

#KnowBetterDoBetter

Taking Steps to Know and Do Better: What Kind of Human Do You Want to Be?

COMMIT TO AN ANTI-BIAS CAMPAIGN

“Do the best
you can until
you know better.
Then when you
know better,
do better.”

–Maya Angelou

As children and adults, we reckon with how we feel and act toward ourselves and others. We need to work together to answer central questions like, **What kind of human do you want to be?** Our Taking Steps to Know and Do Better campaign is focused on overcoming oppression by challenging participants to aspire to four interrelated goals:

1. Identity
2. Diversity
3. Justice
4. Action



A still from the acclaimed film by [Debbie LeeKeenan](#), [John Nimmo](#), and [Filiz Efe McKinney](#)

As a first step, we invite you to watch the groundbreaking film [Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years](#). As you watch, consider the daily, equity-based actions modeled by the diverse early childhood educators and their students in the documentary.

NEXT, we ask you (and your colleagues, friends, organizations) to commit to a 12-week **thinking and doing** campaign. Each week we pose a question for you (see reverse) to think about and to plan to act on at a personal, social, or structural level. Then, pass on your reflections, actions, and related resources in whatever way is meaningful (a conversation at the store, storytelling, art, or on social media: #KnowBetterDoBetter).



This anti-bias campaign is cosponsored by the Racial and Social Justice Committee within the College of Education and Human Development; the Institute for Asian American Studies; the Africana Studies Department; the Gastón Institute; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Center for Innovative Teaching; Institute for New England Native American Studies; and the Undoing Racism Assembly.

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We may feel overwhelmed experiencing racism (and all the intersecting *-isms* of oppression) or thinking about how to undo racism. We want to do something but aren't sure what we can do. Or, we have ideas, but we want to build our capacity and those of other people, groups, and institutions. This **thinking and doing** campaign will help us take steps individually and together. Together, we can transform our world toward becoming just.

Set These Anti-Bias Goals

In the campaign, we ask you to commit or recommit to the following goals. Put the goals into action by **thinking** (about weekly questions and related issues) and then **doing** something at personal, social, and structural levels.

Goal 1 – Identity: Demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride, and positive social identities.

Goal 2 – Diversity: Express comfort and joy with human diversity; accurate language for human differences; and deep, caring human connections.

Goal 3 – Justice: Recognize unfairness, have language to describe unfairness, and understand that unfairness hurts.

Goal 4 – Action: Demonstrate empowerment and the skills to act, with others or alone, against prejudice and/or discrimination.

Weekly Questions to Consider

Week 1: What kind of human do you want to be?

Week 2: What kind of neighbor do you want to be?

Week 3: What kind of family member do you want to be?

Week 4: What kind of friend do you want to be?

Week 5: What kind of peer/colleague do you want to be?

Week 6: What kind of role model/mentor do you want to be?

Week 7: What kind of upstander/bystander do you want to be?

Week 8: What kind of global citizen do you want to be?

Week 9: What kind of steward do you want to be?

Week 10: What kind of leader do you want to be?

Week 11: What kind of advocate do you want to be?

Week 12: What kind of believer do you want to be?

Why this campaign? We need multiple, interrelated campaigns to work toward a multiracial, working-class movement to end racism, poverty, and all types of violence.

Why now? Decades ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. outlined [why we can't wait](#).

What did you notice or feel? Were there any *aha* moments you had or want to reflect on?

So what? What does what you notice mean? Why is it important? Why might it matter differently to someone else?

Now what? What are you going to do now? What do you hope to do later? How will you pass it on and share with others?

SIGN UP TO Know Better Do Better



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftMC46SN7IcohFRLnf5nPjnom-WLL_OnaUvqsrEFhbg5KOGMA/viewform

Use This Thinking Routine from Harvard Project Zero: Connect, Extend, Challenge

- How is this question **connected** to something you know about?
- What new ideas or impressions **extended** your thinking in new directions?
- What is **challenging** or confusing? What do you wonder about?



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