

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

WELLNESS

TOOLKIT

BANJEE BOOMBOX

2024

WWW.BANJEEBOOMBOX.COM

PEACE LOVHERS,

WELCOME TO **BANJEE BOOMBOX,**

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE YOU AS OUR GUEST!!!

THIS DIGITAL TOOLKIT IS MEANT TO BE A GUIDE FOR ALL THINGS FESTIVAL RELATED WHILE YOU ARE AT **THE SULTAN ROOM**. AFTER YOU LEAVE, FEEL FREE TO UTILIZE OUR TOOLKIT FOR YOURSELF, FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION AFTER ALL THE FUN.

REMEMBER, THOUGHTS INFLUENCE CONVERSATION; CONVERSATIONS INFLUENCE ACTION; ACTION CAUSES CHANGE. (“THE ONLY LASTING TRUTH IS CHANGE”- OCTAVIA BUTLET.)

YOU MIGHT HAVE COME HERE AS A GUEST, BUT YOU ARE LEAVING AS FAMILY. <3 BE SURE TO FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM [@BANJEEBOOMBOX](#) AND BOOKMARK OUR WEBSITE: WWW.BANJEEBOOMBOX.COM.

**JOY IS A FORM OF PROTEST
HEALING IS A FORM OF PROTEST
RESTORATION IS A FORM OF PROTEST
WEALTH IS A REVOLUTIONARY ACT.**

**L IS FOR LOVE,
FAY AKA [DJ LIKWUID](#)
CO-FOUNDER BANJEE BOOMBOX**

COMMUNITY

EDUCATION

WELLNESS

THANK YOU

AFRO CROWD

AFRO FREE CULTURE CROWDSOURCING WIKIMEDIA

THE SULTAN ROOFTOP



SANDWICH GIRL CAFÉ



queue points



do · N · Y · C

gays raised in the south
The B.R.U.T.S. Co.

OURVIEW TV



BLACK PODCASTERS ASSOCIATION

RECESS

THE WEEKLY TOP 40
WITH DJ BAKER



A JOYFUL RADIO SHOW
CELEBRATING HARLEM'S
ART, CULTURE AND COMMERCE

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OUR MISSION

BANJEE BOOMBOX IS A FISCALLY SPONSORED VIBRANT **QTBIPOC FESTIVAL COLLECTIVE** DEDICATED TO THE CELEBRATION, AMPLIFICATION, AND CULTIVATION OF SAFE SPACES FOR THE DIVERSE VOICES OF **WOMEN, NON-BINARY INDIVIDUALS, AND LGBTQAI+ ARTISTS, DJs, AND MUSICIANS**. OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE PLATFORM THAT NOT ONLY SHOWCASES THE INCREDIBLE TALENT WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO FOSTERS AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY UNIQUE VOICE CAN BE HEARD AND APPRECIATED. WE WISH TO AMPLIFY THE BLACK FEMME FUTURE.

COMMUNITY

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FOLLOW THE ARTISTS

@NITTYSOTTMC

@DAIBURGER

@SUNNAAY

@BRYNTMUSIC

@MARVINANDRIODBROWN

@KWEENDOM

@PEACHEZWITHAZ

@_SLID_3

@SINCERITYLYRICS

@IAMINDIGOPRODIGY

@KEY.HUTCH

@NAHIAORLA

@THEKENZIJAMES

@JB_SOLIVAGANT

@MARJANTHAARTIST_MUSIC

@HARDHEADHASSAN

@HEISDCARLO



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ARTIST STATEMENT

FREE PALESTINE & ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER. SAY HER NAME. WE CALL FOR THE END OF THE MURDER OF INNOCENT BLACK PEOPLE BY SWORN CIVIL SERVANTS.

WE CALL FOR CHANGE ON THE FEDERAL, JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE LEVEL.

WE CALL FOR AN END TO THE FUNDING OF THE MILITARIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS.

