

A COUNCIL ON WHITE PRIVILEGE

An Online Emergence Workshop
Saturday 21st November 10am - 5pm



In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd and the mass protests and shows of solidarity around the world, many white people are asking what we can do to support those on the front line facing injustice and violence in a society which is built on endemic structural inequality. Can we do the work of understanding whiteness, systemic and structural racism, and our own parts in perpetuating this inequality? Can we sit in circle to hear one another and be heard in a way that serves?

Council is a way of speaking and listening from the heart where we are invited to speak our concerns, griefs, hopes, fears and challenges. This is a space for white people to do our own work so we do not rely on people of colour to do it for us. How do we begin examining our backgrounds and experience in the light of endemic, societal racism? How might we begin the journey towards becoming active anti-racists, so we can truly support the tackling of injustice and inequality? Join us...

When: Saturday 21st November 10am - 5pm

Where: Online on Zoom

Way of Council is a practice which honours the wisdom of the circle and trusts that no one person holds the answers. Though the circle is guided, there is no teacher and there is no student. The teaching and the change come from opening to the spirit of the circle.

As white people, we are born privileged simply because of the colour of our skin. How do we begin to address and change this? How do white people truly contribute to a world of greater equality? We have to do the work on ourselves. Unless and until we face and acknowledge our unconscious biases, we are perpetuating them in every interaction, every situation. Now is the time that white people need to do our work.

This Council workshop is a supportive, non-judgemental space for people who define as white to speak and listen to one another. First there will be an opportunity to introduce ourselves and to share this particular way of sitting together in Council. There will be time for a number of Council circles as well as opportunities for sharing resources, ideas and practices for future learning.

This space is intended to begin a process, not end it. Of course we can't resolve centuries of systemic inequality in a few hours. But we can begin and we must. We do this work of sitting with our white-skinned sisters and brothers because we are tired that the hearts, minds and bodies of people of colour are bearing the brunt of white supremacy. We do this work because it is ours to do.

This space will be guided by Fern Smith & Philip Ralph, both of whom are white people who have held or participated in many circles, forums and dialogues working with Way of Council, Process Work, The Work That Reconnects, and Rites of Passage. Fern and Phil run Emergence an art initiative committed to creating Spaces for Change, Time for Dialogue and which runs the Re-enchantment Project.

On booking, participants are asked to write and send a short paragraph about themselves and share what calls them to participate in this council.

Sign up at fernsmith@gmail.com

Limited to a maximum of 10 participants.

Run on a Donation/'Dana' basis

For more information on our work go to
www.emergence-uk.org