



INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING CENTER

How Do We Talk to Each Other? Storytelling for Racial Justice Transcript

(Please note: This transcript was created from live closed captions and as such may have errors in spelling, grammar, and mechanics.)

TURLEY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR JOINING US THIS AFTERNOON FOR OUR CONCLUDING PUBLIC DISCUSSION WITH FREEDOM STORIES. I AM ALICESTYNE TURLEY AND I HAVE HAD THE HONOR OF BEING THE PRODUCER OF THE STORYTELLING SERIES. AND WE'VE COVERED MANY TOPICS AND WE HOPE THAT THE DISCUSSION WILL CONTINUE LONG AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SERIES. SO AS ALWAYS, WE ARE -- I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU, WE'RE AN NEH FUNDED PROJECT. IT'S BEEN THE GOAL OF THE FREEDOM STORIES TO BRING TOGETHER THE APPALACHIAN CONDITION, COMBINED IT SOCIAL ACTION AND TOOLS. IT WAS MEANT TO GUIDE THE PUBLIC THROUGH DEEPER APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND STORIES AND THE CREATION OF CENTRAL APPALACHIAN CULTURE AND AMERICAN CULTURE.

WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO CONDUCT THIS IMPORTANT WORK THROUGH GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED THROUGH THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES WHICH IS THE MAJOR FUNDER OF THE PROJECT. TODAY'S DISCUSSION IS RECORDED AND ALONG WITH ALL PRIOR FREEDOM STORIES ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FREE OF CHARGE ON YOUTUBE, ISC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGES. AND IN AN EFFORT TO ANSWER MORE QUESTIONS, WE HAVE EXTENDED THE TIME FOR TODAY'S DISCUSSION BY ABOUT HALF AN HOUR. SO AS ALWAYS WE ENCOURAGE VIEWERS TO GO TO FACEBOOK, POST QUESTIONS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR US, POST THEM AND WE'LL GET TO AS MANY AS TIME PERMITS.

SO WE HAVE CONTINUED OUR TRADITION OF PROVIDING YOU WITH EXCELLENT STORYTELLERS TO BEGIN OUR CONVERSATION. AND TODAY I'M HAPPY TO SAY WE HAVE AN AWARD WINNING PERFORMER TO BE OUR STORYTELLER TODAY. MZURI MOYO AIMBAYE IS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED ACTOR, SINGER, PLAY WRITING. SHE HERSELF PRODUCED AND FOR THE FIRST FEW YEARS PERFORMED ON HER OWN DIME THE FANNIE LOU HAMER STORY. SHE HAS A BOOMING VOCAL RANGE AND VERATILITY AS AN OPERA SINGER. SHE'S BEEN RECEIVED IN CABARET STAGES, IN FRANCE AND ITALY. IN 1998, SHE WAS STRUCK BUT THE REALIZATION THAT SHE HAD NEVER HEARD OF FANNIE LOU HAMER AND AS A RESULT SHE CONCEIVED THE POWERFUL ONE WOMAN PLAY. THE STORY HAS INTEGRATED HER VOICE AND PERFORMANCE IN THE PLAY ACCOMPANIED BY VIDEO MONTAGE. IT RAISES AWARENESS OF THE HAMER'S ACTIVISM WHICH LED TO THE PASSAGE OF THE 1965 VOTER RIGHTS ACT WHICH IS BEING CHALLENGED TODAY. AS SHE HAS TRAVELED THE COUNTRY BEFORE THEATERS, CHURCHES, COLLEGE UNIVERSITIES AND CIVIC AUDIENCES. HERE TO PERFORM A SCENE FROM HER AWARD WING PLAY, MZURI MOYO AIMBAYE. AND I KNOW I'M STUMBLING BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO JUST SAY MZURI.

MZURI: MZURI. THANK YOU. YES, MY NAME WAS LORRAINE THERESA POPE BUT I ALWAYS WANTED AN AFRICAN NAMED. WHEN I LIVED IN FRIENDS I HAD A LOT OF AFRICAN FRIENDS SO ONE OF MY FRIENDS SAID TO ME, YOU ARE NOT LORRAINE, YOU ARE MZURI. SO IT TOOK ME A COUPLE YEARS. THEN I HAD A GOOD FRIEND WHO IS NOW WITH THE ANCESTORS WHO I CALLED UP AND SAID, I NEED A NAME, AND HE SAID, MOYO, THAT MEANS HEART. THEN SOMETIME LATER I CALLED BACK AGAIN AND SAID I NEED ANOTHER NAME, SOMETHING AROUND MUSIC. HE SAID, OKAY. MZURI MOYO AIMBAYE. THAT MEANS BEAUTIFUL HEART THAT SINGS. SO THAT'S WHERE I AM WITH THAT NAME. SO I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE CHALLENGING FOR AMERICANS, BUT THANK YOU.

SO A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW I GOT STARTED WITH THE FANNIE LOU HAMER STORY, I WAS WATCHING GILL NOBLE, AND FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHO HE WAS, HE HAD A TELEVISION CALLED "LIKE IT IS" IN NEW YORK CITY THAT WAS NEVER SYNDICATED. FANNIE LOU HAMER WAS ONE OF HIS GUESTS. I CAN STILL SEE HER TELLING ABOUT THE BEATING THAT SHE TOOK AND HOW HORRENDOUS IT WAS AND HOW SHE STILL AFTER THAT BEATING DID NOT HATE PEOPLE BUT SHE WAS MOTIVATED TO VOTE PEOPLE OUT. SO SHE SAID, NO, BABY, WE CAN'T HATE. WE CAN'T HATE. WE JUST GOT TO VOTE THEM OUT. AND THAT STRUCK ME. I SAID, WOW, LOOK AT THIS WOMAN WHO WAS BEATEN LIKE THIS AND STILL DIDN'T HAVE HATED IN HER HEART. I WAS STILL SO ANGRY AND THERE WAS SO MUCH TO BE ANGRY ABOUT IN THE '90S AND ESPECIALLY NOW IF YOU'RE NOT AWARE, YOU JUST WALKING AROUND NORMAL IN LIFE AND PEOPLE ARE TELLING ME I WAS SO ANGRY. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT. BUT AFTER HEARING HER STORY I STARTED TO REALIZE MORE MYSELF. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT HATE. SHE SAID SHE WAS USING HER POWER TO VOTE PEOPLE OUT. SO I SAID, YOU KNOW WHAT? I NEED TO WRITE SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WOMAN.

NOW, I WAS A NURSE. I DID WRITE POETRY IN HIGH SCHOOL. I DIDN'T HAVE CREATIVE WRITING IN COLLEGE OR NURSING SCHOOL, BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN AS MY HUSBAND SAYS, IT WAS A DOWNLOAD. AND I STARTED GOING TO THE SCHOMBERG AND DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING RESEARCH. HUH. WOW. THAT START TO TOUCH MY HEART. THEN I STARTED HEARING VOICES IN MY HEAD. I STARTED TO HEAR LINES FROM THE SCRIPT THAT I'M USING TODAY. SO I'M GOING TO JUST READ JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THE LINES THAT CAME TO ME AFTER I STARTED DOING ALL THIS RESEARCH.

I WAS BORN IN A DITCH. BUT DROPPED OFF AT THE BACK DOOR OF THE MICHIGAN. AND I WAS LAID OUT AT THE HEART OF THESE HERE BLISTERED COTTON FEET WHERE MY SKIN COOKED. BECAUSE THAT SUN AIN'T KNOW NO MERCY. MY FEET WAS CALLOUSED, LIKE THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHOSE PLAQUE POCKETS WAS LINED WITH SWEATY DOLLAR BILLS MADE BY BLACK CHILDREN, STARVING MEN, AND FORGOTTEN WOMEN. YOU KNOW, MAMA SAY WHEN I COME FROM HER WOMB I HAD COTTON STUCK UP IN THE ROOF OF MY MOUTH. BY THE TIME I WAS 6 YEARS OLD THEY SAID THAT THESE FINGERS WAS DES INNED TO BE THE GREAT COTTON PICKERS. SEEMED LIKE THE MORE COTTON I PICKED THE MORE HUNGER GRABBED HOLD OF ME. IT JUST WOULDN'T LET ME GO.

THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE FANNIE LOU HAMER STORY.