WE CALL FOR THE ERADICATION OF LAWS, PRACTICES, SANCTIONS AND POLICIES THAT DESTROY BLACK COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND IMMIGRANTS (THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO REDLINING, EXCESSIVE BAIL, MASS INCARCERATION, STAND YOUR GROUND LAWS IN RED STATES AND EXCESSIVE FORCE USED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT ON UNARMED CITIZENS.)

WE STAND WITH WOMEN WHO HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO DECIDE WHAT IS BEST FOR THEIR MINDS, BODIES AND SOULS.

FURTHER WE STAND WITH ALL SURVIVORS, THE YOUTH, THE ELDERS AND THOSE TOO AFRAID TO SPEAK UP FOR THEMSELVES AGAINST THE VISCERAL GRIPS OF PATRIARCHY AND TOXIC POLICY.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

THIS TOOLKIT IS DESIGNED AS AN INTERACTIVE RESOURCE SUPPLEMENT. THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS ARE GREAT FOR AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GROUPS, CORPORATE ERGS, CHURCH GATHERINGS AND MORE.

AUDIENCE: SMALL GROUPS OF 5-10 PARTICIPANTS. (IDEAL FOR AGES 16+.)

GOAL: TO ENCOURAGE DISCUSSIONS THAT INCLUDE A BLACK QUEER PERSPECTIVE ON OUTDATED ADAGES.

NOTE: THESE TALKS CENTER THE FEMME, BLACK, AND QUEER EXPERIENCE, SO THEY MAY RESONATE BEST IN SPACES THAT EMBRACE INTERSECTIONAL EXPERIENCES.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BELOW IN THIS TOOLKIT ARE EXPLICITLY THE VIEWS OF THE AUTHORS AND HAVE NO REFLECTION ON THE PRIVATE VIEWS OF OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS OR SUPPORTERS.

SMITHSONIAN
ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTS
COMMUNITY

SETTING A SAFE CIRCLE: ONE MIC

- ESTABLISH AN EMCEE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND KEEP TIME ON DISCUSSION POINTS. (THIS PERSON MUST BE NEUTRAL.)
- EACH PERSON IS ENCOURAGED TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION.
- ESTABLISH A PASSWORD OR PHRASE THAT CAN BE USED ANYTIME SOMEONE DOESN'T FEEL COMFORTABLE ANSWERING A QUESTION. (EACH PARTICIPANT GETS ONE PASS PER ROUND. AFTER EVERYONE ANSWERS, THOSE WHO PASSED CAN BE REVISITED TO OFFER A RESPONSE.)
- ALL VOICES ARE IMPORTANT. (NO ONE SHOULD INTERRUPT ANOTHER PERSON WHILE SPEAKING.)
- "MAJORITY RULES" DOES NOT APPLY IN THE CIRCLE. (SOMETIMES, THE MAJORITY IS WRONG.) "ALL OR NONE" OR NO GOVERNANCE AT ALL IS ENCOURAGED.
- ONLY AFTER ALL PARTICIPANTS SHARE ON AN ITEM MAY A FULL DISCUSSION BEGIN.
- IF A PARTICIPANT WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE ANOTHER'S OPINION, IT IS ENCOURAGED TO ASK QUESTIONS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ALL SIDES. PUSHBACK AND DIFFERENCES ARE EXPECTED AND ENCOURAGED. GROUPTHINK CAN BE DANGEROUS, SO EACH PARTICIPANT IS ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR AUTHENTIC, OPEN OPINION. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ARE OPEN FOR DEBATE, BUT NO ONE SHOULD ATTACK ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL'S CHARACTER OR INDIVIDUALITY.
- BE HONEST AND SHOW UP AS YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BELOW IN THIS TOOLKIT ARE EXPLICITLY THE VIEWS OF THE AUTHORS AND HAVE NO REFLECTION ON THE PRIVATE VIEWS OF OUR PARTNERS, SPONSORS OR SUPPORTERS.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON PROTECTING BLACK FEMMES

QUOTES

(READ EACH QUOTE AND DISCUSS IT AMONGST THE GROUP.)

