



# RACIAL FAIRNESS AMERICA

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## What is the Racial Fairness project, and how is it distinct?

**The Racial Fairness Project** was born in the “Black Lives Matter” summer of 2020. Two white neighbors in Pittsfield, Massachusetts would sit on the patio a few times a week talking about the latest news, and wondering what might be done about it. This ultimately led to discussing what *they* could do about it, with the inevitable answer being: not much of anything. What could two ordinary citizens possibly do that could make even a small difference, let alone a real impact?

They did not give up, though. And they realized two important things: (1) white people are the source of racism, so they have to be a big part of the answer; and (2) the two neighbors could not presume to know what the needs and desires of discriminated-against communities really are.<sup>1</sup>

The more they thought about these truisms, the more they realized each complemented the other, and together they could point to a coherent solution. Not, by any means, a complete solution to the many aspects of both cultural and systemic racism, but an important component of (and maybe a foundation for) whatever that ultimate solution might be.

And as far as they knew, no one else was looking at it this way.

The essence of this idea, which became The Racial Fairness Project, is this:

1. White people have created and continue to sustain a country where People of Color are at a disadvantage in virtually every aspect of life, and therefore (apart from exceptional people and/or exceptional circumstances) do not get a fair shake in their pursuit of happiness and success. Yet we *claim* we believe in “fairness,” among other civic virtues, and we do usually root for the underdog. If we mean that, and many of us do, we have a *positive obligation* to make up for these disparities and injustices. Since most of us white folk have benefited from what has come to be called “white privilege,” we ought to, and really must (in the name of fairness) disavow some of the privilege and return it to people who are not white, to create a fairer, more level, playing field.

The tangible fruits of white privilege include money, power, influence, education, skills, property, physical goods, and networks with others who have these things. The Racial Fairness Project calls upon white people to share those benefits, and to keep doing it until everyone is more or less equal without regard to color.

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<sup>1</sup> See our discussion of [White Saviorism](#) on this website

2. But if we round up the more transferable of those tangible fruits, how do we distribute them? So the second part the Racial Fairness Project is for the givers NOT to decide who receives the benefits, but to leave that decision to People of Color and organizations that represent them.

Local Racial Fairness affiliates establish a “distribution committee” composed entirely of People of Color. They decide how resources the white people collect get distributed in the community. White members get no say in the matter.

Most distributions go to organizations, ranging from long-established groups fighting for political or social justice or churches that have been around for a century or more, to small new non-profits or minority-owned businesses, and to neighborhood groups that form temporarily to address some particular need. If they consist of or primarily benefit People of Color, they’re eligible.

All of this needs to happen locally, of course, because only local people know where the most urgent needs are, and because we want to encourage local people of all colors to be involved in their respective roles, and to take pride together in what results. Among its other benefits, this interracial cooperation will bring about increased mutual understanding, appreciation, and acceptance. It should also accelerate white people’s sense of urgency about making racial fairness a reality.

Racial Fairness America, Inc., a 501(c)(3) public charity, is here to promote this concept nationally, and to actively support [local affiliates](#) who want and request it.