

Key points from our conversation on racism in our society
Thursday 18th June 2020

1. Using "Movement for Race Equality" as a starting point, what, if anything, do you commit to achieve in this journey for race equality in our society?

- ⇒ Must recognise racism in yourselves without feeling guilty
- ⇒ Reflect on your white privilege
- ⇒ Reflect on your culpability and compliance with racism in our society
- ⇒ Trying to build relationships outside of your race
- ⇒ Have the courage to call out racism when you see it
- ⇒ Be open to being called out yourself
- ⇒ Education ourselves
- ⇒ Be open and honest relationships around the issue of race
- ⇒ Challenge ourselves
- ⇒ Silence can be hurtful to those we hope to support

2. How can we, Corrymeela, support you on that journey?

- ⇒ Important to keep talking within and without the community and to keep the movement alive
- ⇒ Look for and/or create opportunities for encounter with the BAME community
- ⇒ Find ways to support those suffering at the hands of racism
- ⇒ Look for ways that we can build a new "we" in Northern Ireland, which reflects are growing complexity and diversity today and for tomorrow
- ⇒ Corrymeela facilitating training/learning about practical steps/Ideas for promoting race equality in our community
- ⇒ Look for opportunities to connect with other organisations
- ⇒ Using Corrymeela as a resource, building on the experience and work of the programme staff, build our understanding of racism in our society

3. What do you think Corrymeela, as an organisation, should be doing to promote race equality in our society?

- ⇒ Build race equality work into the strategic plan
- ⇒ Re-write the Corrymeela Commitment to include a commitment to race equality in our society
- ⇒ Corrymeela - at the forefront of the race equality movement
- ⇒ Corrymeela - providing space for stories to be shared
- ⇒ Corrymeela to pursue practical structural changes such as proportionate BAME representation on Council in the same way we seek gender balance
- ⇒ Proactively look to diversify the Corrymeela membership

In conclusion, here are the words that Veena share with us at the end:

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."