1. “WHITE WOMEN AND BLACK MEN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. THEY CAN ACT AS OPPRESSOR OR BE OPPRESSED. BLACK MEN MAY BE VICTIMIZED BY RACISM, BUT SEXISM ALLOWS THEM TO ACT AS EXPLOITERS AND OPPRESSORS OF WOMEN. WHITE WOMEN MAY BE VICTIMIZED BY SEXISM, BUT RACISM ENABLES THEM TO ACT AS EXPLOITERS AND OPPRESSORS OF BLACK PEOPLE. BOTH GROUPS HAVE LED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT FAVOR THEIR INTERESTS AND SUPPORT THE CONTINUED OPPRESSION OF OTHER GROUPS. BLACK MALE SEXISM HAS UNDERMINED STRUGGLES TO ERADICATE RACISM JUST AS WHITE FEMALE RACISM UNDERMINES FEMINIST STRUGGLE. AS LONG AS THESE TWO GROUPS OR ANY GROUP DEFINES LIBERATION AS GAINING SOCIAL EQUALITY WITH RULING CLASS WHITE MEN, THEY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION OF OTHERS.” - BELL HOOKS
2. WHEN FEMINISM DOES NOT EXPLICITLY OPPOSE RACISM, AND WHEN ANTI-RACISM DOES NOT INCORPORATE OPPOSITION TO PATRIARCHY, RACE AND GENDER POLITICS OFTEN END UP BEING ANTAGONISTIC TO EACH OTHER, AND BOTH INTERESTS LOSE. - KIMBERLÉ WILLIAMS CRENSHAW
3. “CARING FOR MYSELF IS NOT SELF-INDULGENCE. IT IS SELF-PRESERVATION, AND THAT IS AN ACT OF POLITICAL WARFARE.” “I AM NOT FREE WHILE ANY WOMAN IS UNFREE, EVEN WHEN HER SHACKLES ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN.” - AUDRE LORDE

QUESTIONS

- HOW DOES LANGUAGE AFFECT HOW WE SUBCONSCIOUSLY VIEW BLACK WOMEN AND THEIR EXPERIENCES?
- HOW DO YOU INTERPRET MISOGYNOIR IN MUSIC? ARE YOU ABLE TO SEPARATE ART AND REAL LIFE, OR DOES IT OVERLAP FOR YOU?
- WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REFER TO WOMEN AS “WOMEN”, AND NOT “FEMALES” OR TERMS SPECIFIC TO THEIR ANATOMY?
- THE AVERAGE BLACK WOMAN MUST WORK 8 MONTHS INTO THE NEXT YEAR TO EARN WHAT THE AVERAGE MAN EARNS THE PREVIOUS YEAR. HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
- DO YOU REFER TO YOURSELF AS CIS OR TRANS WHEN HAVING CONVERSATIONS AROUND GENDER? WHY OR WHY NOT?
- ARE TOXIC MASCULINITY AND TOXIC FEMININITY RELATED?
- WHAT ARE WAYS THAT YOU CAN DISMANTLE THE BLACK WOMAN SAVIOR SYNDROME?
- ARE TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES AND IDENTITY RELATED? WHY OR WHY NOT?

RESOURCES

- [NATIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S JUSTICE INSTITUTE](#)
- [LOUDER THAN A RIOT](#)
- [PFLAG GLOSSARY](#)
- [NATIONAL BLACK JUSTICE COALITION](#)
- [THE CENTER](#)
- [ESSENCE](#)
- [EQUAL PAY DAY ORG](#)
- [HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN](#)
- [NPR](#)
- [R29](#)

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON CONSENT

QUOTES/STATEMENTS

(READ EACH QUOTE AND DISCUSS IT AMONGST THE GROUP.)