SO I CONTINUED TO DO MY RESEARCH, AND I RAN INTO A BOOK, I FOUND A BOOK CALLED FOR FREEDOM'S SAKE OF COURSE I READ KAY MILLS' BOOK. I MET THE MAYOR AND MET FANNIE LOU HAMER'S RELATIVES. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I COULD NOT CONNECT AT THAT TIME WITH THE FAMILY BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED OTHER PEOPLE COMING DOWN AND CYCLING THEM QUESTIONS ABOUT FANNIE LOU HAMER AND WRITING BOOKS AND PEOPLE WERE NOT COMPENSATED, SO WHAT INFORMATION THAT I HAD TO FIND I KIND OF HAD TO FIND ON MY OWN, BUT I HAD AN INCREDIBLE TIME DOWN IN LOUISVILLE. I HAD AN INCREDIBLE TIME.

I HAD A FRIEND WHO WAS A PROFESSOR AT A COLLEGE IN NEW JERSEY AND I ASKED HER COULD I COME AND DO A LITTLE BIT OF THIS -- I DIDN'T KNOW IF I CALLED IT A PLAY. MAYBE I SAID POEM. AND SHE SAID, SURE, COME ON. YOU CAN DO IT. AND I WENT TO HER CLASSROOM AND I TOOK MY MOTHER WITH ME. AND AFTER I FINISHED, IT WASN'T EVEN -- MAYBE IT WAS A HALF HOUR. AND SO MY MOTHER SAID TO ME WHEN WE GOT IN THE CAR, SHE SAID, LORRAINE, THAT WAS GOOD! AND I SAID, REALLY MA? AND IN THAT MOMENT IT'S LIKE IT GAVE ME PERMISSION TO CONTINUE THE WORK.

SO IT'S BEEN A 20-YEAR JOURNEY, A LABOR OF LOVE, ESPECIALLY WITH THIS COVID-19 SHUTDOWN, BUT WE CONTINUE. WE CONTINUE TO ENDEAVOR TO BRING FANNIE LOU HAMER'S NAME TO THE FLOOR.

I HAD A DIRECTOR WHEN I LIVED IN MIAMI BY THE NAME OF DESMOND WALKER. AND I TOLD ME, IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE ONE MESSAGE WITH PEOPLE ABOUT HER WHAT WOULD IT BE? AND I WOULD SAY

VOTING. THAT WASN'T IN THE PLAY AT FIRST. SO I ADDED THAT PART ABOUT REGISTERING PEOPLE TO VOTE AFTER THE PLAY. AND THAT'S BEEN ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO, MAYBE EVEN MORE. BUT AFTER I GOT THAT, YOU KNOW, NUDGE ABOUT WHAT WAS FANNIE LOU HAMER REALLY ABOUT? IT WAS ABOUT GETTING OUT TO VOTE. GET OUT TO VOTE. GET OUT TO VOTE.

SO IF DR. TURLEY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASK ME SOME QUESTIONS OR SHOULD I CONTINUE?

TURLEY: YOU ARE FREE TO CONTINUE. I WANT PEOPLE TO HEAR YOUR BEAUTIFUL VOICE, YOU KNOW THAT. I ALWAYS WANT YOU TO SING. I KNOW WHEN I WAS TEACHING YOU CAME TO THE CAMPUS AND OUR MUSIC DEPARTMENT MADE ALL THE SINGERS SHUTS UP AND LISTEN. [LAUGHTER] SO IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE AS MUCH OF YOUR VOICE WITH US AS YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING, I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR IT AND I THINK OUR VIEWERS WOULD AS WELL.

MZURI: ABSOLUTELY. I'LL DO ANOTHER EXCERPT.

FANNIE LOU!

YES, MA'AM.

DID YOU GO DOWN THERE AND REGISTER TO VOTE?

AND I TOOK AND ADDRESSED HIM, YES, SIR, MR. D, I DID.

WELL, YOU KNOW WE AIN'T READY FOR THIS DOWN HERE IN MICHIGAN. NOW WHAT YOU GOING DO?

MR. D, SIR, I DID NOT GO DOWN THERE TO REGISTER FOR YOU. I WENT DOWN THERE TO REGISTER FOR MYSELF.

WELL, IF YOU DON'T WITHDRAW, WE GOING HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

WELL, I HAVE Y'ALL TO KNOW THAT I LEFT THAT NIGHT. BECAUSE HE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN READY BUT WE HAD BEEN READY DOWN HERE FOR THE LAST 400 YEARS. NOW WE SHOULD KEEP RIGHT ON PROTESTING AND REGISTERING TO VOTE. I WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY OF Y'ALL GO DOWN AND REST. IF YOU'RE AFRAID, ME AND MY DAUGHTER WILL GO WITH YOU. BECAUSE WE NEED TO VOTE FOR FREEDOM NOW, NOT TOMORROW, BUT FREEDOM NOW.

WELL I FAILED THAT REGISTRATION TEST TWO TIMES. AND I LOOKED BACK AT THEM AND I SAID YOU'RE GOING TO SEE ME BACK HERE FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS UNTIL I PASS. WELL AFTER THAT I PASSED BUT I STILL WAS NOT ALLOWED TO REGISTER TO VOTE. BECAUSE THEY TOLD ME I NEEDED TWO POLL (INAUDIBLE) RECEIPTS. BUT I'LL HAVE YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT I GOT THEM AND TODAY I'M A REGISTERED VOTER AND A CITIZEN OF THESE HERE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(SINGING) THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE. I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE.
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE.
THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE,
LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.

IN MY HOUSE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE.
OH, IN MY HOUSE, I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE.
IN MY HOUSE I'M GOING TO LET IT SHINE,
LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE, LET IT SHINE.

TURLEY: THANK YOU SO MUCH. THAT WAS SO BEAUTIFUL. AND I WOULD SAY WHENEVER YOU'RE ABLE TO GET BACK ON THE ROAD, HOW ARE PEOPLE TO FOLLOW THE LINK IN OUR TOOL KIT IF YOU WANT TO GO SEE THE FULL 90-MINUTE PLAY AND HEAR MZURI'S BEAUTIFUL VOICE PERFORMING THIS HEART-STOPPING STORY AND LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT FANNIE LOU HAMER WHICH IS ABOUT MUCH OF WHAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH TODAY, THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

MZURI WILL BE JOINING US WITH OUR OTHER PANEL MEMBERS. I'M PLEASED TO WELCOME LECIA BROOKS FROM MONTGOMERY ALABAMA. SHE PROVIDE COUNSEL TO THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP, ASSISTS WITH STRATEGIC PLANNING AND WORKS WITH PEOPLE ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION TO ENSURE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER AND ACCESS AND THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL OVER THE YEARS AND OBTAINING LONG TERM GOALS AND DAILY OPERATIONS. SHE HAS ALSO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS SUDDEN POVERTY LAW CENTER, TRAVELED ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND SPEAKS ABOUT HATE AND EXTREMISM NOT ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY BUT ABROAD. SHE WAS ALSO THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER'S MEMORY REEL CENTER AND EXPERIENCE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE VISITORS TO THE EXACTLY AND MEMORIAL WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND THE STRUGGLES TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE ALL TAKE FOR GRANTED IN AMERICAN SOCIETY. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LECIA, FOR JOINING US.

WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO WELCOME TRINA JACKSON WHO WORKS FOR THE HIGHLANDER CENTER IN TENNESSEE. SHE'S A GEORGIA NATIVE WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION TEAM COORDINATOR THERE. SHE LEADS THE EDUCATION TEAM WITH GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AND MOVEMENT ACROSS APPALACHIA. SHE MANAGES FOUR PROGRAMS AND THEIR ACCOMPANIMENT WORK IN INTERGENERATIONAL YOUTH. SHE IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF AN APPALACHIAN PREACHER--SPOUSE.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST THE FEARLESS LEADER OF THE ISC, KIRAN SINGH SIRAH, HE HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO CULTURE BUILDING AND PEACE BUILDING AROUND THE COUNTRY. PRIOR TO HIS INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER APPOINTMENT, HE HAS DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF PIECE BUILDING INITIATIVES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM. AS AN ARTIST, HE'S ALSO A FOLKLORIST, SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE AND USES THE POWER OF HIS HUMAN CREATIVITY TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUES AMONG GROUPS WHICH THE STORYTELLING CENTER DOES A WONDERFUL JOB. HE NOT ONLY ENRICHES LIVES BUT HOLDS THE KEY TO BUILDING A BETTER WORLD.

