

Workshops Focused on Racial Equality, and Justice and Reconciliation

Below you will find sessions dispersed throughout NACSW's workshop schedule that focus on the topic of Racial Equality, Justice, and Reconciliation. They appear on the schedule in a variety of tracks because this important topic cuts across many different types of social work practice and methods. You will be able to find the specific times and locations for each of these workshops by referencing the workshop schedule.

Workshop Title: Firsthand Experience With St. Louis Area Police Departments

Workshop Presenters: Rev. Dr. Tenolian Bell, PhD, MSW, MDiv; Dr. Janice Lester Bell PhD, MSW, MA

Workshop Abstract: This workshop will present firsthand accounts of a black man's encounter with the police departments of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and the surrounding Municipalities. The presenter, born and raised in St. Louis proper, has lived in both St. Louis City and St. Louis County, experienced numerous stops and searches which resulted in several unjustified arrests. Although none of the arrests ever went to trial, the emotional scars equaled a "nickel stretch."

Workshop Title: Social Justice and Black Mama Trauma

Workshop Presenters: Pamela Bridgeman, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: This presentation will address the issue to trauma triggered in black community, especially among black women when young black males are killed by policemen. More importantly, it will explore ways that we as Christian social workers can facilitate the healing of that trauma and ultimately peace in our land.

Workshop Title: Complicated Grief: The Body as Evidence

Workshop Presenters: Linda Darrell, PhD, LCSW-C; Mwuese Igyor MSW; Kyle Berkley

Workshop Abstract: There is a major crisis afoot in the urban community which may be a contributing factor to the frustration, silent anger, and political malaise experienced by many parents and families of African American and poor residents within our inner cities. The overwhelming experience of death due to homicide and other violent causes coupled with the insensitivity of law enforcement and other large institutions has taken its toll on our urban centers.

Workshop Title: The Ferguson Machine has a Broken Spin Cycle: Is There a 21st Century Fix?

Workshop Presenters: Jacqueline Dyer, PhD, MSW, LICSW

Workshop Abstract: Discussions about Ferguson and subsequent and related events often provide information that seems to defy synthesis, both systemically and systematically, for finding a path of true Shalom. This presentation offers a way through the media coverage themes toward opportunities for Christians in Social Work that encompass completeness, soundness, and welfare.

Workshop Title: Ferguson, Police Relations, and Faith Community Response

Workshop Presenters: Lanny Endicott, DMin, LCSW, LMFT

Workshop Abstract: This workshop takes a look at Ferguson, Missouri: shooting of unarmed black teen, Michael Brown, by white police officer Darren Wilson, resulting demonstrations, the police response, and eventual rioting. Background issues, smoldering for years, contributed to the violent eruption. Workshop provides important solutions going forward, including those of the faith community.

Workshop Title: Organizing and Developing Leaders within Communities of Color

Workshop Presenters: Ryn Farmer, MSW; Alexis Christensen MSW

Workshop Abstract: Communities of color are often marginalized and alienated from their surrounding neighborhoods and from critical community processes that directly affect their quality of life. This workshop will explore organizing within communities of color, specifically using cultural humility and grassroots leadership development as tools to mobilize and grow communities from within.

Workshop Title: "Finding Our Breath": Christian Social Worker in a Post-Ferguson America

Workshop Presenters: Mikal Rasheed, PhD, LCSW; JANICE RASHEED PhD, LCSW

Workshop Abstract: The "I Can't Breathe" movement represents the public outcry about racial divisiveness reflected in the killing of unarmed Black males. The work of Martin Luther King, integrated with antiracism social work practice models, provides a framework for Christian social workers "finding our breath" to engage in interventions supporting racial reconciliation.

Other workshops to consider adding to the list (suggested as more indirectly related to this topic):

- Gentrification and Black Churches: Implications for Social Work
- Organizing and Developing Leaders within Communities of Color
- Faith Based support for Traumatized Immigrant Families Living in Poverty
- Perceived Seriousness of Human Trafficking in Small Communities
- Pursuing Shalom in Face of a Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism
- Disability, Poverty and the Bible: Implications for Christian Social Work
- How Poverty in America Affects Us All & What We Can Do about It
- Engaging Congregations in the Work of Preventing and Ending Homelessness