1. "BLACK WOMEN ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AT RISK OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE. NEARLY 1 IN 5 BLACK WOMEN ARE SURVIVORS OF RAPE, AND 41% OF BLACK WOMEN EXPERIENCE SEXUAL COERCION AND OTHER FORMS OF UNWANTED SEXUAL CONTACT. FOR EVERY BLACK WOMAN WHO REPORTS RAPE, AT LEAST 15 DO NOT REPORT. MANY CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS CAN HINDER HEALING FOR BLACK WOMEN SURVIVORS: THE BURDENSOME EXPECTATION OF STRONG BLACK WOMANHOOD; THE POWER OF THE BLACK CHURCH; THE DESIRE TO SHIELD BLACK MEN; AND THE LACK OF SELF-CARE EXAMPLES ARE ALL REAL DYNAMICS BLACK WOMEN SURVIVORS ENDURE." - [UJIMA WOMEN'S VIOLENCE STATISTICS](#)
2. BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE HUMAN BEINGS, NOT THEIR GENITALIA. IF YOU ARE NOT A WOMAN REFERRING TO YOUR OWN BODY AUTONOMY, THEN REFERRING TO WOMEN (AND GIRLS) AS THEIR GENITALIA IS NOT ONLY DEHUMANIZING, IT ALSO PERPETUATES GENDER VIOLENCE. - [CONCERN.NET](#)
3. LET BLACK GIRLS BE GIRLS. LITTLE GIRLS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF GROWN MEN. THE SAME WAY THAT BLACK BOYS FACE ADULTIFICATION IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, BLACK GIRLS FACE OVERSEXUALIZATION IN SOCIETY. "BLACK GIRLS ARE VIEWED AS 'MORE ADULT-LIKE' FROM THE AGE OF FIVE, AND THAT PERCEPTION INCREASES WHEN THEY'RE 10 TO 14. AT THAT AGE RANGE, THEY'RE CONSIDERED 'MORE MATURE, MORE SEXUALLY AWARE, AND LESS INNOCENT,' AND NOT JUST BY NON-BLACK PEOPLE, BUT WITHIN THE BLACK COMMUNITY AS WELL." - [THE GUARDIAN](#)
4. MAPOUKA (OR TWERKING) IS NOT FOR THE MALE GAZE. BLACK WOMEN ENGAGING IN COMMUNAL DANCING CIRCLES IS COMMON IN AMERICA BUT DATES BACK TO THE IVORY COAST. "THIS FORM OF BONDING IS FOR THE WOMEN IN THE CIRCLE AND NOT FOR MALE STIMULATION OR ADORATION. - [WIKIPEDIA](#)
5. NORMALIZE CONSENT CONVERSATIONS. CONSIDER TEACHING BOYS CONSENTING CONVERSATIONS AS OPPOSED TO TEACHING GIRLS 'RAPE PREVENTION. "ABOUT 3% OF AMERICAN MEN—OR 1 IN 33—HAVE EXPERIENCED AN ATTEMPTED OR COMPLETED RAPE IN THEIR LIFETIME. AND 1 OUT OF EVERY 10 RAPE VICTIMS ARE MALE. HOWEVER, 82% OF ALL JUVENILE VICTIMS ARE FEMALE AND 90% OF ADULT RAPE VICTIMS ARE FEMALE, WITH THE PERPETRATORS BEING CISGENDER HETEROSEXUAL MEN." - [RAINN](#)
6. "21% OF TGQN (TRANSGENDER, GENDERQUEER, NONCONFORMING) COLLEGE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED, COMPARED TO 18% OF NON-TGQN FEMALES, AND 4% OF NON-TGQN MALES." - [RAINN](#)

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON CONSENT CULTURE

QUESTIONS

WILL YOU TAKE THE PLEDGE AND COMMIT TO CONSENT? DISCUSS EACH PLEDGE NUMBER AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT.

