



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755

Graphic by Lincoln Cushing

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8

International Women's Day is a radical holiday, with its roots in socialist and communist movements. In the United States, the first Women's Day was organized by the Socialist Party in 1909. A Sunday was chosen so working women could participate.

In 1910, just prior to the Second International, an International Socialist Women's Conference proposed an annual Women's Day, and, in March of the following year, more than a million women demonstrated and marched in several countries in Europe, honoring



Hieraus mit dem Frauenwahlrecht
FRAUENTAG
8. MÄRZ 1914

March 8: International Women's Day



Rep. Maxine Waters

the fallen martyrs of the Paris Commune, demanding voting rights and protesting discrimination.

In Petrograd, on March 8, 1917, women textile workers began a demonstration for "Peace and Bread" that led to a general strike and inaugurated the revolution; the tsar abdicated seven days later.

It's not an official holiday in the United States, although in 1994 Rep. Maxine Waters (with 79 co-sponsors) introduced a bill to recognize March 8 as International Women's Day. The bill was bottled up in committee and never voted on.

Unpacking Racism and Understanding Your Blind Spot(s) Is a Call to Action: Part B

Humility is important to the anti-racism work we are doing in unpacking racism. So why does "humility" play such an important part when it comes to "unpacking racism and understanding our blind spot(s)"? We should not see humility as thinking less of ourselves, but rather thinking less about ourselves and more about others.

Humility is a valuable attribute that helps us to understand our own blind spots(s). How we see each other's race, ethnicity and nationality will reveal itself

through our actions toward others. We can develop humility by being grateful.

Humility does not belittle others. Typically, a person with humility does not display jealousy, rudeness or arrogant behavior, and if she was to do so she would be quick to apologize. I would say that a person with humility seeks to add value to others.

Humility is a great teacher. That's why humility works for some and not for others. If you have it, it can become a valuable attribute. Having humility makes it a little easier to understand one's blind spot(s) to racism. Unfortunately, we often become defensive when racism is presented as a table topic discussion.

"The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify it and describe it—and then dismantle it" (Ibram X. Kendi). Racism creates fear. We are programmed to react toward or against fear (fight or flight), and throughout our country's history, we have seen this far too many times.

Black Wall Street was a "race massacre" that took place on May 31 and June 1, 1921, in Tulsa, Okla. Mobs of White residents attacked Black folks and their properties and intentionally destroyed businesses that provided for their livelihood and generational wealth. That was because of "fear" motivating their racism. Fear led these White attackers to what was perceived as "self-preservation" for White folks. So that is why I say racism creates fear.

Some of my readers might choose to argue this in a philosophical way, and I am okay with that. But I am looking through the lens of an organizational psychologist when I say "racism creates fear."

The real reason for the outrage in the Greenwood district of Tulsa is no different than what took place in Mississippi in 1955 that caused the death of a 14-year-old Black boy, Emmett Till. Racism creates fear.

We also saw this in the recent death of 46-year-old George Floyd, on May 25, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minn. Racism creates fear.

Police officers are trained to recognize their own fears so as to do "no harm" to others, and yet harm was done, because 44-year-old Derek Michael Chauvin ignored the plea of many bystanders/pedestrians who begged him to remove his knee off the neck of a Black man who could not breathe.

It is significant to recognize that between 1921 and 2021 is 100 years, and we are still hearing in our national news of harm being done to Black people. Racial hate crimes are still making national news such as the death of Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man killed for simply jogging on a public street.

Unfortunately, hate crimes toward BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) make news because race discrimination remains a motivation for "hate crimes." For that reason, if we as a nation do not eradicate all forms of racism, how can we protect people of color in this country? We must get it right.

We have to unteach racism and advance racial justice. That is why WILPF-US believes it is crucial to have these conversations on the last Sunday evening of each month.

I read an article that stated "when social fear disappears so does racism." I would like to think that is true. But as long as society's stereotype is based on race, the work to dismantle this racism "dis-ease" will certainly continue to challenge us all.

WILPF-US is aware of this and is trying to do our part by having open dialogue on how to dismantle racism, but before we can do the dismantling, we have to do the "unpacking," and before that, we have to be willing to be honest to "understand" our blind spot(s).

A person often can be emotionally and intellectually blinded by the language being used to express our discomfort when discussing racism. However, it is possible to hear through pain, and we must discipline ourselves to learn to "listen." Listen to what is being said as well as what is not said from BIPOC.

Unpacking racism is not going to be done overnight. It took years to create this mess, and it will take time to "unpack." We are not trying to make this an academic experience group either but rather an informed solution focus group (SFG).

We will continue to meet once per month on the last Sunday evening. An invitation is extended to those who read my articles in the *Community Alliance*: Join us as we unpack this painful and horrific "dis-ease" called racism, together. And help support our efforts. We are better and stronger TOGETHER.

I welcome your feedback: 559-270-1023 or drjeankennedy@yahoo.com.

—Dr. Jean Kennedy, PsyD.MOB/O.D.



Breonna Taylor

WILPF MEETING

March 10, Thursday, 7 p.m., online. Watch your e-mail for an announcement with a link and call-in number. For more information, contact Teresa at taca_03@gmail.com or Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

STIR IT UP—WILPF KFCC 88.1 FM

March 23, 3 p.m. (fourth Wednesday of each month). Jean Hays highlights people and events important to our WILPF community.

MEMBERSHIP

Send dues to WILPF Fresno, P.O. Box 5114, Fresno, CA 93755.

For questions and information updates, contact Nancy Hatcher at nhatcher46@gmail.com or Kyla Mitchell at kyla.noelle@gmail.com.

WILPF membership is \$35/year. Contact Nancy H. about the low-income rate, sponsored by our contributions above the \$35 of WILPF-US dues.

COMMITTEES—STILL AT WORK!

DISARM COMMITTEE

Contact Melissa Fry at mjfry2008@icloud.com.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Contact Jean Hays at skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Contact Cheryl Caldera at grammy44cac@gmail.com.

EARTH DEMOCRACY

Contact Jean Hays at skyhorse3593@sbcglobal.net.

CUBA AND THE BOLIVARIAN ALLIANCE

Contact Leni at lenivreeves@gmail.com.

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS/WINGS

Contact Bev Fitzpatrick at dftzpatrick29@comcast.net.

RAGING GRANNIES

Contact Evonne Waldo at evonnewaldo@yahoo.com.

UNPACKING RACISM

Zoom discussion on the last Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. RSVP with your e-mail address to drjeankennedy@yahoo.com or text 559-270-1023.

WOMEN IN BLACK

March 2 (first Wednesday), noon, at the Courthouse. Check first with Bev at dftzpatrick29@comcast.net.

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