

# White anti-racist group meeting in New Jersey

A group of white anti-racist activists has started a group for white people who oppose racism, white privilege and white supremacy. The group meets monthly in Plainfield, NJ.

Meetings every 4th  
Tues. of the month  
7:30 - 9:00 PM

We meet at the  
Quaker Meetinghouse  
225 Watchung Avenue  
(Corner of Watchung Av.  
& E. 3rd St).  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 757-5736  
For directions, see  
[www.PlainfieldQuakers.org](http://www.PlainfieldQuakers.org)

## 43 years ago

“Whites who are sincere don't accomplish anything by joining Negro organizations and making them integrated. Whites who are sincere should organize among themselves and figure out some strategy to break down the prejudice that exists in white communities. This is where they can function more intelligently and more effectively, in the white community itself, and this has never been done.”

**Malcolm X, 1965**

## And today

White anti-racist groups operate in New York City, Boston, Baltimore, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle, plus various college campuses.

Articles, books and websites that discuss the idea of white anti-racism are widely available. The term “white privilege” has entered the public mainstream. An annual “White Privilege Conference” attracts 1,000 educators and activists.

New Jersey, wake up! Maybe you are alone in your family, your town or your organization, but if you are a white person opposed to racism, join with us, your kindred spirits in New Jersey and take part in a growing movement.

Blog: <http://wacannj.blogspot.com/>  
Email: [wacannj@gmail.com](mailto:wacannj@gmail.com)

## Focus of the group

**Education:** What can we learn through reading, videos, and discussion that deepens our knowledge of whiteness?

**Personal growth:** How can we understand and heal the damage of being implicated in a system of white supremacy?

**Community:** How do we create a group that shares our values and supports our journey and work to undo white supremacy?

**Action:** What concrete ways can we, as individuals and a group, work in alliance and solidarity with people of color and join in the empowerment of a local, regional and global movement for racial justice?

# But why a white-space?

For many, it sounds contradictory: “It’s racist if just white people to get together. Isn’t that segregation?”

The following are our reasons for gathering as a white anti-racist community:

1. People of color shouldn’t always have to be the ones to educate white people about racism and oppression. We are taking responsibility for learning about racism, our own white privilege, and how to challenge it as white people.
2. In order to challenge racism and dismantle white supremacy, white people need to unlearn racism and discover the ways we enact white privilege. This is a long, difficult, and sometimes painful process. It’s helpful to have a space where other white people engaged in this process can support and challenge us, without having to always subject people of color to further undue trauma or pain as we stumble and make mistakes. Having a community of white anti-racist people gives us hope, helps us grow our practice, and gives us strength to stay in it for the long haul.
3. A commitment to anti-racist identity and practice as a white person can sometimes mean increased alienation and conflict in our lives, especially with other white friends and family who disagree with us. AWARE is a space where we can get support from people who are experiencing similar struggles as anti-racist white people.
4. It’s a space for us to figure out what it means to be an anti-racist white person and challenge racism in all areas of our lives. We cannot expect people of color to have all of the answers for how us on how to transform ourselves and other white people. As white people we are well equipped to understand what it means to be white.
5. It’s a place where we can begin to build a new culture of white anti-racism, and learn the skills needed to transform the larger white community.
6. AWARE is a supplement to, not a replacement for, multi-racial dialogues between white people and people of color. It’s important that white people give space in their lives to learning from and bearing witness to people of color’s experiences of racism.
7. A white space serves as a resource to people of color who want to work with white people but don’t want to have to spend all their energy dealing with the racism of white people.

From AWARE-LA, a white anti-racist group based on Los Angeles, and a leading presence in the movement. See <http://awaresatdialogue.blogspot.com/>