- PLEDGE #1: I WILL WAIT FOR THE PRESENCE OF A “YES”. CONSENT IS NOT A CHORE, TASK, OR OPTION. CONSENT IS YOUR RIGHT! CONSENT PROTECTS YOU AND YOUR PARTNER. WHEN IN DOUBT, TALK IT OUT AND NEVER ASSUME. IT’S NOT THE PRESENCE OF A “NO,” IT’S THE ABSENCE OF A “YES” THAT DETERMINES CONSENT. CONSENT CAN BE VERBAL AND NONVERBAL. DUE TO FREEZE, FIGHT, OR FLIGHT RESPONSES, IT’S ALWAYS BEST TO VERBALLY ASK PERMISSION BEFORE A SEXUAL ADVANCE. EVEN IF YOU ARE 100% SURE, STILL ASK ANYWAY! CONSENT (OR PERMISSION) IS KEY.
- PLEDGE #2: I UNDERSTAND THAT CONSENT HAS A DEADLINE. JUST BECAUSE YOU HOOKED UP ONCE BEFORE DOESN’T MEAN THAT IT’S A GREEN LIGHT TO HOOK UP AGAIN. NO ONE OWNS YOUR BODY; IN THAT SAME SENSE, YOU DON’T OWN THEIRS.
- PLEDGE #3: I WILL CHECK IN WHEN I’M UNSURE. SET BOUNDARIES FOR YOURSELF AND LISTEN TO YOUR PARTNER’S BOUNDARIES. BOTH PARTIES HAVE TO ACTIVELY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ACTIVITY FOR IT TO BE CONSENSUAL. REMEMBER, CONSENT IS A SEXY TWO-WAY STREET. WHAT MIGHT BE A FANTASY FOR HER COULD BE A NIGHTMARE FOR YOU. SAFETY AND SENSUALITY CAN COEXIST. IF YOU’RE NOT SURE, JUST CHECK IN.
- PLEDGE #4: I UNDERSTAND THAT CONSENT IS FOR ME ONLY. JUST BECAUSE A GIRL OR A GUY IS INTERESTED IN YOU, THAT IS NOT AN INVITATION FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS. THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO BE ON THIS LIST, BUT JUST IN CASE, REMEMBER—GROUP SEX CAN BE CONSENSUAL; HOWEVER, YOU CANNOT DECIDE THAT OPTION FOR SOMEONE ELSE. REVISIT #3 IF IN DOUBT!
- PLEDGE #5: I KNOW THAT CONSENT APPLIES TO SEX AND MORE! (“AND MORE” INCLUDES TOUCHING, SHARING PICTURES, CARESSING, ETC.) SO, BEFORE SENDING THAT PICTURE OF THE “FAMILY JEWELS”, GRABBING, KISSING, FONDLING, OR EVEN SEXTING—ASK!

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON CONSENT CULTURE

QUESTIONS

WILL YOU TAKE THE PLEDGE AND COMMIT TO CONSENT? DISCUSS EACH PLEDGE NUMBER AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT.