PLEASE UNMUTE AND LET'S BEGIN OUR DISCUSSIONS.

SO WE ARE IN TRYING TIMES RIGHT NOW, MY FRIENDS. YOU'RE ALL ENGAGED IN SOME VERY SERIES WORK TRYING TO BRING PEACE AND INTEGRATION AND ALL THE THINGS WE THOUGHT WE HAD ACHIEVED. SO I WANT TO BEGIN OUR DISCUSSION JUST BY TALKING ABOUT THE IMPACT OF STORYTELLING AND I'M THINKING ABOUT WATCHING THE TELEVISION BEGINNING WITH THE GEORGE FLOYD TRIAL, THE TULSA, OKLAHOMA, BOMBING AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THAT EVENT, AND THE TALK ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE AND POLICE REFORM. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE STORYTELLING? HOW DO YOU THINK IT HAS IMPACTED AMERICA? HAS IT BROUGHT US TOGETHER OR ARE YOU SEEING MORE DISTANCE BETWEEN US? AND I'D LIKE TO START WITH LECIA SINCE THIS IS SORT OF YOUR BREAD AND BUTTER THERE.

LECIA: THANK YOU DR. TURLEY AND TO THE ISC, GOOD TO MEET YOU AND BE WITH YOU. MZURI THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS WITH US. YOU KNOW, I APPROACH THE QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT STORYTELLING IS DIVIDING US AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME, I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF STORYTELLING. IT'S IMPORTANT. THE FACTS THAT THIS EVENT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW AND PEOPLE ARE TUNED IN AND LISTENING AND WATCHING AND WANTING TO LEARN TELLS ME THAT STORYTELLING IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT. IT MAY NOT BE COMFORTABLE FOR SOME PEOPLE AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT BUT IT'S CRITICAL. I THINK ABOUT THE PROUD AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION OF STORYTELLING. I BELIEVE THAT WE'VE SUFFERED A LOT BECAUSE WE HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM

STORYTELLING GENERATIONALLY. AND SO IT JUST DOES MY HEART GOOD TO KNOW THAT WE ARE ENGAGING IN IT AGAIN. SOME PEOPLE -- IT WILL ALWAYS BE THE CASE THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE READY TO HEAR THE STORIES AND SOME AREN'T. THE STORIES WE TELL AT THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER, THE FACTS ABOUT EXTREME HATE, THE FACTS ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AND NOT HAPPENING IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OR WITHIN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM, THESE THINGS THAT PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO HEAR, THEY'RE ALL SOMEBODY'S STORY, RIGHT? THEY'RE NOT JUST -- NOT JUST DATA, NOT JUST FACTS, NOT JUST INFORMATION, BUT THEY'RE REALLY REFLECTIVE OF SOMEONE'S LIVED EXPERIENCE AND I JUST THINK THAT IT'S SO, SO, SO VALUABLE. AND WHENEVER I CAN PUT MYSELF IN A POSITION TO LISTEN, I ALWAYS GROW. AND I THINK THAT I'M ENCOURAGED THAT I THINK THAT MORE PEOPLE THAN IT WOULD SEEM ARE NOW HAVE POSITIONED THEMSELVES TO LISTEN. SURE, THERE'S THOSE THAT DON'T WANT TO LISTEN AND WHO ARE TALKING A LOT TO DROWN OUT KIND OF THE OPEN AND HONEST SHARING, BUT I BELIEVE IN DIALOGUE. ALWAYS HAVE.

TURLEY: WONDERFUL. TRINA, HOW ABOUT YOU? I KNOW THE HIGHLANDER CENTER HAS A RICH HISTORY OF DIALOGUE AND BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN PEACE-BUILDING INITIATIVES AND I KNOW YOU ARE WORKING VIGOROUSLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. SO CAN YOU SHARE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU AND YOUNG FOLKS AND REGISTERING IN TODAY'S CLIMATE OF STORIES?

TRINA: SURE. I KNOW THE HIGHLANDER'S ALMOST 90 YEARS OLD AND HAVING A BIG CELEBRATION NEXT YEAR. AND SO MUCH OF WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE THERE IS BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TELLING STORIES FOR ALMOST A HUNDRED YEARS AND PASSING THE STORIES DOWN. SO STORYTELLING IS WHAT CONNECTS US TO THE PAST AND LETS US KNOW WHAT WE HOPE FOR IN THE FUTURE. SO IT'S BEEN KEY IN ORGANIZING AND INTERGENERATIONAL ORGANIZING BECAUSE THERE ARE COMPETING STORIES OUT THERE ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW. STORIES ABOUT HOW WE GOT HERE. SO TELLING A COMPELLING STORY THAT CONNECTS US TO THE PAST, TELLS US ABOUT OUR VALUES TODAY AND WHAT WE'RE AIMING FOR TODAY IS CLUTCH AS WE HAVE THESE CONVERSATIONS AROUND POPULAR EDUCATION, POLITICAL EDUCATION, AND I AM ONE OF THE YOUNGEST PEOPLE ON THE PANEL, BUT DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE 20 YEARS OLD AND I SEE THEIR BIRTHDAYS ON REGISTRATION AND I'M LIKE, YOU WERE BORN THIS CENTURY! THERE'S SOME THINGS THAT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRUE FOR YOU -- U ONLY SEEN A BLACK MAN AS PRESIDENT. SO IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIP. THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD. SO BEING ABLE TO CONNECT THESE STORIES FROM THE PAST, AND NOT JUST STORIES BUT STORIES THAT ARE COMPELLING BECAUSE NONE OF OUR STORIES ARE POLITICALLY NEURAL, SO STORIES THAT ARE COMPELLING, TO HELP THEM REALIZE HOW WE GOT HERE AND SUS OUT WHERE WE'RE GOING INEQUITY. SO THE POP EDUCATION SPIRAL, A LOT OF THE GRASSROOTS WORK WE DO, FIRST WE SIT DOWN WITH PEOPLE IN THE VIRTUAL ROOM OR PHYSICAL ROOM AND HAVE PEOPLE TELL THEIR STORIES. WE JUST LISTEN AND COLLECT THOSE STORIES AND WHAT WE DO IS SHUFFLE UP TO THE TOP THE COMMONALITY BETWEEN THE STORIES AND HAVE PEOPLE TELL US WHAT PROBLEMS YOU SEE IN YOUR CONTEXT. AND WE SHUFFLE THEM UP AND SORT THEM OUT AND SAY, YOU TOLD YOUR STORY, THESE ARE THE PROBLEMS YOU IDENTIFIED, AND THIS IS WHAT YOU SAID YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT. WE SAY, HERE ARE THE RESOURCES, HERE'S SOME EQUIPMENT, HERE'S SOME CAPACITY BUILDING SO YOU CAN SOLVE THEM IN YOUR OWN CONTEXT AND MAKE IT A SUSTAINABLE MODEL. SO WE'RE AN ACCOMPANIMENT. WE DON'T SHOW UP TO DO THINGS FOR YOU. WE TRY TO EQUIP PEOPLE TO MAKE CHANGE IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENT AND CONTEXT AND A LOT OF THAT IS STRUNG TOGETHER BY THE STORIES PEOPLE TELL ABOUT THEMSELVES, THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND WHAT THEY WANT IT TO BE WHEN THEY TELL THE STORY THE NEXT TIME.

TURLEY: THANK YOU, TRINA FOR THAT. WE'LL COME BACK TO SEVERAL OF THE POINTS YOU'VE MADE THERE. KIRAN, YOUR EVERYDAY JOB IS BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE STORYTELLING CULTURE. SO HOW HAVE YOU SEEN THE IMPACT OF TODAY'S CLIMATE ON WHAT YOU DO DAILY?

