



Kaleidoscope Network

How to Be a Good Ally – Frequently Asked Questions answered by Decolonise UoK students

Are there any recommended starting points for me to self-educate? Books, blogs, articles, podcasts etc.?

See the *Kaleidoscope Reading/Knowledge List*

How can I be a good ally?

Do the reading, listen to the marginalised voices around you and commit yourself to the Kaleidoscope Principles – remembering that the work of self-education never ends.

What support do people need from people of colour who benefit under the systems of white supremacy¹ as allies?

Step 1: Join the Kaleidoscope Network and follow the principles.

Step 2: Interrogate your positionality whilst carefully considering your own marginalised experiences.

Step 3: Support the voices of people of colour who have less privilege under white supremacy and be mindful of your experiences when doing the work.

How can I use my privilege to support people of colour?

Remember to amplify and carefully listen to people of colour. When you do speak (or take action), do not speak *for* but rather *with* people of colour and always act in solidarity.

See *Principle 5* of the Kaleidoscope Network principles for more that you can do.

How can I help defend a member of the black community without stepping on their toes?

Do not assume that without white intervention, instruction or guidance, people of colour are helpless. People of colour are not helpless and they do not need saving.

Reflect on why are you intervening – are you speaking over people of colour because you feel that you could explain their experiences better than they can? Could you be whitesplaining?²

What should I do if I am too uncomfortable to intervene or challenge behaviour?

Reflect on your privilege and/or complicity. Ask yourself if it allows you to be silent and what inhibits you from challenging structural powers?

Being an ally involves being prepared to do work that might feel difficult and/or uncomfortable.

What if I just do not see colour?

‘Not seeing colour’ or being ‘colour-blind’ is problematic because it means that you are not considering the structural inequalities that people of colour experience daily. Race is not an individual problem but a structural one – by not acknowledging the existence of race and its impact on our daily lives; you are not challenging white supremacy and your complicity with it.

¹ Bi-racial, mixed race, or white-passing people of colour who benefit under the systems of white supremacy

² See Glossary for definition