- PLEDGE #6: I UNDERSTAND THAT IF A PERSON IS SEVERELY INTOXICATED, ASLEEP, OR UNCONSCIOUS, THAT IS A RESOUNDING “NO”! YOU CANNOT RECEIVE CONSENT FROM A NON-RESPONSIVE PERSON. FURTHER, IF YOU’RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR NON-RESPONSIVENESS, OR IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO GET SOMEONE INCAPACITATED TO SLEEP WITH YOU, THEN YOU SHOULD PROBABLY SEEK COUNSELING.
- PLEDGE #7: I UNDERSTAND THAT WOMEN DON’T OWE ME ANYTHING... NOT EVEN A SMILE! IF YOU THINK THAT GETTING A WOMAN (OR FEMME) DRUNK, SPENDING MONEY ON GIFTS OR TRIPS CAN BUY YOU CONSENT... YOU’RE WRONG. THE ONLY THING THAT GRANTS YOU CONSENT IS A “YES” FROM THAT PERSON.
- PLEDGE #8: I WILL NOT BE A D*CK! THE CLITORIS HAS 8,000 NERVE ENDINGS, WHICH IS DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF NERVE ENDINGS OF THE PENIS. CONTRARY TO THE LIE THAT MEN CAN’T CONTROL THEIR PENISES, WOMEN ACTUALLY HAVE MORE NERVE ENDINGS AND TWICE AS MANY HORMONES AS MEN TO MANAGE. SO, CONTROL YOUR PENIS. RAPE IS NOT ABOUT SEX, IT’S ABOUT POWER AND CONTROL. IF YOU FIND THE URGE TO FORCE A WOMAN TO DO ANYTHING, THEN YOU SHOULD SEEK COUNSELING.
- PLEDGE #9: I WILL ONLY HAVE SEX WITH PEOPLE MY OWN AGE. FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS, IF BY CHANCE YOU’RE OVER 18 AND SHE IS UNDER 18, CONSENT GETS TRICKY. A KID CANNOT CONSENT TO A SEXUAL ENCOUNTER WITH AN ADULT. (USE COMMON SENSE HERE, GUYS—IF HER AGE ENDS IN “TEEN” AND YOUR AGE ENDS WITH OR CONTAINS A “Y,” THEN SHE’S TOO YOUNG FOR YOU, BRO). SIMILARLY, IF YOU ARE A TEENAGER AND HE’S YOUR MOM’S AGE, HE’S TOO OLD FOR YOU, BRO. IF YOU’RE OVER 18 AND SHE IS OVER 18, THEN RULES 1-9 SHOULD SUIT YOU FINE.
- PLEDGE #10: I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ABSENCE OF A “NO” IS NOT CONSENT AND THAT SILENCE IS NOT CONSENT. IF YOU DON’T VERBALLY HEAR A CONFIRMING “YES,” CONSIDER IT A “NO.”

RESOURCES

- [ONE LOVE](#)
- [RAINN](#)
- [NATIONAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER](#)
- [THE GUARDIAN](#)
- [ME TOO](#)
- [COSMOPOLITAN](#)
- [NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER](#)
- [WIKIPEDIA](#)
- [VOX](#)
- [UN WOMEN](#)
- [PERMISSION PLAYLIST](#)

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON BEING GAY & SPIRITUAL

QUOTES

(READ EACH QUOTE AND DISCUSS IT AMONGST THE GROUP.)

- 1."THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGION AND THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IS A COMPLICATED ONE, AND EVERYONE EXPERIENCES IT DIFFERENTLY. IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW YOU FEEL AND WHAT YOU CHOOSE." - THE TREVOR PROJECT
- 2."SEXUALITY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RELIGIOUS BELIEF, AND EVERY SOUL HAS A RIGHT TO THEIR OWN HERMENEUTICAL JOURNEY. HERMENEUTICS IS WHAT WE DO WHEN WE TAKE A TEXT AND ASK NOT JUST 'WHAT DOES THIS SAY,' BUT 'WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?' IN ASKING, 'WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?' (OR MORE APPROPRIATELY STATED, 'WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ATTRACTION TO SOMEONE OF THE SAME SEX'), OUR TASK IS TO EXPLORE WHAT THE RELEVANT BIBLICAL PASSAGES ON THE TOPIC MEANT IN THEIR ORIGINAL CONTEXT AND WHAT THEY MEAN FOR US TODAY." - HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
- 3."THE TERM "HOMOSEXUAL" DIDN'T EXIST UNTIL 1892. SOME MODERN BIBLE TRANSLATIONS SAY THAT "HOMOSEXUALS" WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT NEITHER THE CONCEPT NOR THE WORD FOR PEOPLE WITH EXCLUSIVE SAME-SEX ATTRACTION EXISTED BEFORE THE LATE 19TH CENTURY. WHILE THE BIBLE REJECTS LUSTFUL SAME-SEX BEHAVIOR, THAT'S VERY DIFFERENT FROM A CONDEMNATION OF ALL GAY PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS." - TIME
- 4.NO MORTAL IS ABOVE GOD (GOD THE UNIVERSE, GOD THE ANCESTORS, GOD WHO IS GREATER THAN US); THEREFORE, NO HUMAN (RELIGIOUS OR NOT) HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUALITY OR GENDER. CAUSING HARM TO A HUMAN BEING IS WRONG; AND IT IS NOT OKAY TO COMMIT SIN TO JUSTIFY A RELIGIOUS BELIEF (I.E., TORTURING, MURDERING, OR HARMING GAY PEOPLE). CHURCHES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, AND POLITICAL POLICIES THAT PERPETUATE HARM AGAINST ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE (INCLUDING LGBTQAI+ INDIVIDUALS) DUE TO PREJUDICE DO NOT SPEAK FOR GOD; THEY ACT ON BEHALF OF CIS-HETERO WHITE PATRIARCHAL WESTERN PRACTICES.

