What is Anti-Racist Sex Ed?
Taking D.E.I. from Theory to Action

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Group Agreements

1. Feel your feelings!
2. Deal with yourself.
3. Honor experiences.
4. “Permission to be raggedy”*
5. Slow down.
6. Build community.
7. No bullshit.

*Oronde Cruger, Speak About It
Agenda & Goals

Agenda
• What even is “D.E.I.”?
• White Supremacy Culture in Sex Ed
• The antidote!
• Leaders in the Field
• Resources and Support

Goals
• Give examples of how reproductive oppression has shown up in communities;
• Define strategies for combating white supremacy culture in your spaces;
• Connect with each other and others doing the work!
Diversity: Quantity. Optics. Performative? 

Equity: Uncovering and dismantling systems of power and privilege. 

Inclusion: Experiences, true and authentic selves are invited.
Shared Language

**Anti-Racist:** The work of actively opposing racism by advocating for changes in political, economic and social life. What “not racist” looks like in action.

**Decolonization:** The process of deconstructing colonial ideologies/privilege of Western thought.

**Marginalization:** Social exclusion, treatment of a person or group as peripheral. Often includes denial of rights, resources or social supports.

**Oppression:** Systemic subjugation of one social group by a more powerful group for social, economic or political benefit.

**White Supremacy:** A racist ideology based on the belief that white people are superior to people of other races and should be dominant. White supremacy is not just an individual attitude, but extends to how systems and institutions operate.
White Supremacy Culture at Work

• Perfectionism ➔ Appreciation
• Sense of Urgency ➔ Flexibility
• Defensiveness ➔ Receptivity
• Quantity Over Quality ➔ Authentic Process and Values Alignment
• Worship of the Written Word ➔ Multiplicity of Wisdoms
• Paternalism ➔ Shared Leadership
• Either/Or Thinking ➔ Embracing Both/And Thinking
• Fear of Open Conflict ➔ Respect for Real Talk
• Individualism ➔ Cooperation & Strength Through Trust in a Collective
• Right to Comfort & Objectivity ➔ Living in Discomfort, Vulnerability & Healthy Agitation
Don’t forget Loretta Ross!

Reproductive Justice = Reproductive Rights + Social Justice

1. The right to not have children;
2. The right to have the children we want to have;
   a. The right to control the conditions under which we have children
3. The right to raise children in safe and healthy environments.
4. The right to maintain personal bodily autonomy.
A Not Great Timeline in America
Brief History of Reproductive Oppression

1619
20 ENSLAVED AFRICANS ARE BROUGHT TO JAMESTOWN CONSIDERED BEGINNING OF SLAVERY IN U.S.

1846
MARGARET SANGER OPENS FIRST BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

1925-1965
FIRST LARGE SCALE HUMAN TRIAL OF BIRTH CONTROL PILLS CARRIED OUT IN PUERTO RICO.

1925-1972
526+ STERILIZATIONS PERFORMED UNDER MAINE’S EUGENICS LAW.

1932-1972
TUSKEGEE SYMPHILIS TRIALS

1897
MODERN GYNECOLOGY FOUNDED BY J. MARION SIMS

1907-1970s
52 STATES PASS EUGENIC STERILIZATION LAWS. APPROX. 60,000 PEOPLE ARE STERILIZED.

1907
US RAN OR FEDERALLY SUPPORTED 400 NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING “SCHOOLS” 1819-1969

1970s
MASS STERILIZATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN

2006-2010
STERILIZATION OF CALIFORNIA INMATES

2019
IOWA AND NEVADA PASS NEW STERILIZATION LAWS, JOINING 28 OTHER STATES

2010
ROE V. WADE OVERTURNED

2022
ALLEGATIONS CIRCULATE OF FORCED STERILIZATION OF ICE DETAINEES

1492
BEGINNING OF INDIGENOUS GENOCIDE BY WHITE EUROPEANS

2017
INCARCERATED PEOPLE IN TENNESSEE OFFERED REDUCED SENTENCE FOR GETTING VASECTOMY OR BC IMPLANT
How does this apply to you?

★ How much of this history, if any, was new to you?

★ What was missing from this timeline?

★ How do you see this history showing up in your work?

★ What is your responsibility to this history?
What does this look like in Sex Education?

Historical Context

➔ Distant
➔ Recent
➔ Current

Perceptions

➔ Hyper-sexualized
➔ Dehumanized
➔ Burdens

Impact

➔ Medical
➔ Education
➔ Social
The Antidote! ...or How To Make DEI Real

Guiding Principles

• Know who you are talking to.
• Know where your information comes from.
• Know what your mission is.

“Whose body are you trying to control with the sex ed that you provide?”

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Thank you for being a part of this work!
Research and Citations

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• Saskatoon Prevention Institute, https://skprevention.ca/
• SisterSong, https://www.sistersong.net/