Program

1:00 - 1:10: Welcome and overview of the principles for participation

- Listen, learn and Respect and Recognize
  - Listen respectfully and intentionally without interruption
  - Commit to learning
  - Criticize ideas and systems, not individuals
  - Avoid blame and speculation
  - Avoid inflammatory language

Please be mindful that this event is being recorded and will be shared on social media and Youtube.

Recognize: We recognize that we must strive to overcome historical and divisive biases, such as racism and sexism in our society.

Acknowledge: We acknowledge that we are all systematically taught misinformation about different groups and communities.

Individual Experience: We agree that no one should be required or expected to speak for their whole race or gender.

Trust: Everyone has come to the table to learn, grow, and share. We will trust that people are doing the best they can; we all make mistakes; when these occur, let's challenge and encourage each other to do better. We acknowledge once again that we may be at different stages of learning on the topic.

Not Experts: The facilitators are not experts. They are here to help facilitate the process. They and everyone in the group are here to learn.

1:10 - 1:20: Introductory Poll
1:20 - 2:00: Reading Our Reality: Youth leadership, feminism and racial justice movements

Mena Ayazi has years experience in organizing diaspora and youth advocates for peace and justice. She is currently the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Advisor at Search for Common Ground (SFCG) where she supports the Children and Youth team's programs, global YPS advocacy, and youth engagement. Prior to joining SFCG, Mena worked at the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the United States Institute of Peace where she focused on global fragility, YPS, peacebuilding narratives, gender dynamics in conflict, and American youth engagement in global peacebuilding. She also has experience cultivating youth leaders with Seeds of Peace International and the Conflict Resolution Youth Summit. Mena does community organizing with the Afghan-American community to engage the Afghan diaspora in transnational peacebuilding and elevate their voice in domestic politics. She received her BA and MS from George Mason University.

Miss Philomena Wankenge is currently a founding board member of Freedom Fighters DC. She was born in the democratic republic of Congo. She graduated from Virginia State University in May 2020 with a degree in Psychology where she was president of African student association and psychology club. During her senior year she served as a presidential intern at her university. She’s been protesting since 2016. During the civil unrest of America, she has shown her passion for justice for people of color in America. She was recently featured on CNN and NBC News Washington speaking on what it is like protesting, especially as a woman of color. She has led many protests and continues to fight for her people.

May Lample is a Race Discourse Officer at the U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs. She co-coordinates the office’s collaboration with individuals, organizations, and agencies in the U.S. engaged in public discourse and policy advocacy directed toward racial justice. Prior to joining the office in 2017, May worked in health education and community mobilization in North Carolina.

2:00 - 2:10: Hear stories from around the world

2:10 - 2:40: Conversation with the audience

- What’s happening in your region/area in terms of racial justice movements?
- How is youth and feminist leadership essential to this movement?
- What are the next steps from here? What can we do to make change to systems and structures as young leaders?

Post your answers to the Padlet.

2:40 - 3:00: Conclusion