KIRAN: IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE HERE. I WANT TO SUPPORT EVERYTHING THAT EVERYONE SAID AND I THINK A BIG PART OF MY JOB IS NOT NECESSARILY BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE STORYTELLING CULTURE IT'S REMINDING THEM OF A CULTURE THEY'RE ALREADY PART OF IT. IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US. ALEX HALEY, PERFORMED AT THE FESTIVAL, SAID WITHOUT STORYTELLING WE HAVE NO ROOTS. HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF ROOTS. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT. AND DR. TURLEY TALKED ABOUT THE APPALACHIAN TRADITION, IT'S AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADITION. IT WAS A TOOL FOR SURVIVAL, A TOOL FOR REKINDLING, UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER, MUTUAL AID, CORPORATION, AND IT'S A GIFT. AND ALSO I WOULD SAY AS AN IMMIGRANT, BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY 10 YEARS, AMERICA IS A STORY. WITHOUT STORY IT'S JUST A PIECE OF ROCK. IT'S THE STORIES THAT MAKE UP A NATION. WHEN I WAS A KID, WE'D GO TO SEA WORLD TO SEE SHAMU, GO AROUND AMERICA BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE KNOW. BUT NOT EVERYBODY IS AS THANKFUL AS I. 20 PERCENT BROUGHT HERE AS SLAVES FROM CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA. MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED IN MONTGOMERY, MAYBE THE PORT AT SOUTH CAROLINA. THERE ARE MANY WAYS WE THINK ABOUT IT. ESSENTIALLY IT'S A DEMOCRATIC TOOL AND IT HELPS US UNPACK THE NUANCES AND THE POIGNANCY AND COMPLEXITY. THERE'S NO ONE PERSON THAT LOOKS AMERICAN WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO REMEMBER. A MULTICULTURALISM IS A VALUE THAT'S EMBEDDED IN THE NATION'S STORY. AND SO I REMIND PEOPLE THAT STORY BELONGS TO ALL OF US. WHEN WE SEE THE BEAUTY AND DIVERSITY OF WHO WE ARE, DON'T BE AFRAID OF DEI BECAUSE IT'S YOUR STORY, TOO. I'LL STOP THERE.

TURLEY: THANK YOU. YOU SAID SOME THINGS IN THERE I'M DEFINITELY COMING BACK TO BECAUSE THE IDEA OF MULTICULTURALISM IS REALLY WHAT'S UNDER ATTACK RIGHT NOW IN OUR AMERICAN SOCIETY. BUT I WANT TO GO BACK TO MZURI AND YOUR PERFORMANCE OF THE FANNIE LOU HAMER STORY. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVED GENERALLY ESPECIALLY OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS BEFORE THE PANDEMIC CELEBRATED IN? ARE PEOPLE STILL INTERESTED IN HEARING HER STORY? HOW RELATABLE IS IT?

MZURI: I THINK IT'S MORE RELATABLE NOW. THE VICE PRESIDENT MENTIONED IT AND SAID WE STAND ON HER SHOULDERS. IT'S MORE RELEVANT NOW THAN EVER WITH THESE SUPPRESSION BILLS, THESE 485 SUPPRESSION BILLS GOING ON THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. SO, YES, FANNIE LOU HAMER IS SO RELATE VANITY AND I THINK THAT EVERYBODY'S WAKING UP TO THAT FACT. UNFORTUNATELY IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BACK IN THE 1950S, THAT WE CAN'T COME SO FAR TO GO BACK SO FAR. SO I THINK THE VOTERS REGISTRATION PIECE THAT I DO ALONG WITH THE PERFORMANCE IS SO NEEDED AND SO TIMELY BECAUSE PEOPLE, REALLY THIS ELECTION THEY GOT OUT AND WE SEE WHAT HAPPENED.

TURLEY: VOTING IS STILL THE KEY, WHICH IS WHY YOU HAVE THE MAJOR PUSHBACK. KIRAN, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE IDEA OF MULTICULTURALISM AND THE IDEA THAT YOU EXPERIENCED. OF COURSE WE HAD A PRESIDENT WHO BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN BY TELLING IMMIGRANTS BASICALLY THEY'RE NOT WELCOME IN THIS COUNTRY. SO HOW DO YOU INFUSE THIS IDEA OF EVERYONE HAS A STORY AND THAT AMERICA IS A STORY? CAN YOU EXPAND ON THAT JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE FOR PEOPLE HONK THAT THE AMERICAN STORY REALLY IS NOT ABOUT IMMIGRANTS OR MINORITY GROUPS BUT ONE SPECIFIC CULTURE?

KIRAN: I THINK ONE OF THE WAYS TO THINK ABOUT STORYTELLING IS LESS OF A LINEAR PROCESS, LESS OF A TRANSACTIONAL THING BUT REALLY AS A TAPESTRY. IN APPALACHIA WE CAN THINK OF IT AS A QUILT, THAT BRINGS THE MULTIPLE COMPLEXITIES TOGETHER. IN 2016 DR. KING CAME TO OUR REGION AND SPOKE ON THE CAMPUS AND SAID SOMETHING WHEN SHE SAID THERE'S SOMETHING THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER AND DONALD TRUMP HAVE IN COMMON IN THE FACT THAT THEY'VE BOTH WOKEN THIS COUNTRY UP TO THE GREAT DISPARITIES OF WHAT EXIST. IT'S A STORYTELLING MOVEMENT AND IT'S THE KIND OF -- IT'S REALLY WHEN WE'VE WOKEN OURSELVES UP TO THE DISPARITIES THAT ALREADY EXIST, THEN STORYTELLING IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THAT DISPARITY, MAYBE EVEN LOOK AT COMMONALITY AND HOW TO CLOSE THE GAP TO SOME DEGREE. I'M

WONDERING ALSO, DURING THE 2016 ELECTION, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHEN PRESIDENT TRUMP BECAME PRESIDENT, THERE WAS A GROUP OF US IN THE SENATE BUILDING, BIPARTISAN THAT HAD A STORY CIRCLE. AND WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT PEACE MEANS TO US. IT WAS A LONG CONVERSATION AND WE CAME TO COMMON GROUND TO HELP MOVE SOME PEACE POLICY FORWARD. SO WHAT YOU SEE ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS. AND STORYTELLING IS SOMETHING THAT CONNECTS US TO OUR HUMANITY. IT'S A COMPLEX NATION BUT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL NATION AND WE HAVE TO LEARN ABOUT THE HEROS, DR. KING, ROSA PARKS. IT'S A FORCE. IT CAN BE USED FOR GOOD OR BAD. ULTIMATELY WHEN IT'S SHARED PERSON TO PERSON VIA ZOOM, ON THE FRONT PORCH, OR IN FESTIVAL, IT'S SACRED. BECAUSE IT'S TRUE IN ALL STORIES IF IT HOLDS MEANING TO THE STORYTELLER. IT'S UP TO US TO LISTEN TO WHAT THAT TRUTH IS. TO UNDERSTAND THAT MEANING. BECAUSE IF MY INTENTION IS NOT TRANSACTIONAL IT'S TO UNDERSTAND YOU, THEN I WANT TO HEAR WHAT YOU'RE MEANING IS. BEHIND THIS FLAG. AND THAT'S THE OPPORTUNITY SO IT CREATES A SAFE SPACE FOR ESSENTIALLY DIALOGUE WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO THE STORY IN PROGRESS WE HAVE AS A NATION. WE CAN BE A GREAT NATION IF WE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE WORKING THROUGH THE BROKEN RIGHT NOW, AN IDENTITY CRISIS. WE HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THE BROKEN TO CREATE THE MASTER PIECE.

TURLEY: AN IDENTITY CRISIS. LECIA, WE HAVE AN IDENTITY CRISIS NOW. THERE ARE PEOPLE NOT WILLING TO LISTEN. SO TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNTRY NOW AND ARE WE -- WE WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO SHARE STORIES OF PEACE AND DIALOGUE BUT IS THAT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR COUNTRY RIGHT NOW.

