WESTERN STATES CENTER

Racial Justice Dominoes

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**Time:** 40 minutes

**Summary**
In this training, participants play a game to build shared language for racial justice and equity lens.

**Goals**
- Understand the appropriate and respectful terms to use in discussing issues about race and gender oppression
- Building shared language and analysis around race and gender oppression

**Materials Needed**
- Two or more sets of RJ dominoes, cut out and scrambled.

**Agenda Outline**

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**TOTAL TIME:** 40 minutes
Trainer’s Notes

The words and definitions that we will be exploring now are useful in talking about gender and racial justice issues. Many people have questions about the different terms used in talking about these issues and we think that it’s important to know the difference between the various identities, concepts and terms. This exercise is part of a process of developing shared language and analysis around racial justice issues.

- This activity works best in small groups (3-4) to maximize participation. You’ll need to have enough sets of dominoes so that each group has one set.
- You can conduct this activity as a contest, having the first group to finish call out “Domino!” Offer a prize if possible. Some groups even incorporate this game into a scavenger hunt activity (breaking the dominoes up into smaller sets and hiding them in secret locations with clues).
- Be prepared to handle racist or homophobic or transphobic comments or questions. If a comment arises, refer back to ground rules about creating a safe and respectful space for all participants.

Introduction and Instructions (5 minutes)

REVIEW the goals of the workshop.

SAY:

“The ability to define one’s own experiences is powerful. It’s important to have shared language and understanding about concepts in reproductive justice and gender justice. The language used in this exercise includes terms that reproductive justice, gender justice, and LGBTQ justice organizations and communities themselves are using. These are definitions that are currently in use.”

DIVIDE participants into groups of three or four.

GIVE the following instructions:

- Each domino contains a word or term on the left hand side, and on the right hand side there is a definition of another word that is used in conversations about these issues.
- Teams should lay out all the dominoes so they are visible.
- Each person on the team will then take turns trying to play a domino so that a word is matched with the correct definition.
- Within each team, the person who traveled from farthest away goes first.
- [Optional] The first team to match all the terms and definitions is the winner, but play will continue until all the dominoes have been matched up.
- It’s very important that everyone gets to hear each term and each definition, so make sure you do work together as a whole team.
- In the end, all of the dominoes should fit together.
Playing Racial Justice Dominoes (15 minutes)

**GO AROUND** the room making sure participants are following instructions. Help out folks who may be stuck.

**Debrief and Definitions** (20 minutes total)

**ASK** if anyone has any questions or reflections from this activity. Clarify questions and misconceptions they may raise.

**ASK** participants which were the hardest words to match up.

- What words and definitions were challenging?
- How did you come to agreement?
- Why is it important we have a shared definition?

**HANDOUT** Definitions of Racial and Gender Justice Terms.
Definitions of Racial and Gender Justice Terms

**Power**: The ability to get what you want. This is a neutral term, neither good nor bad but a tool towards an end goal.

**Privilege**: An unearned advantage grants to individuals by society based on visible characteristics such as race, perceived gender, age, language, etc.

**Equity**: When everyone has access to opportunities necessary to satisfy essential needs, advance their well-being and achieve their full potential.

**Race**: A political construct, with no basis in biological or scientific distinction, to legitimize the dominance of white people over people of color.

**Ethnicity**: Refers to groups of people that share some common ancestry, traditions, language, or dialect.

**Racism**: Applying race prejudice while having race privilege to maintain dominant systems of power and white supremacy.

**White**: People of European descent who benefit from the privileges and power of racism.

**People of color**: An umbrella term for people who share the common experience of being targeted and oppressed by racism.

**Micro-aggressions**: Verbal and non-verbal cues that are hostile, negative or derogatory to reinforce dominant culture and minimize the target person's experience.

**Sex**: Refers to a person’s biology in terms of anatomy, chromosomes and or hormones; usually assigned by doctors at birth based on visible characteristics.

**Gender Identity**: How a person feels inside about who they are in relation to systems of gender. EX: man, woman, or transgender, etc.

**Sexual Orientation**: An identity that describes the gender and or sex/es of the people one desires to have sexual intimacy.

**Tokenism**: Selecting a few people who are not in the majority group for participation in order to deflect criticism of oppression.

**Racial Justice**: The proactive enforcement of policies, practices, attitudes, and actions that produce equitable access, opportunities, treatment, impacts, and outcomes for all regardless of race or ethnicity.

**Cultural Competency**: The ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures and backgrounds.
Cultural Competency: The ability to get what you want. This is a neutral term, neither good nor bad but a tool towards an end goal.

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