

Why Black Lives Matter in a World of Suffering

The Young Buddhist Editorial
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Community Agreements

Community agreements:

1. One Mic
2. Right Thought and Right View - **Assume Positive Intent**
3. Right Speech - **Our words have power and can negatively impact others**
4. Right Action - **What is shared here stays here; what is learned here leaves here**
5. Right Mindfulness - **Create space, take space**

History of Black Lives Matter

- 2013- #Blacklivesmatter founded after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer
- Started as a movement to affirm the lives of Black and African Americans who as a community have been dehumanized by society and have experienced 500 years of systemic racism
- Since 2013:
 - "Know Their Names"
- What is the Function of the Police?
 - What Does it Meant to Defund or Abolish the Police?

Racism and Anti-Blackness

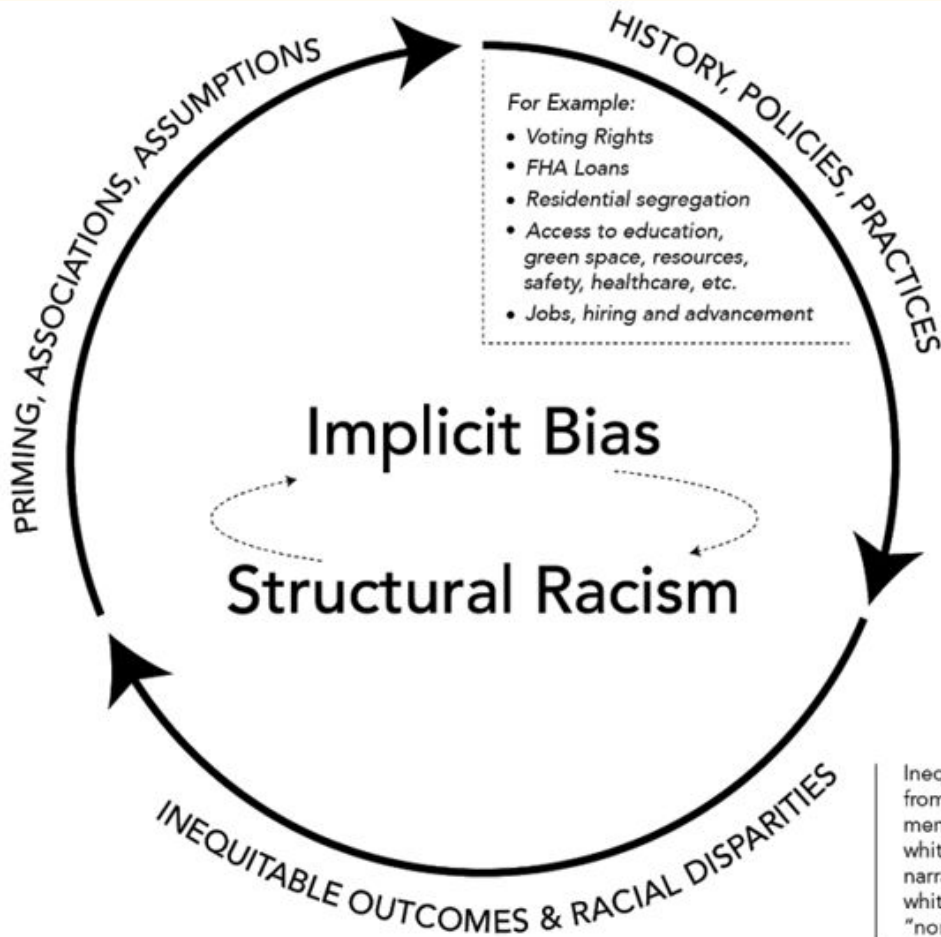
- All People of Color experience Racism, however anti-Black racism is unique to the Black and African American community
 - BIPOC
 - Anti-Blackness

- What is institutionalized and systemic racism?
 - Structures built into the foundation of our society to keep Black and Indigenous and People of Color at the “bottom” of society
 - Ex: Jim Crow, Enslavement, Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese Incarceration, etc.