LECIA: KIRAN, I'M STRUCK BY WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT THE STORIES AND WHAT STORIES ARE TOLD WHEN YOU ALLUDED TO THE STORY OF THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS, FOR INSTANCE. WE SEEM TO BE AT A PLACE WHERE I DON'T KNOW THAT ALL STORYTELLING IS TRUTHFUL. I THINK THAT SOME STORYTELLING IS MOTIVATED BY -- OR THE RESULT OF VERY INTENTIONAL DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN. I DO, THOUGH, AS YOU SAID, TRY TO LISTEN TO PEOPLE TO FIND THEIR TRUTH UNDERNEATH THAT. WHERE WE'RE AT NOW IS PEOPLE ARE SHARING STORIES BASED ON WHAT THEY HEARD OR WHAT THEY BELIEVE OR WANT TO BELIEVE AND THAT REALLY REQUIRES ME TO LISTEN EVEN MORE DEEPLY TO IDENTIFY WHAT'S BEHIND IT. ABOUT MAYBE A COUPLE YEARS AGO I WAS DELIVERING A TALK AT A UNIVERSITY IN KENTUCKY AROUND HATE AND EXTREMISM AND HOW HATE GROUPS ARE TROLLING AROUND COLLEGE CAMPUSES TO BRING IN MORE WHITE MEN INTO THE MOVEMENT, AND ONE, I'M STRUCK BY HOW DID I FROM OAKLAND END UP TALKING TO WHITE GUYS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF JOINING THE WHITE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. AFTER THE TALK, THESE TWO GUYS WHO WERE TRYING TO BE DISRUPTIVE DURING THE TALK AND I WAS LIKE, NO, IT'S OKAY. I TALKED TO THEM AFTERWARDS. OH, MY GOSH, THESE TWO, ONE IN PARTICULAR WHO WAS I COULD TELL A NEW RECRUIT TO THE MOVEMENT. HE WAS SO FRIGHTENED. HE WAS LIKE, EVERYTHING IS CHANGING. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING. SPEAKING FOR WHITE FOLKS. SO THAT REALLY MADE ME MORE THOUGHTFUL AND MINDFUL AND EMPATHETIC AROUND WHAT THE DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE UNITED STATES WHAT THEY HAVE DONE AND WHAT THE WHITE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT HAS DONE TO ADVANCE KIND OF ANXIETY AND FEAR AND CREATE NOT GUILTY WHOLE KIND OF STORY AROUND WHITE DISPLACEMENT AND GENOCIDE, THAT THIS YOUNG PERSON BELIEVED DEEPLY. AND SO I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE STORIES THAT ARE BEING TOLD IN THAT VEIN TO THAT PARTICULAR AUDIENCE WHO IS VULNERABLE, CONCERNED FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY BUT CONCERNED FOR MINE AS WELL. AS WE EXPERIENCE THESE DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, REALLY EVER SINCE IT WAS NOTED THAT WHITES WILL BECOME A NUMERIC MINORITY IN THE COUNTRY, IT SET OFF THIS FEAR AND FIRE STORM. THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER HAS SEEN THAT REFLECTED IN THE GROWTH IN HATE AND EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ACTIVITY. IT HAS CERTAINLY ACCELERATED AND ANIMATED THE WHITE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT. AND AS WE -- I KNOW IT'S A LOT AND IT MAY SEEM DISJOINTED BUT IT'S SO CONNECTED. AS WE TALK ABOUT AS A NATION, SOME PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO TALK ABOUT THE STORY OF WHITE SUPREMACY AS A FOUNDATIONAL BASE TO THIS COUNTRY AND HOW IT BEGAN AND WANTING TO

DISRUPT AND DISMANTLE THAT BY TELLING TRUE STORIES AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRUTH CREATES A WHOLE 'NOTHER LAYER OF FEAR AND ANXIETY FOR ANOTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE. AND THE TRUTH IS THAT THOSE WHO REMAIN APART ARE MANIPULATING THAT -- WANT US TO REMAIN APART. SO IT'S MORE IMPORTANT FOR TRUTH TELLERS TO TELL THEIR STORIES.

I WOULD ALSO -- JUST WANT TO QUICKLY GO BACK TO THE THING ABOUT THE CONFEDERACY, WE'VE BEEN DOING A LOT WITH THE REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS FROM PUBLIC SPACE. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO REALIZE WHAT WE PUT IN PUBLIC SPACE TELLS A STORY ALL BY ITSELF. AND IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING TO COUNTER THOSE STORIES, THE FALSE NARRATIVES CONTINUE. AND THE NARRATIVE IS TIED TO THE LIE OF WHITE SUPERIORITY AND BLACK INFERIORITY, AND THESE THINGS PLAY ON US EVERY DAY. SO ANYWAY I KNOW THAT WENT ALL OVER THE PLACE BUT.

TURLEY: NO. NO. NO. I WAS SO HOPING SOMEONE WOULD TOUCH ON THE FEAR. FEAR IS THE BASIS OF EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENING AND THAT WHENEVER YOU FEEL -- WHENEVER YOU SPEAK OF EQUALITY OR INCLUSION, IT'S THIS IDEA, IF YOU GAIN SOMETHING, THEN I'M LOSING SOMETHING. NO ONE EVER SEES IT AS SOME GAIN FOR EVERYONE.

LECIA: THAT'S RIGHT.

TURLEY: AND TRINA, WHEN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU MADE A VERY GOOD POINT ABOUT THEM NEVER EXPERIENCING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. THEY'VE SEEN A PRESIDENT, THEY'VE SEEN BLACK PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THINGS. HOW ARE THEY ABLE TO PROCESS WHAT'S HAPPENING? DO THEY UNDERSTAND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF MONUMENTS AND THINGS FROM PUBLIC SPACES, DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO THEM?

TRINA: YES, IT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE TO THEM BECAUSE THEY HAVE GROWN UP IN A TIME WHEN THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN THE INTERNET AND IT HAS MORE IMAGES THAN WORDS, AND INFORMATION IS EXPONENTIALLY MORE AVAILABLE THAN IT WAS EVEN WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. AND SO THE IMAGES AND SOME OF THE WORDS AND MUSIC THAT'S MOVING ACROSS SCREENS IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE. AND I THINK WHAT THEY RECOGNIZE IS THAT THEY'RE LEARNING TO HAVE TO SORT IT ALL AND EVERYBODY'S TRYING TO INFLUENCE THEM. SO A MONUMENT IS NO DIFFERENT THAN A FACEBOOK ADVERTISEMENT OR INSTAGRAM ADVERTISEMENT THAT'S TRYING TO INFLUENCE THEM TO BUY INTO SOMETHING, YOUR MONEY, YOUR TIME IS WORTH THIS. SO I THINK THEY CAN EQUATE THESE MONUMENTS AS ADVERTISING TO BELIEVE A CERTAIN WAY. HOW DOES THAT ADVERTISEMENT MAKE YOU FEEL? WHAT DO YOU ASSOCIATE WITH IT? IS THERE A TYPE OF STATUS THAT COMES ALONG WITH BELIEVING OR DISBELIEVING IT? SO YOUNG FOLKS HAVE A CERTAIN CLARITY ABOUT THAT'S NOT IT. A LOT OF WAYS WE PUT HISTORICAL NARRATIVES AND SANITIZE THEM OF THEIR INTENTIONS, THEY RECOGNIZE THE OKIE DOKE. SO THEY'RE SOME OF THE FIRST ALREADY TO TAKE DOWN MONUMENTS OR HAVE THEM COVERED UP OR REMOVE THEM TO ANOTHER PLACE AND HAVE THE CONVERSATION ABOUT PUTTING THEM IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT, WHICH IS FRANKLY A REFORM FROM MANY OF THEIR PERSPECTIVES. SO I THINK THEY'RE VERY SMART ABOUT IT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SO MUCH INFORMATION THAT THEY HAVE TO FILTER THROUGH, THEY CAN INSTANTLY SEE -- MANY OF THEM -- CAN ALMOST INSTANTLY SEE THE OKIE DOKE AND SAY I DON'T WANT THAT. AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO MENTION THAT I WORK WITH THE SELF SELECTED GROUP OF YOUNG FOLKS WHO ARE PROBABLY TEND TOWARD THE LEFT SO THEY SELECT THEMSELVES. PART OF THAT IS PART PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIGHLANDER'S HISTORY, AND THEY SAY THAT'S NOT FOR ME. SO I'M SPEAKING ABOUT THAT FROM THE YOUNG FOLKS THAT I ENCOUNTER AND A LOT OF THEM ARE VERY CLEAR AND I THINK THIS HAS BEEN CONSISTENT ACROSS MOVEMENTS, ON YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T HAVE AS MUCH TO LOSE BY TAKING THAT KIND OF STAND. THEY DEFINITELY HAVE SKIN IN THE GAME BUT HAVE DIFFERENT THINGS TO LOSE SO THEY CAN BE A LITTLE RISKIER. SO A LOT OF THEM ARE AWARE THAT THEY ARE AT A TIME IN THEIR LIVES WHERE THEY CAN TAKE A RISK BECAUSE THEY MAY NOT HAVE A MORTGAGE. THEY MAY NOT BE KIDS THAT NEED TO BE PUT TO BED AT 7:30 SO THEY CAN TAKE SOME RISKS AND HAVE A MEETING

THAT STARTS AT 9:00 AT NIGHT AND START PLOTTING AND PLANNING AND BE OUT THERE UNTIL 2:30 IN THE MORNING. I USED TO BE LIKE THAT. I CAN'T DO THAT NO MORE. SO THEY CAN KEEP IT MOVING WHEN I'M LIKE, I NEED TO GO HOME AND GO TO SLEEP. BUT I DO THINK THAT THEY HAVE A SHARPNESS ABOUT INFORMATION THAT EVEN MY GENERATION -- I'M GENERATION X, THAT MY GENERATION LACKS JUST A LITTLE BIT OF THE ANALYTICAL SHARPNESS THAT THEY HAVE. AND A FRIEND OF MINE WOULD IDENTIFY AS KIND OF A GEN ZER, OR RIGHT ON THE EDGE, A LOT OF IT IS DIGITAL. WE CAN TALK ABOUT BEING IN THE STREETS AND BOOTS ON THE GROUND AND GETTING INFORMATION TO PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING AT THIS POINT SO MUCH OF THAT IS DIGITAL. BEING ABLE TO USE THE TOOLS OF EITHER THE INTERNET OR UNDERSTANDING HOW UNIVERSAL SURVEILLANCE HAPPENS ALL THE TIME BUT BECAUSE OF MY APPLE WATCH AND FITBIT AND PHONE BECAUSE GPS TELLS EVERYONE WHERE I AM. SO THEY USE THAT FOR THEIR STRATEGY IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD. SO THEY GET IT BUT IT'S A LOT.

