



International Council of Christians and Jews
2021 Virtual Conference
When all this is over, how do we want the world to be different?

WORKSHOP

Monday, June 21, 01:00 p.m. UTC:

'TILL RACE DO US PART'? - UPROOTING SYSTEMIC RACISM IN FAITH COMMUNITIES THROUGH INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Rivka Campbell, Héctor A. Acero Ferrer

The year 2020 evidenced the ways in which we—individually and collectively—have unwittingly allowed systemic forms of violence, marginalization, and oppression to permeate all of our spheres of life. Our communities, institutions, and traditions are no longer capable of responding to these expressions of injustice on their own, and the need of collaboration across boundaries of difference seems more significant now than ever before in our lifetime. What is the responsibility of our faith traditions in the reconstruction of the horizons of justice and peace that are constitutive to our sacred texts and historical teachings? How can collaboration between our faith communities help to undo the damage that our own faith traditions and institutions have done to their most vulnerable members?

In seeking the answers to these questions, we have decided to turn to the learnings and resources developed by decades of experiments in inter-religious dialogue and cooperation. We argue that our experiences in coming together as people of diverse faith traditions in order to develop ways to coexist, cooperate, and celebrate one another can help to uproot and dismantle the structures that for so long have disproportionately placed minority and racialized groups in vulnerable positions. In this workshop, we will utilize inter-religious dialogue to navigate some of the challenging conversations around complicity with and participation in racist structures, practices, and processes.

Inspired by the work done in the context of *the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto (CJDT)* and *Jews of Colour – Canada*, this session will enable participants to apply their own learnings, instincts, and praxis in Christian-Jewish relations to the context of systemic racism, including a process of *selfreflection*, a space for *lament*, and a closing *imaginative exercise*.

Campbell, Rivka

Canada, Rivka Campbell, a Jew of Jamaican descent born and raised in Toronto, seeks to build community among Jews of Colour in Canada while opening dialogue among the mainstream Jewish community about the experience of Jews of Colour and Jewish Diversity, co-founder of the group *Jews of Colour – Canada* and the sole Canadian recipient of the inaugural URJ's JewV'Nation Fellowship, Executive Director at Beit Rayim Synagogue and board member of ADRABA - Toronto's first 21st century Jewish high school

Acero Ferrer, Héctor

Colombia/Canada, Héctor Acero Ferrer, Associate Director of the Centre for Philosophy, Religion, and Social Ethics - Institute for Christian Studies, and Adjunct Faculty at the Martin Luther University College - Wilfrid Laurier University