

This pocket guide is for folks who are thinking through being allies to Black people. We created it as a subcommittee of the Racial Justice Task Force, bringing our own multiple identities and questions.

## PROLOGUE

**Jews are a multi-racial, multi-ethnic group.**

When we speak out against racism, we are defending other Jews.

**Jews are made vulnerable when rights and inclusion narrow.**

We are *not* made safer by excluding others.

### STARTING POINTS:

- **Jewish Community Action**  
[www.jewishcommunityaction.org](http://www.jewishcommunityaction.org)
- **500+ Jewish Organizations say Black Lives Matter**  
<https://tinyurl.com/y8fj4ykt>
- **Can We Talk?** (JWA podcast)  
Episode 43: Black Lives Matter  
[jwa.org/podcasts/canwetalk](http://jwa.org/podcasts/canwetalk)

## LEARNING TO SEE WHITE SUPREMACY

**Even seemingly positive racial stereotypes can support anti-Blackness.**

The more we accept the idea that Jewish or Asian families are “model minorities” or that certain groups value education, the more we indulge in the idea that Black people (and Native and Latinx people) have dysfunctional families or don’t value education. White supremacy wins.

**We must call out racial hierarchies and resist the false binaries they present us with.**

Experiencing oppression doesn’t mean a group hasn’t also experienced privilege or benefited from white supremacy. Many Jews are attached to and have benefited from unjust institutions, even if, as a group, we still face antisemitism and marginalization. Many Asian Americans have financially benefited from empire and whiteness even as Asians as a group have *not* all benefited.

Police are a particularly powerful group that has enforced white supremacy and inequity.

Explore further at [mpd150.com](http://mpd150.com) and [defundthepolice.org](http://defundthepolice.org).

We cannot disconnect conversations about antiracism and social change from the police. We must continue to sharpen our analysis and discussions around police.

We need to hold cops accountable AND articulate when cops of color are being scapegoated, such as former NYPD officer Peter Liang and former MPD officer Mohamed Noor.

Our conversations must encompass “policing” more broadly as a set of actions that limit Black life (in schools, stores, parks, etc.).

# WHAT TO DO?

The point isn't to be "good" or to always get it right but to learn about white supremacy and decide what to do in your own life as a result.

Because white supremacy is pervasive, it can be fought in lots of places. You don't have to be in any one spot or do any single kind of activity. **But you have to be willing to let discomfort happen.**

**You can stop a conversation with friends and family and neighbors** when they make observations you find objectionable by simply pointing out that they've misjudged you.

## THE GOAL

Defeat white supremacy and keep folks alive in the interim.

**You can disrupt your schedule by going to a rally.**

- Uprising Minnesota <https://uprising.mn>
- Black Visions Collective + Reclaim the Block social media
- Jewish Community Action emails

**You can swallow a thought or observation** and let people of color have the floor.

- Moving from Actor to Ally to Accomplice: [www.whiteaccomplices.org](http://www.whiteaccomplices.org)

*I don't think this joke is one I want to hear, I don't like the way it's going, I think it's going to be at the expense of Black people, would you mind not telling it ...<sup>1</sup>*

**Choose teachers** and readings that will help you process what you're learning.

**Teach** and read with your children in ways that help them process

- Support and consult the African American Registry <https://aaregistry.org>
- Embrace abolitionist teaching
- (once reopened), read together from Shir Tikvah's newly expanded collection of children's books on race, racism, and resistance

Learning about antiracism can be rewarding and enlightening. Let it teach you new things about yourself and the world.



## How to Stay Focused on THE GOAL When the Work Gets Hard

We can do this work but we are not all in charge of it. **Let Black people determine goals, methods, and needs of the movement.**

### BE REFLECTIVE.

- You may have periods of discomfort with others (even people you think you are helping, even with people you've thought of as friends or family or close coworkers, even with yourself). You can learn from all of these kinds of discomfort.
- Be open to getting to know people as individuals. People of color have their own stories. Don't make assumptions about others' concerns, identities, or backgrounds. Issues of class, religion, gender, and sexuality—all shape their stories.

**Separate your impact from your intention.** If your impact is different than what you intended, change what you are doing to bring your impact in line with your intention.

Don't become so overwhelmed or paralyzed that you are afraid to say or do anything. That is a sign that you need to step back and rethink but **do not give up on antiracism.**

*"You are not obligated to complete the work but neither are you free to desist from it." – Pirkei Avot*

<sup>1</sup> from Carlo Parentela Facebook video <https://tinyurl.com/y96skt6u>