

Equality for All



*HCDP Chair Don Kohn's
Message to Horry County:*

As chair, I have had the opportunity to speak at two successive Black History month events. The first time, I spoke about three prominent African Americans who made a difference. On the second occasion, I was ready to make a similar speech. While I was preparing, it dawned on me that the audience knew more about prominent blacks than I did. So, I ended up sharing my epiphany with the audience and then I said that I now recognize my job is to speak up about issues affecting African Americans.

A Message to White America:

Join the Fight for African American Equality!

So, while everyone is invited to listen, I want to speak to those who are White.

The murder of George Floyd was a flash point that brought the Black Lives Matter movement to the attention of our nation. Maybe I should say it brought it to the attention of White America. Black Lives Matter was suddenly more than a slogan that many White Americans didn't quite understand because they could not relate.

Well now we understand what our African American brothers and sisters have known all their lives; that justice for Blacks is different from justice for Whites in America. Now everyone should

A Message to White America

understand the fear that Black parents have when their children leave the house to spend time with their friends, walk to school or just walk to the store for a bag of Skittles.

The question is now that we know that this problem exists, and we finally begin to understand it, what are we going to do about it?

Some might say "I'm not a racist" so "I've done my job." Not being a racist is better than the alternative; however, actions speak louder than words. It's like being registered to vote and saying "I served my country." It's better than not being registered, but what are you going to do next? There is sufficient information available now to educate White people on the continuing struggle for Black equality and justice. We not only need to learn; we need to act. We need to act because this is our fight, too.

How can we, as a community, come together to actively support the Black Lives Matter movement? We must start taking action now. Start with small steps, at first, then build on those steps to take more action and make change happen. Here are some steps White Americans can take.

- Speak up when a friend makes a racially negative remark or tells a racially charged joke. Let them know it is unacceptable to you.
- Call out a social media post.
- Write or call your representatives and tell them that you expect them to lead on legislation to ensure equality in all aspects of American society and, especially, equal justice for Black Americans. No more White privilege! We all need to hold our elected officials accountable and we must keep the

Democratic Party, the Horry County party and ourselves accountable, too.

- Exercise your First Amendment right and join a peaceful protest.
- Take the time to learn about how much harder it is to live your life when you are targeted for the color of your skin.
- Attend an event organized by African Americans and ask questions so you can better understand the struggle.

Black Americans aren't asking for special treatment, they just want to be treated as equal members of our society. We must all support this fight for equality.

Black Lives Matter!

Educational Resources:

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

https://standagainstracism.org/join-us/?gclid=C-j0KCQjwoJX8BRCZARIsAEWBFMI5vVA5xwkIX-ej4vGfGulPr-IMPvn0rdONuEKHywjiR1Qcpf5Sx-BqkaAouHEALw_wcB

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbl0weD-HwAQ&feature=emb_title

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/racial-justice>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/06/07/870251488/beyond-protests-5-more-ways-to-channel-anger-into-action-to-fight-racism>



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