the world would be if this distinction was clearly understood.

A good starting point for people questioning racial bias and their own identities. Good for group discussions. Helps white people deal with their guilt and shame and move into a positive posture.

This is not only an amazing book, it is a much-needed bridge, a potentially life-changing opportunity and a very helpful offering to white people walking the path of race consciousness. The key to this piece of literature is in the second part of the title: First Steps Toward an Antiracist Practice and Culture. While incredibly accessible and filled with humbling personal stories and passages from enlightening conversations with white anti-racists and people of color, it truly lays the groundwork for the possibility of change. This book is a tool. And I have also found the website for this book a valuable tool and host of resources. [...] has discussion questions that can be downloaded (on the "book club" page) and you can also check out the full preface and introduction to the book.

It gets better and stronger as you keep reading. It's an essential guide for doing this work, covering

the spiritual political psychological aspects of anti-racialism. Shelley really knows her stuff and offers it with a generous wise spirit

I've read a fair amount about race, class, and racism, and I found this book took me to a new level. I recommend it.

This book, as any book, is a work in progress. It attempts to cover a definition and a history of being unconscious of oneself in a world where not everyone has that freedom. It lays out the journey in the 21st century of people living with a variety of cultures in a variety of dynamics. One dynamic in particular that seems to test our substance daily. There is a great deal to know about oneself before we can start to see another.

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