Anti-Racism

Racism and Institutions Small Group Brainstorm
Benefits and Facilitation Options

Objective: To identify the large institutions within the U.S. and to examine the ways in which they promote racism.

Time required: 25-35 minutes

Ideal group size: 15-25

Support materials: White board or flip chart markers.

Recommended lead-in: “What are the large institutions in the U.S.?" Facilitator may have to give an example: Media, Health Care, and ensure Social Services are included.

Key Instructions:
1. Facilitator leads the group to develop a list of institutions.
2. Ask the group to pick 1-4, depending on your time.
3. Say, “These institutions are supposed to do things for us all of us. The media is supposed to entertain us, keep us informed about the world in an unbiased manner. The health care system is suppose to help us get better when we are sick and give us the information and tools we need to prevent any illness. The institutions are in place to help us, but with racism they can and do actually work against people of color. We are going to come up with some of the ways that happens.”

Once the group has picked the institutions they can either:
1. Break off into small groups and brainstorm the ways that institution promotes racism.
2. Stay in the large group and brainstorm one institution at a time.

Key Points:
Some ways the media promotes racism are:
1. News stories focusing on a “bad” part of town
2. Sitcoms and other shows not representing very many people of color--especially without relying on stereotypes to portray them.

The group can come up with other examples.