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON BEING GAY & SPIRITUAL

QUESTIONS

- HOW DO YOU CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR QUEER FAMILY MEMBERS, CLASSMATES, OR COWORKERS?
- HOW HAS GOD BEEN MANIFESTED IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS (ROMANTIC AND NON-ROMANTIC)?
- DOES YOUR CHURCH OR PLACE OF WORSHIP HAVE OPEN AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SEXUALITY AND RELIGION? DO YOU HAVE PROGRAMS THAT REACH OUT TO LGBTQAI+ TEENS?
- WHILE SPIRITUAL LEADERS AND RELIGIOUS GUIDES HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SACRED TEXTS, DO YOU THINK IT IS STILL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO READ, RESEARCH, AND INTERPRET THE DOCTRINE FOR YOURSELF?
- WHY ARE CONVERSION CAMPS IMMORAL?
- TODAY, THE DEATH PENALTY IS LEGAL IN MANY COUNTRIES FOR LGBTQAI INDIVIDUALS. HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?
- DO YOU HAVE ANY QUEER, INTERSEX, OR ASEXUAL FAMILY MEMBERS?

RESOURCES

- [THE TREVOR PROJECT](#)
- [HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN](#)
- [NBC](#)
- [TIME MAGAZINE](#)

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON POLITICS & LGBTQAI+ RIGHTS

CONTRIBUTED BY THE GRITS CO

QUOTES

(READ EACH QUOTE AND DISCUSS IT AMONGST THE GROUP.)

1. “PEOPLE WILL NEVER FIGHT FOR YOUR FREEDOM IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR IT YOURSELF.” - BAYARD RUSTIN
2. “NOBODY’S FREE UNTIL EVERYBODY’S FREE.” - FANNIE LOU HAMER
3. “THE FIRST WAY TO PROTECT, UPLIFT, AND EMPOWER BLACK WOMEN, GIRLS, AND GNC PEOPLE IS TO DECONSTRUCT AND UNPACK THE WAY VIOLENT AND OPPRESSIVE LANGUAGE IS USED AGAINST THEM. WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WHEN WE SAY ‘WOMEN AND GIRLS,’ WE MUST ACCOUNT FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS, INCLUDING OUR TRANSGENDER SISTERS.” - DR. DAVID JOHNS
4. “THE ENEMY, HOWEVER, IS NOT THE HISTORICALLY IMAGINED ENEMY OF BROWN OR BLACK YOUTH, MORE OFTEN DEPICTED AS AMERICA’S PROBLEM THAN AS ITS PROMISE. THE ENEMY IS NOT THE NAMELESS, FACELESS, YET ETHNICALLY IMAGINED TERRORIST THAT WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO FEAR IN THE POST-9/11 ENVIRONMENT. RATHER, THE GREATER ENEMY TO AMERICAN DEMOCRACY IS MORE LIKELY TO BE AN UNINFORMED AND UNCRITICAL AMERICAN PUBLIC THAT CAN BE MANIPULATED BY SOOTHING POLITICAL SLOGANS, FEEL-GOOD PHOTO OPS, AND AN ENDLESS ROUND OF HOLIDAY SALES.” - PATRICIA HILL COLLINS

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON POLITICS & LGBTQAI+ RIGHTS