Racism and Anti-Blackness

- Racial Hierarchy in America
 - White people at the top and Black people at the bottom → Asians and other POC somewhere in the middle
 - Those not at the bottom know they do not want to be there, so live their lives to try and get to the top- pits BIPOC against each other
 - The Model Minority Myth
- What is Anti-Blackness?
- Where does it come from?
- How is it so deeply ingrained?
 - This is perpetuated by implicit bias we have
 - Anti-Black sentiments we carry in our community

Dominant narratives about race (family, media, society) coupled with racialized structural arrangements and differential outcomes by race all prime us to believe that people of color are inferior to white people, create and maintain harmful associations, and lead us to make harmful assumptions, consciously and unconsciously, about people of color



Race is created to justify enslaving people from Africa (economic engine of country)

Policies and practices that consolidate and protect power bestow unearned economic, social, cultural, and political advantage to people called "white," and unearned disadvantage to people of color

National narrative (ideology, belief system) about people of color being "less than" human (and less than white) justifies mistreatment and inequality (white supremacy)

Inequitable outcomes and experiences resulting from policy decisions in health, housing, employment, education, and life expectancy - reinforces white supremacist beliefs and ideology; dominant narrative uses disparate outcomes as evidence of white superiority, promotes whiteness as "normal" and desirable and justifies inequality

How it is Prevalent in our Community

Covert

- “If you have to marry non-Japanese, marry White”
- Skin Whitening
 - <https://onourterms.barnard.edu/article/white-and-beautiful/>
- “I don’t see color” “I’m not Japanese, I am American”
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/09/color-blindness-is-counterproductive/405037/>
- “I’m not racist” “All Lives Matter”
- “Why are you so tan? You need to stand in the shade more”
- Appropriation of Black Culture, AAVE
 - Saying the n-word
 - Dreadlocks and box braids

How is it Prevalent in our Community

Overt

- Killing of Latasha Harlins by Soon Ja Du
 - <https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-0318-latasha-harlins-20160318-story.html>
- Tou Thao
 - <https://time.com/5859206/anti-asian-racism-america/>
- Richard Aoki problematic history
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/history-behind-yellow-peril-supports-black-power-why-some-find-n1228776>
- Mike Masaoka
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/10/sunday-review/coronavirus-asian-racism.html>