TURLEY: IT'S A LOT THAT WE SAW THIS PAST SUMMER WITH THE GEORGE FLOYD MOVEMENT, THE BRIANNA TAYLOR MOVEMENT HERE IN KENTUCKY, THOSE WERE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE WHO DID MUCH OF THE ORGANIZING, BOOTS ON THE GROUND, WHO, AS YOU SAID, HAD THE TIME TO BE CONSTANTLY IN THE STREET. SO WE HAVE TO CONSIDER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WHEN YOU'VE GROWN UP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW, FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WE ARE THE MELTING POT THAT PEOPLE THOUGHT OR NEVER WANT TO ACCEPT THAT WE ARE. BUT AS A HISTORIAN I HAVE TO SAY THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T TEACH ACCURATE HISTORY. SO WHEN PEOPLE HAVE THIS BELIEF THAT AMERICA WAS A WHITE CULTURE, THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN MINORITY CULTURE OUT OF THE CLASSROOMS. WE'VE TAKEN IT FROM THE PUBLIC SPACE AND WE'VE REGULATED IT TO CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS YOU KNOW RATHER THAN IT BEING TAUGHT EVERY DAY. SO THAT'S THE BENEFIT I THINK, KIRAN, I STORYTELLING IS THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO BRING IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACTUALLY LIVED THIS AND ARE ADDING TO THE HISTORICAL RECORD. SO IT'S NOT SO BLACK AND WHITE, WHICH IS WHAT THE FOCUS OF OUR DIALOGUE IS TODAY. SO THIS IDEA OF RACE RELATIONS AND VOTING SUPPRESSION, HOW -- WHAT SUGGESTIONS WOULD YOU MAKE -- AND I'LL GIVE THIS QUESTION TO EACH OF YOU -- WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO YOU MAKE FOR PUSHING BACK? HOW DO PEOPLE GET INVOLVED? IF THEY SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING BUT HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO START TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WHAT WOULD EACH OF YOU SUGGEST?

MZURI: GETTING OUT TO VOTE NOT JUST FOR YOURSELF BUT I WOULD ENCOURAGE ALL OF US TO GRAB SOME YOUNG PEOPLE. WHEN I AM OUT AND THERE'S AN ELECTION GOING ON, I STOP PEOPLE AND SAY, ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE AND I START HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH THEM, WHETHER I KNOW THEM OR NOT, MOST OF THE TIMES I DO NOT. QUITE FRANKLY, MOST OF THE TIME IT'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES. WHEN WE HAD GOVERNOR ELECTIONS, I WOULD STOP YOUNG AFRICAN MALES AND ASK IF THEY ARE VOTING. THEY HAD NO CLUE MR. GILLUM WAS RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR. THEY WERE SO DISCONNECTED. AND THEY WEREN'T INTERESTED. YOU KNOW, THE ATTITUDE WAS, WELL, WHAT GOOD IS IT GOING TO DO? I MYSELF GOT OUT AND START KNOCKING DOORS, AND I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TAKING A WOMAN THAT WAS 93 YEARS OLD TO THE POLLS TO VOTE. SO I GOT ACTIVELY INVOLVED, YOU KNOW, FOR THE GOVERNOR ELECTION.

TURLEY: YEAH, WE NEED TO GET A LOT OF FOLKS INVOLVED DOWN IN FLORIDA.

MZURI: OH, MY GOODNESS. LET ME TELL YOU. HOWEVER!

TURLEY: GO AHEAD MZURI.

MZURI: GREAT WEATHER, HOWEVER, IT'S SOMETHING ELSE. JUST GETTING TO SHOW INTO COLLEGES, I'VE BEEN IN FLORIDA NOW PROBABLY COMBINED 15 YEARS, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. I MOVED AWAY

AND I CAME BACK. I USED TO LIVE DOWN IN SOUTH FLORIDA BUT IT HAS BEEN VERY, VERY CHALLENGING IN FLORIDA. BUT WE CAN'T STOP.

TURLEY: ISN'T IS ALSO IN FLORIDA THAT JOHN LEGEND AND A GROUP OF OTHER FOLKS -- YOU HAD A LAW THERE THAT ALLOWED CONVICTED FELONS TO VOTE ONCE THEY SERVED THEIR TIME?

MZURI: YES, BUT THEY OWED FINES AND THEN THEY COULDN'T FIND THEM OR THEY WERE ASTRONOMICAL. SO I BELIEVE THIS WAS LEBRON JAMES WHO CAME DOWN AND PAID FOR PEOPLE'S FINES. IT WAS AMAZING. SO THERE YOU GO. THERE'S A CONTRIBUTION THERE. SO THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THAT WE HAVE TO KEEP DOING.

TURLEY: RIGHT. AND IT GOES BACK TO THE FANNIE LOU HAMER DAYS OF POLL TAXES THAT KEEP YOU FROM VOTING.

MZURI: YEAH, A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT HARRY T. MOORE BUT THEY PUT A BOMB UNDER THEIR HOUSE ON CHRISTMAS EVE ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND IT WAS HIS MOTHER AND DAUGHTER IN THE HOUSE, THEY SURVIVED BUT OF COURSE MR. AND MRS. MOORE DIED NINE DAYS APART FROM THE BOMBING. AND IT WAS AROUND VOTING.

TURLEY: RIGHT. WE TALKED ABOUT THAT IN OUR PUBLIC DISCUSSION NO. 11 WHERE WE FEATURED THAT HOME, IT'S CONSIDERED THE FIRST BOMBING DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT THERE IN FLORIDA.

MZURI: YEAH. SWEET HONEY AND THE ROCK HAVE AN INCREDIBLE SONG TO MR. HARRY T. MOORE. PEOPLE CAN GO LISTEN TO IT, THE BOMBING OF HIS HOME ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT.

TURLEY: KIRAN, YOUR VIEW ON THIS IDEA OF STORYTELLING AND WHAT WE SEE HAPPENING IN AMERICA TODAY ON THE VOTING RIGHTS SUPPRESSION?