CONTRIBUTED BY THE GRITS CO

QUESTIONS

- DO YOU KNOW WHO REPRESENTS YOU?
- DO YOU KNOW HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS DIVIDED?
 - IT'S HELPFUL TO THINK ABOUT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THREE DISTINCT CATEGORIES: FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL:
 - THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, ARE FEDERALLY ELECTED. ADDITIONALLY, ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS TYPICALLY HAVE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN YOUR HOME STATE AND D.C. CONGRESS HAS OVERSIGHT POWER AND USES OUR TAX DOLLARS TO FUND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS PARTIALLY FUND STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PROGRAMS LIKE THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT THAT WAS PASSED DURING COVID.
 - STATE LEGISLATORS USUALLY HAVE OFFICIAL OFFICES IN YOUR HOMETOWN AND YOUR STATE CAPITOL. THE GOVERNOR OF YOUR STATE IS THE CEO OF YOUR STATE AND HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE STATE LEGISLATURE. STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE PAID BY TAXPAYERS IN YOUR STATE. THE STATE OFFICIALS CAN CHOOSE TO ACCEPT MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR NOT (THINK ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION AS AN EXAMPLE OF ACCEPTING OR REJECTING MONEY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT).
 - LOCAL OFFICIALS OR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ARE YOUR CITY/TOWN COUNCIL OR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/MANAGERS. THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF OUR DAY TO DAY GOVERNANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE.
- DO YOU HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF POWER?
 - ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE MOST INCLINED TO RESPOND TO ONE THING...POWER. AS A CITIZEN, EXERCISING YOUR POWER WITH AN ELECTED OFFICIAL CAN COME IN MANY FORMS LIKE:
 - BEING A KNOWN/HIGH DONOR TO THEIR POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. IF YOU'RE GIVING THEM MONEY CONSISTENTLY, TRUST, THEIR TEAM KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.
 - BEING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH THE ABILITY TO GALVANIZE VOTERS IN THEIR DISTRICT.
 - HAVING A GROUP OF VOTERS WHO ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE ELECTED OFFICIAL AND THEIR OFFICE.
 - WE RECOMMEND GETTING A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA (FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP CHAT) TO ESTABLISH ONE DAY EVERY WEEK TO CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO ABOUT A GIVEN ISSUE. THIS BUILDS YOUR MUSCLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT. UNDERSTAND THAT MOST ISSUES NEED SOME FORM OF GROUP CONSENSUS. EVEN IF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL AGREES WITH YOUR TAKE, POLICY IS A LONG GAME.

CONVERSATION STARTERS ON POLITICS & LGBTQAI+ RIGHTS *CONTRIBUTED BY THE GRITS CO*

QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

- WHAT ISSUES DO YOU CARE MOST ABOUT? WHAT LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT HAS THE MOST AUTHORITY OVER SAID ISSUE?
- ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE?
- DO YOU WANT MORE PARTIES OR DO YOU WANT MORE AGREEMENT IN CONGRESS?
- WHEN IS THE DEADLINE TO VOTE IN YOUR AREA? HOW MANY PEOPLE PER WEEK CAN YOU COMMIT TO ASKING OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE “ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?”

RESOURCES

- [BLACK FACTS - NBJC](#)
- [BLACKPAC | BLACKPAC](#)
- [HTTPS://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/](https://www.house.gov/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.SENATE.GOV/](https://www.senate.gov/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.USA.GOV/ELECTED-OFFICIALS](https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials)

BANJEE BOOMBOX

BANJEE BOOMBOX'S EDUCATION INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO ENCOMPASS A COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, FEATURING PANELS, WORKSHOPS, DISCUSSIONS, AND TOOLKITS. TOPICS INCLUDE EXPLORING THE MULTIFACETED LAYERS OF INTERSECTIONALITY, EMPHASIZING THE IMPERATIVE NATURE OF ACTIVELY PROTECTING BLACK WOMEN, FOSTERING CONSENTING CONVERSATIONS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS, AND ADDRESSING THE INTERSECTION OF HOLINESS AND HOMOPHOBIA WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE BLACK CHURCH.

THE GRITS CO.

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