The Crisis of White Supremacy in America: What’s Philanthropy’s Role?

June 4, 2020
WELCOME
POLLS
AGENDA

● Opening Statement: White Supremacy
● How did we get here? A brief history of white supremacy
● White supremacy at work and why it’s important to name it.
● How philanthropic practices have been complicit with and informed by white supremacist culture.
● Concrete individual/institutional actions to the dismantle white supremacy and target the endgame of liberation
● Questions & Responses
A Philanthropic Response to White Supremacy from the Birthplace of Freedom

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On Friday night, 256 miles from Philadelphia, hundreds of neo-Nazi, white supremacists descended upon Charlottesville, Virginia to protest the planned removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. They marched to the University of Virginia campus carrying torches reminiscent of Ku Klux Klan marches and surrounded a counter-protest planning meeting and prayer service at St. Paul's Memorial Church chanting Nazi slogans including “Sieg heil”, “blood and soil,” and gave the Nazi salute. At that moment, a mere protest in favor of saving a statue, an exercise protected under the First Amendment of our U.S. constitution, became a hate-laced act of domestic terrorism. The next day, Heather Heyer, a 32-year-old local woman was killed and 19 others were injured when a rally participant from Ohio, intentionally plowed into the crowd of peaceful counter-protesters.
Working Definition

“Whiteness seen as good, normal, dominant, and right and Blackness as an inherent deviation from normal that must be investigated thoroughly and controlled before considering acceptable.”
WHITE SUPREMACIST WORLDVIEW
I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Counciler or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"... A shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in this Letter from the Birmingham Jail.