KIRAN: WELL WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES, DO WE WANT TO BECOME NAZI GERMANY OR GROW INTO A NATION THAT'S UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL AS A RIGHT. WE'RE NOT DEMONIZING THE MINORITY OR PEOPLE OF COLOR BUT CREATING A SPACE WHERE WE VALUE EVERY CITIZEN AS EQUAL. WE HAVE TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THAT. AND WE HAVE TO REMIND OTHERS OF THAT INTERROGATION. WE DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO NAZI GERMANY. WE DON'T WANT PROPAGANDA LIKE NAZI GERMANY CREATED AGAINST JEWISH PEOPLE. ONE PIECE OF ADVICE I GOT FROM MY DAD, HE WAS A REFUGEE FROM EAST AFRICA. AND I ALWAYS SAID, IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START, START BY WASHING THE DISHES. AND THE IDEA IS YOU START SMALL. PEACE STARTS AT HOME. THAT WASHING THE DISHES CAN BE SIMPLY JOINING YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER, NAACP OR BLACK LIVES MATTER, WHATEVER IT MIGHT BE. LETS ALSO ABOUT JOINING A PROTEST. GETTING INVOLVED PERSONALLY. WHAT CAN YOU DO AS AN INDIVIDUAL? AND ONE EXAMPLE I WANT TO EMPHASIZE IS A COLLEAGUE OF MINE, A YOUNG WHITE FEMALE IN A TOWN IN VIRGINIA WHO'S STUART, NAMED AFTER THE CONFEDERATE GENERAL, SHE WAS SO MOVED BY WHAT WAS HAPPENING AFTER THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD, SHE SIMPLY REACH OUT, HOW CAN I HELP? SHE MENTIONED TO GET A GRANT AND TO BE ABLE TO FACILITATE PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND ORGANIZED A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS THAT UNPACKED WHAT DOES THAT STATUE MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO A HOME? WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO CREATE? THAT WAS JUST THE ACTION OF A SHY PERSON. WE ALL HAVE THAT POTENTIAL TO RECORD STORIES, RECORD THE MOVEMENT, RECORD WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR NATION AND DOCUMENT IT AS WELL. WE CAN DO THAT AS YOUNG PEOPLE, AS OLD PEOPLE. WE CAN DO THAT, ANYONE. IT STARTS SMALL BUT YOU ARE JOINING SOMETHING THAT IS RIGHTEOUS AND REALLY SACRED TO BRING EQUALITY AND EQUITY TO ALL PEOPLE IS A RIGHTEOUS CAUSE, IT REALLY IS. AND IT FOLLOWS THE LINES OF ALL OTHER ANCESTORS IN THE SENSE THAT THEY STRIVED FOR THAT, SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR IT OR WERE TORTURED, PEOPLE DIED FOR THIS AND WE HAVE TO

REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE TO WORK THROUGH THAT TO CREATE THE STORY WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD. IF YOU'RE A YOUNG PERSON AND YOU SEE THIS VISION OF THE FUTURE ABOUT CREATING THIS, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BE THAT STORY AND CAN MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE.

TURLEY: AND I KNOW AT THE STORYTELLING CENTER YOU ALSO HAVE A VERY STRONG YOUTH INITIATIVE WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. SOME OF THOSE REUSED IN THE POWERPOINT WHERE YOU'RE TRAINING YOUNG LEADERS TO BE IN THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD THERE ARE NO BLACK PEOPLE IN APPALACHIA. I HAPPEN TO BE ONE OF THEM THAT WAS TOLD THERE ARE NO BLACK FOLKS AND I'M LIKE, WELL, GEEZ, HOW DO I GET HERE THEN? THIS WHOLE FALSE NARRATIVE.

KIRAN: IT'S ALSO REMINDING PEOPLE THAT IT ALREADY EXISTS. MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE ABOUT THE FIRST ANTIRACISM NEWSPAPER, WHEN PEOPLE REALIZE THE HISTORY, THIS IS MY HOME TOWN, I HAD NO IDEA AND THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY HAD NO IDEA. BUT REMINDING PEOPLE WHERE YOU ARE, AND THERE'S A LOT OF INTERCONNECTEDNESS, RESILIENCY, WHETHER BLACK LIVES MATTER OR FIGHTING AGAINST SEAT SUPPRESSION, IT'S NOT JUST A TOLL BUT IT'S SOMETHING APPALACHIAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND AND WHEN WE CONNECT THAT RESILIENCY, WE REALIZE THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY DOESN'T BELONG TO ONE GROUP. WE'RE IN THAT TOGETHER.

MZURI: I WANT TO SAY MY MOTHER WAS FROM WEST VIRGINIA.

TURLEY: THAT'S DEFINITELY CENTRAL APPALACHIA. IT WAS PROBABLY AT THE BEGINNING, ONE OF THE MOST INTEGRATED PLACES IN AMERICA. YOU WOULD NOT KNOW THAT TODAY, BUT THIS IS REALLY WHERE AMERICA BECAME. IT WAS BEFORE THAT YOU WERE THE BRITISH COLONIES. BUT ONCE YOU CAME OVER THE MOUNTAINS YOU HAD AN INTERMIXED COMMUNITY THAT STILL EXISTS TODAY, AS QUIETLY AS IT'S BEING KEPT. BUT IT WAS ALWAYS THE MOST INTEGRATED PLACE IN AMERICA. THAT'S ANOTHER FALSE NARRATIVE.

MZURI: IS THAT WHY YOU SAID YOU HAD A LOT OF MIXED RACE IN YOUR FAMILY BECAUSE PEOPLE INTERMARRIED?

TURLEY: YES. WE TALKED ABOUT MELUNGEON, MIXED RACE. IT'S A COMBINATION OF EUROPEAN, AFRICAN, AND INDIAN POPULATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE PEOPLE STARTED COMING OVER THE MOUNTAINS. BUT THIS IDEA OF MELUNGEON IDENTITY BECAME CRIMINAL ONCE WE BEGAN TO POPULATE ACROSS THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS. PEOPLE WANTED TO DENY MIXED HERITAGE.

AND LECIA, COME ON, TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. I KNOW EACH TIME I GO THERE THEY'RE ALWAYS -- I WAS ONE WHO WOULD CONSTANTLY BRING YOUNG PEOPLE THERE TO THE CENTER, HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THEM TO BECOME INVOLVED?

LECIA: WELL I WANT TO PICK UP ON WHAT TRINA SAID ON TODAY'S YOUNG FOLK ARE NOT FALLING FOR THE OKIE DOKE, RIGHT? THINGS THAT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE AND ACCEPT AS TRUTHFUL NARRATIVE THEY RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY AS FALSE NARRATIVE. I ALSO WANT TO LIFT UP THE YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS PHENOMENAL. AND I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WON'T CONTINUE AS SUCH. I THINK THAT THE SUCCESSES THAT WE EXPERIENCE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND IN ADDITION TO THE SENATE RACE IN GEORGIA THAT BROUGHT AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN AND JEWISH AMERICAN MAN TO THE SENATE WAS PHENOMENAL. AND PEOPLE WON'T SOON FORGET THAT. PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THAT THEIR VOTE MATTERS AND THIS WAS JUST A WATER SHED MOMENT TO REMEMBER THAT. WORKING WITH GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE OFFICES IN 5 STATES ACROSS THE DEEP SOUTH AND ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO HELP SUPPORT YOUTH ORGANIZING AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING ON THE GROUND. AND AS I SAY, I HAVE NO REASON TO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT'S GOING TO GET BETTER. THE MONUMENT MOVING, THE

VOTING RIGHTS MOVEMENT, THE PUSH BACK AGAINST TEACHING CRITICAL RACE THEORY ARE ALL ISSUES THAT ARE EMBRACED AND ADDRESSED BY YOUNG PEOPLE AND SO I THINK THAT WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT. AND ALSO KIND OF HISTORICALLY INTERNATIONALLY CHANGE DOESN'T HAPPEN ANYWHERE WITHOUT YOUNG PEOPLE. THAT'S JUST A FACT. AND SO WE GOT TO CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE OURSELVES ON PERPETUATING THAT FALSE NARRATIVE THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE AREN'T DOING. ANY CHANGE THAT HAPPENS IS BECAUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE. AGAIN, THAT'S INTERNATIONAL.

TURLEY: VERY MUCH.

LECIA: I ALSO WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE RISE IN ANTIDEMOCRATIC VALUES BECAUSE IT'S VERY MUCH TIED TO VOTER EXPRESSION AND THE RISE IN AUTHORITARIANISM AND KIRAN WHEN YOU SAID, WE DON'T WANT TO BE NAZI GERMANY, SOMETIMES I THINK WE DO. THERE'S A RISE OF AUTHORITARIANISM THAT'S PRESENT ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND THE FACT THAT WE ELECTED AN AUTHORITARIAN LEADER WHO EMBRACED OTHERS WHERE WE HAD THE INSURRECTION ON JANUARY 6TH, THIS IS REAL. PEOPLE WHO WOULD BELIEVE WE'RE JUST SPEAKING OUT FOR OUR RIGHTS, IT'S ANTIDEMOCRATIC. WE NEED TO STAND AGAINST IT. I RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES CALLED THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM THAT'S BRINGING TOGETHER PROGRESSIVE ACTIVISTS FROM THE LEFT AND ACROSS THE SPECTRUM LOOKING AT HOW WE ORGANIZE AND WHAT WE NEED TO REALLY TALK ABOUT TO STRENGTHEN OUR MOVEMENT. IT'S MULTIRACIAL AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHY WE DON'T TALK ABOUT WHITE NATIONALISM AND AUTHORITARIANISM AND TYING OUR ISSUES IN A MORE GLOBAL WAY. WE ARE THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE MORE AND MORE INFLUENCED BY GLOBAL POLITICS SO WE NEED TO LOOK AT THAT AND TALK ABOUT THAT. SO THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I WANT TO BRING YOUNG PEOPLE MORE INTO THAT CONVERSATION AROUND WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, THIS PRACTICE OF ANTIDEMOCRATIC PRACTICE LIKE TRINA SAID, THEY GREW UP WITH ONE THING SO THEY THINK THAT'S WHAT THE DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE. AND I'M TELLING YOU, I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT OUR DEMOCRACY IS AT GREAT RISK.

