FOOD FOR THOUGHT: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN AMERICA

Kimberle Crenshaw
The Urgency of Intersectionality

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022 AT NOON
TED TALK: THE URGENCY OF INTERSECTIONALITY
Register for free: chescocf.org/explore/food-for-thought
THANK YOU TO OUR PROMOTIONAL PARTNERS
A FEW HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

• Please be mindful and respectful to all.
• Some may have never have dealt with these topics before while others may have lived through traumatic experiences.
• Please mute yourself and turn off your video during the TED Talk video streaming.
• Feel free to eat your lunch while viewing the video.
• Please unmute yourself and turn on your video immediately after the TED Talk video streaming to encourage open dialogue.
**Intersectionality:** The acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and oppression and we must consider everything and anything that can marginalize people – gender, race, class, sexual orientation, physical ability, etc.

**Kimberlé Crenshaw** (our TED Talk speaker) first conceptualized the theory of intersectionality in her 1989 paper *Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics*. Intersectionality unites ideas from critical race theory and feminist theory to center the unique social identity of individuals who experience the effects of interlocking systems of oppression.

**Critical Race Theory:** Cross-disciplinary intellectual and social movement of civil-rights scholars and activists who seek to examine the intersection of race, society, and law in the United States and to challenge mainstream American liberal approaches to racial justice.
Since 2015, nearly 250 women have been **fatally shot by the police**.

There are cases like those of Breonna Taylor and Ma’Khia Bryant, whose deaths did spark a lot of national news coverage — but they are the exception, not the norm.

https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/why-black-women-are-often-missing-from-conversations-about-police-violence/
Women of color are also more likely to experience barriers to reproductive and maternal health services, including abortion, contraception, maternity care, and screenings for reproductive cancers.

**Reproductive justice**, a concept developed by Black American feminists in the 1990s, is about creating a society where principles of equity and inclusion mean that every woman has the right to exercise control over their own body. That right can only be achieved when all women and girls have the complete economic, social, and political power and resources to make healthy decisions about their bodies, families, and communities in all areas of life.

https://blackrj.org/our-issues/reproductive-justice/
Overturning **Roe v. Wade** means that abortion, no longer deemed a constitutional right, would return to the individual US states to legislate and many states would immediately criminalize or ban abortion.

In the US, it is clear that people of color, LGBTQ+ people, undocumented immigrants, disabled people, and people living in poverty will be the first and worst hit by the fall of the Roe doctrine. **Reproductive justice therefore requires an intersectional approach.**

**Abortion in a post-Roe world**

Abortion would immediately be banned in 23 states and territories if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

---


The Urgency of Intersectionality
By: Kimberlé Crenshaw
TEDWomen2016

As a pioneer in critical race theory, Crenshaw helped open the discussion of the double bind faced by victims of simultaneous racial and gender prejudice.

“There’s police violence against African-Americans, and there’s violence against women, two issues that have been talked about a lot lately. But when we think about who is implicated by these problems, when we think about who is victimized by these problems, the names of these black women never come to mind.”

“Many years ago, I began to use the term “intersectionality” to deal with the fact that many of our social justice problems like racism and sexism are often overlapping, creating multiple levels of social injustice.”

“If we can’t see a problem, we can’t fix a problem.”
**Brief Intros**
- Who are you? What brought you to today’s Community Conversation?
- What did you want to learn? What have you learned?

**Discussion Questions**
- What did you know about intersectionality before joining us today?
- How do your own marginalized identities or privileges inform how you interact with the issues we’re discussing today?
  - Are you a member of the group?
  - Are you directly impacted by the issue(s)?
  - Do you work with people who are directly impacted?
- What can we do to uplift and protect the voices of marginalized communities?
CLICK HERE to register for the June session!

Visit our website to view a calendar of upcoming social justice events!