

A COUNCIL ON WHITE PRIVILEGE

An Online Emergence Workshop
Saturday 13th March 2021 10am - 5pm



In the aftermath of the death of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless other people of colour which sparked 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 benefitting from and perpetuating this inequality?

This is a space for white people to do our own work so we do not rely on black, indigenous and 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, that we might truly support the tackling of injustice and 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. Join us...

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? Unless and until we face and acknowledge our unconscious biases, we are perpetuating them in every interaction, every situation. Now is the time that us white people need to do our work. This Council is a supportive, non-judgemental space for people who identify and pass as white to speak and listen. There will be an opportunity to introduce ourselves, to learn the bare bones of 'Council', time for a number of circles on whiteness, privilege and racism as well as opportunities for sharing resources for future learning.

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. This space is intended to begin a process, not end it. We can't resolve centuries of systemic inequality in a day, but we can begin the work and we must. We do this work because it is ours to do and because we are tired that the hearts, minds and bodies of black, indigenous and people of colour are bearing the brunt of white supremacy.

This Council is 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, Dialogue and Re-enchantment.

"Honestly, I was dubious that council space could be held meaningfully using zoom. My doubts were unnecessary. I thought the openness and trust within the group was amazing and learned a lot through hearing people and their experiences. The council was held beautifully. A deep and safe space to learn and share on the topic of racism and white privilege. I would highly recommend partaking in council with Fern and Phil if you feel even a tingle of interest calling." (Participant)

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