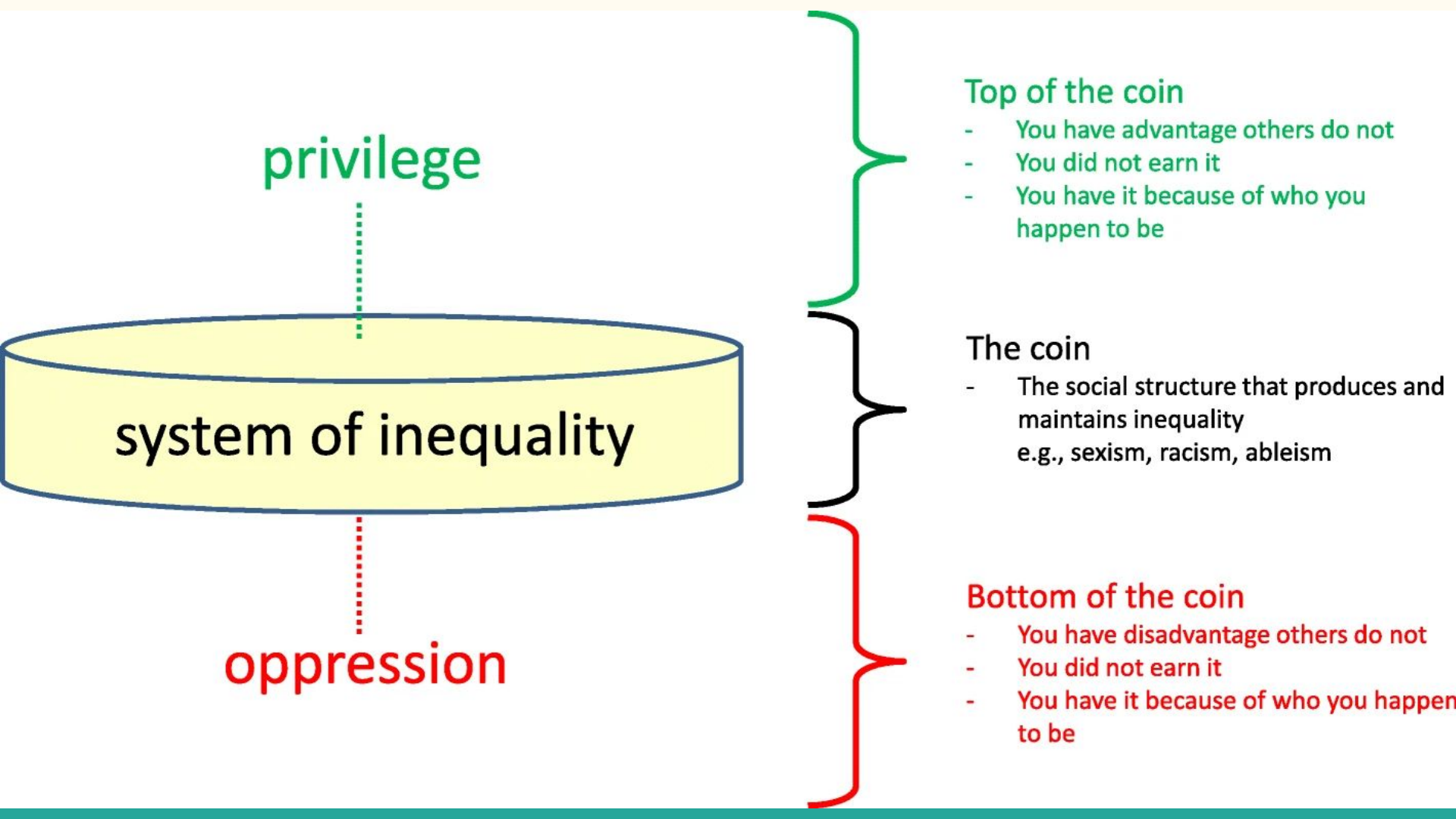
Discussion

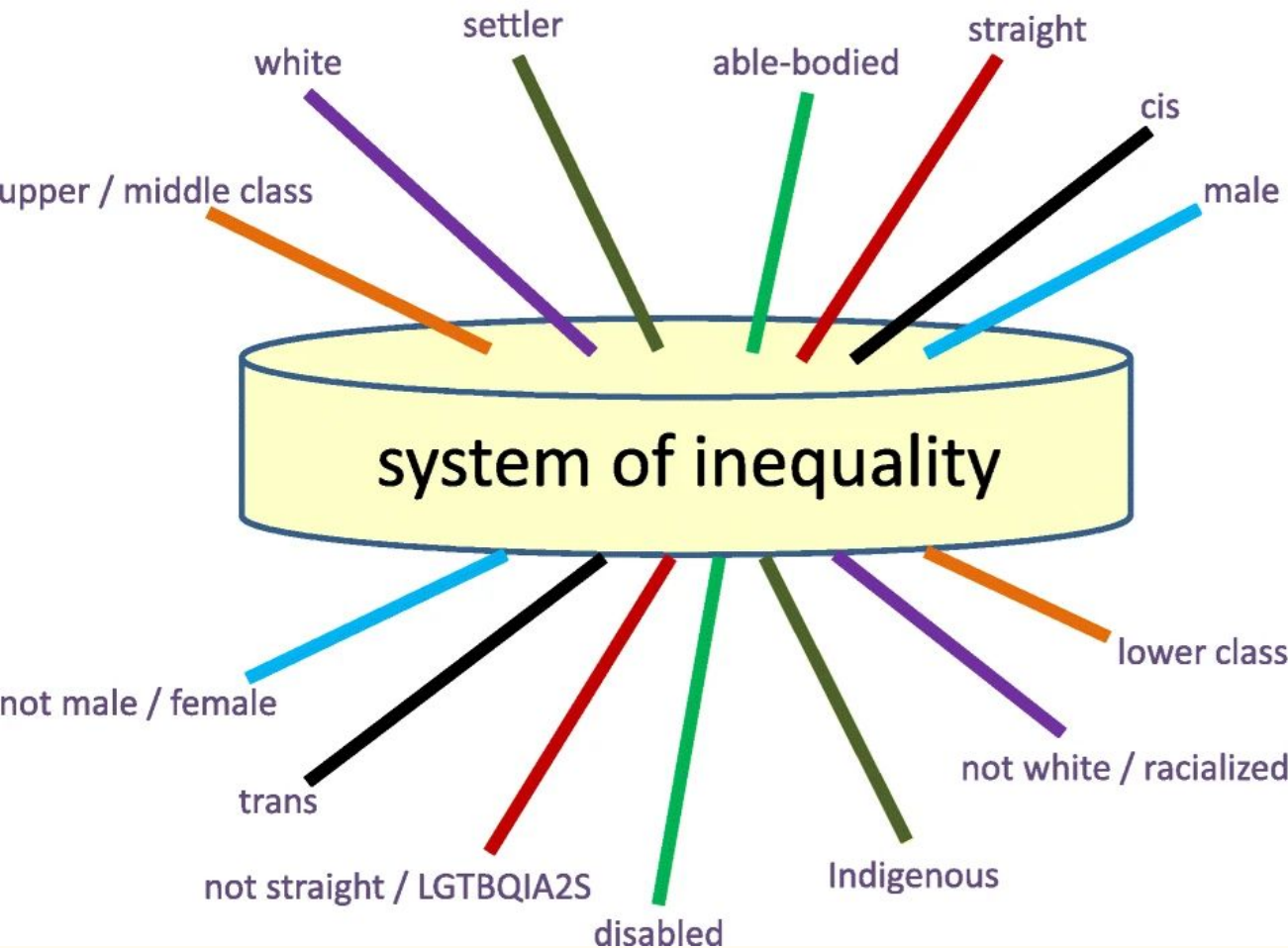
Questions to Consider:

- What are some examples of anti-Blackness you have encounter or participated in?
- What is something new you have learned so far?
- Do you need further clarification on what was discussed?
- What kind of emotions does this evoke?

Why is Black Lives Matter Relevant

- As a Buddhist
- As a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist
- As a member of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
- As a human being





Each of the following systems of inequality* (or coins) intersects with the others to co-constitute inequalities:

- classism
- racism
- settler colonialism
- ableism
- heterosexism
- cisgenderism
- sexism

*These examples do not represent all systems of inequality; e.g., other coins not presented here include systems of inequality related to age, religion, accent, or shade of skin.

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Discussion

Questions:

- What are some identities you thought you did not hold privilege in?
- Have you ever felt pressured to be silent when someone was experiencing oppression?
- How do you see your Buddhist values relating to anti-racism and anti-oppression?

Next Steps and Resources

[Dismantling anti-Blackness in APA Communities](#)

<https://embracingequity.org/blog/2020/5/31/our-liberation-is-bound-together>[nbsp](#)

<http://www.pb-resources.com/>

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1el4woXgEibJeQyjOPFDEJ5_1CN3ADdfR8vKC1PQoqR0/edit?usp=sharing

<https://www.youngbuddhisteditorial.com/workshops>