Racial Justice

These programs seek to spread awareness about the inequity people of color face in VT to build understanding and collaborations to undo racism. There’s a focus on helping those who experience white privilege engage meaningfully in racial justice work. We highlight and challenge practices and behaviors that support white people while simultaneously hurting everyone else.

Seeing and Disrupting Racism One 45-120 min session
This presentation or workshop-style event was developed for predominantly white audiences. We start by defining racism. Then we walk participants through the concept of white fragility. We go over how white fragility perpetuates racism and specific ways to disrupt that cycle.

Building Empathy and Addressing Racism Three 2-hour sessions
This program gives participants the opportunity to build skills and knowledge to engage in undoing racism. The sessions focus on racism within self, community, and taking action. White Fragility and White Supremacy Culture are always included, details of each workshop vary based on facilitators, partners, and participants.

Talking with Kids about Racism Three 2-hour sessions
Talking about race and racism can be difficult -- especially with children. But that does not mean we shouldn’t have these conversations. This discussion group addresses the impact of racism on our children. It is designed to help people discuss these issues with children in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. It includes resources, discussion, and role playing.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Book Discussion Two 2-hour sessions
This book examines institutional racism in the United States and how it relates to and has evolved from previous oppressive laws, such as slavery and Jim Crow policies. This program relates themes of the book to VT, criminal justice reform, and more.

Slave Narrative Book Discussions One 2-hour session (per book)
Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass or Harriet Ann Jacobs' Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl can help people look at history in a way that impacts a fight for racial justice today.

Privilege & Accountability for Aspiring Allies Four 2-hour sessions
This workshop is designed for participants to increase their skills as aspiring allies who can effectively build support for and with colleagues, neighbors, and other community members to address oppression. Participants will explore their own identities and practice skills to take action in addressing microaggressions and interrupting oppression in real time.

School-aged programs available. Contact program@pjcv.org for more information.

Pro-Peace & Anti-War

These programs seek to address the problems with our country’s militaristic approach to conflict, provide meaningful tools to nonviolently engage in conflict and oppression, and challenge misinformation about the power of nonviolence.

Mindfulness for Activists Two 2-hour sessions
Focus on the need for self-care and on ways to utilize mindfulness for nonviolent social justice and peace work. Emphasis on developing skills in meditation and harnessing a fierce power within.

Nonviolent Activism 101 One 4-hour session or two 2-hour sessions
Learn aspects of Kingian Nonviolence, build knowledge of successful nonviolent campaigns, explore how their own identities impact this work, and engage in role play. Designed to help unlock ways to work towards social justice and peace without perpetuating cycles of violence.

Nonviolent Action for Youth (Ages 10+). One 3-hour session or two 1.5-hour sessions
Similar to above with focus on youth involvement in campaigns and more games.

Intro to Bill of Rights in a Time of Resistance Two 2-hour sessions
Provides a fundamental understanding of some of our bill of rights. Discussions will be within the context of protest actions to empower participants to know their rights, make informed choices when resisting the current regime, and build understanding together.

Counter Recruiting/Recruiting for Peace One 2-hour session
Explore strategies for engaging high school students in conversations to think critically about enlisting in the military and/or ways to encourage young people to fight for social justice.

Nonviolent Engagement in Conflict One 3-hour session or two 1.5-hour sessions
Explore how addressing conflict nonviolently can be a positive and effective way to grow and change individually, deepen relationships, and support social justice in all aspects of our lives.

Conflict and Nonviolence for Kids Four 45min to 1-hour sessions. Best for kids ages 7-12
This program explores conflict, empathy, compassion, and nonviolence with kids. It includes role-playing, singing, a visual art project, and discussions.

Learning Nonviolence: Children’s March One 45 min to 1-hour session. for kids ages 7 +
Watch and discuss excerpts from Mighty Times: The Children’s March, a film about the 1963 actions in Birmingham to learn about Kingian Nonviolence and the power of activism.

Drone Presentations: Drones 101, Surveillance Drones, and/or The Experience of Drone Pilots One 1-hour session or a series We recommend pairing with a film.
Presentations are updated each time we offer them. Contact us for more detailed information. Please plan to allow time for us to update the content.

Community Readings One 1-hour session (more if including rehearsals)
We developed two scripts highlighting stories of people impacted by war on the ground. “Testimony from Survivors of Drone Strikes” and “What is Really Going on in Yemen” can be used to perform in public spaces, read as a group, or perform in a more formal setting. Also consider reading Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” and Frederick Douglass’ speech from July 5, 1852. The VT Humanities Council supports the reading of Douglass’ speech each July throughout VT.

General Information

We offer these programs publicly, in partnerships, and/or privately. We work throughout the state of Vermont with schools, colleges, faith-based organizations, libraries, offices, and community groups. Most of these programs are adaptable and can be combined. We charge a fee for our services. Our fee schedule varies based on the resources available to each group. No individual will be turned away for lack of funds. People under 25 are not expected to contribute financially.

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Fair Trade & Economic Justice

These programs promote positive change through the economic justice lens. They foster discussion on free trade, fair trade, the cocoa industry, the implications of globalization and trade policies, and what a livable wage really is.

Livable Wage  A single event: 1, 1.5 or 2 hours
Gives participants a working knowledge of livable wage figures, definitions, and research about VT’s economy and jobs. It highlights research and analysis.

Fair Trade vs. Free Trade  A single event: 45 minutes, 1 hour, or 1.5 hours
Basic information about globalization and how policies & practices have paved the way for huge companies to profit at the expense of people and the planet. Shows how the Fair Trade movement & principles seek to, at a minimum, counterbalance these atrocities.

The Banana Industry  A single event: 1, 1.5, or 2 hours
Learn about the oppressive banana industry. This talk is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps that fit each participant.

Understanding Fair Trade Labels  A single event: 1 hour or 1.5 hours
Explore the differences between Fair Trade Certifications, Fair Trade Membership Organizations, and Direct Trade to help us better understand the Fair Trade Movement.

Fair Trade 101: Global Trade and Racism  A single event: 45 min, 1 hour, 1.5 hours
This presentation touches on the history of global trade and how it has historically come at the expense of marginalizing native nations. The Fair Trade Movement came about as an alternative trading system to ensure that producers in the Global South are given access to the global market, but also provided with basic human rights.

Cocoa Campaign: Fair and Ethical Chocolate  A single event: 1, 1.5, or 2 hours
Focus on the issue of child slavery and human trafficking in the cocoa industry. It is designed to educate, brainstorm solutions and create tangible action steps that fit each participant. It is adaptable for elementary age kids (ages 7-12).

Documentary Film Screenings

Films can be a great way to start a conversation and absorb powerful stories and truths. Screenings can be accompanied by a presentation, facilitated discussion, panel, and/or Q&A session. Visit us online for more information.

13th (2016) **
Agents of Change (2016)
Indivisible: Love Knows No Borders (2015)*
BananaLand: Blood, Bullets, Poison (2014) **
American Promise (2013) *
Unmanned: America’s Drone Wars (2013) **
Wounds of Waziristan (2013)
Shady Chocolate (2012) **
Shadows of Liberty (2012) *
Hell and Back Again (2011)
Where Soldiers Come From (2011)
The Dark Side of Chocolate (2010) **
Taxi to the Dark Side (2007)
The Way Home (1998)

*Licensed only for in-house screenings
**Producer grants free screening access

The Peace & Justice Center is a Vermont-based non-profit, membership organization. Our mission is to create a just and peaceful world. To this end, we work on the interconnected issues of economic and racial justice, peace, and human rights through education, advocacy, training, nonviolent activism, and community organizing.