TURLEY: IT IS. AND BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG, WE BELIEVE IT'S ON AUTOMATIC, THAT WE REALLY DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT IT, BUT I DON'T THINK PEOPLE UNDERSTAND HOW EASY IT IS. WE SAW EVIDENCE OF THAT. YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU CAN SAY THAT JANUARY 6TH WAS JUST SIMPLY, LIKE, VISITORS COMING TO THE CAPITAL WHEN WE'VE WATCHED ON TELEVISION PEOPLE BEING INJURED AND I HAD TO SAY TO MY YOUNG NIECE, LIKE, WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAVE HAPPENED HAD THOSE BEEN BLACK LIVES MATTER FOLKS STORMING THE CAPITAL? THEY WOULD HAVE NEVER GOTTEN INSIDE. WE KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE. SO EVEN YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY WHO ARE IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS IDEA OF THE 16 STATES WE FEATURED IN OUR POWERPOINT WHO HAVE ALREADY OUTLAWED THE TEACHING OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY?

LECIA: IT MAKES ME REALLY SAD. AND FLORIDA SIGNED ONTO THAT LAST WEEK. I THINK ONE, MY EMPATHETIC SELF SAYS --

MZURI: I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR I'M NOT FROM FLORIDA. I'M FROM NEW JERSEY. I LIVE HERE BUT I'M NOT FROM HERE.

[LAUGHTER]

TURLEY: WE WON'T GIVE THAT TO YOU. OKAY.

LECIA: I THINK MY EMPATHETIC SIDE WANTS TO RECOGNIZE IT AS ANOTHER KIND OF EVIDENCE OF GROWING FEAR AND I GUESS I WOULD JUST -- I JUST WANT TO TELL PEOPLE OR SHARE WITH PEOPLE -- LIKE BRIAN STEVENSON TALKS ABOUT ALL THE TIME, WE CANNOT BE THE COUNTRY WE WANT TO BE IF WE DON'T FACE OUR PAST AND RECKON WITH IT IN A REAL WAY. ALL THAT CRITICAL RACE THEORY,

ALL THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IS TRYING TO DO NOW IS RECONCILE WITH OUR PAST. I REMEMBER THE FEARS AROUND WHEN SOUTH AFRICA -- WHEN APARTHEID, NO, PEOPLE NEED LEVEL SET AND A TRUTH TELLING, WE NEED A RESTART AND THE ONLY WAY WE CAN RESTART AND BECOME THE NATION THAT WE WANT TO BE IS BY TELLING THE TRUTH. I JUST BELIEVE THAT TO BE TRUE BECAUSE THERE'S TOO MUCH IN THE WAY OF US GETTING IN THE WAY OF THE IDEALS WE HOLD. WE'RE JUST CLEANING UP THINGS. THAT'S ALL. IT'S NOT A THREAT. JUST CLEANING UP. NOT JUST FOR BLACK FOLK OR LATINX OR PEOPLE OF COLOR, WHITE PEOPLE NEED TO BE LIBERATED, TOO. AND YOU'LL BE LIBERATED BY THE TELLING OF THE TRUTH AND FACING THE TRUTH AND RECKONING -- HAVING SOME RECKONING WITH OUR PAST. I REALLY BELIEVE THAT.

TURLEY: TRINA, THE HIGHLANDER'S BACKGROUND IS ABOUT JUST THAT. TEACHING THEM THE TOOLS TO BE LIBERATORS. YOU DEAL WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, HOW DO THEY FEEL ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY? DO THEY THINK THEY'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED BY BEING TOLD ABOUT OUR COUNTRY'S PAST?

TRINA: NONE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT I KNOW, AND SO BEFORE I CAME TO HIGHLANDER, I WAS A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER, I TAUGHT CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. FIRST OF ALL NOBODY'S TEACHING CRITICAL RACE THEORY IN ANYTHING BUT GRADUATE LEVEL CLASSES. NOT EVEN IN UNDERGRADUATE. NOBODY'S TEACHING IT TO KINDERGARTEN THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SO THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS BUT THEY RECOGNIZE THE STRATEGY OF WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE BECAUSE WHEN WE TAKE CRITICAL RACE THEORY OUT OF THE ACADEMY, ULTIMATELY THIS IS ABOUT A COMPETITION AROUND STORIES AND WHO GETS TO SHAPE WHAT NARRATIVE. AND THEY RECOGNIZE THAT. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT SOME FOLKS ARE TELLING THEM THIS IS BAD AND IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT TEENAGERS, AND THIS IS ISN'T A GENERALIZATION, IF YOU TELL THEM TO STAY AWAY FROM SOMETHING, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING THEY'RE GOING TO DO? FIND OUT WHAT IT IS. SO IN THE WAY THAT SOME OF THE POLITICAL PUNDITS ARE MOVING, THEY'RE MAKING IT MORE OF A THING THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN AND IT'S GOING TO BACKFIRE ON THEM. BECAUSE IT'S NOT ONLY COMING OUT OF THE ACADEMY, BUT IT'S SHOWING UP IN POPULAR ED. SO THEY WOULDN'T HAVE NAMED CRITICAL RACE THEORY AS A THING, AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THEY WANTED. SO THIS IS ME BEING REVEALING HERE, I'M DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO FINISHING MY PH.D. WHERE I'M STUDYING THE INTERSECTIONS OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND OTHERS. SO I WRITE ABOUT IT A LOT. AND I THINK ONE OF THE KEYS OF IT IS COUNTER STORYTELLING. TELLING A DIFFERENT STORY THAN THE NARRATIVE -- THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE. IT'S NOT DESTROYING THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE, IT'S SUPPLEMENTING, IT'S CHANGING, REINTERPRETING A NARRATIVE THAT SERVES PARTICULAR PEOPLE AND MAINTAINING PARTICULAR SYSTEMS.

I'VE BEEN TAKING NOTES OF WHAT MY FELLOW PANELISTS HAVE BEEN SAYING BUT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT VOTING. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT FOR A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND NOT JUST YOUNGER FOLKS, BUT THERE IS A CERTAIN APATHY OTHER PEOPLE IDENTIFY IT AS APATHY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND VOTING BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN TOLD GO VOTE OUR ENTIRE LIVES AND I THINK THAT FOLKS CAN LOOK AT THE STATISTICS NOW AND LOOK AT THE RESULTS AND LOOK AT THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND SAY THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN ONE TACTIC BECAUSE YOU TELL US TO VOTE AND THEY SUPPRESS OUR VOTES OR PURGE THE VOTING ROLES. SO THERE'S GOT TO BE MORE THAN ONE TACTIC THERE. SO WHILE WE HAVE LOTS OF YOUNG FOLKS DOING THE WORK TO GET FOLKS REGISTERED, THERE'S OTHERS LIKE, Y'ALL WANT US TO PARTICIPATE IN A SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T WORK WELL FOR US. SO SOME OF OUR WORK IS AROUND COMPELLING NARRATIVES AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT. VOTING IS THE FIRST STEP. IT IS KIND OF THE GROUND OF OUR POLITICAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT. SO WHILE I'M A FAN OF SOME OF THE WORK HAPPENING NOW MAKING VOTING A RIGHT OF PASSAGE, LIKE REGISTERING IS A RIGHT OF PASSAGE, WHEN I WAS TEACHING IN HIGH SCHOOL WE'D PULL TOGETHER EVERYBODY WHO WAS ABOUT TO TURN 18 AND THROW THEM A PARTY AND SAY YOU ARE NOW ABLE TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS FOR YOUR COUNTRY AND THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR CITIZENSHIP, OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CITIZEN TO THIS NAILINGS, SO YOU START HERE AND YOU

DO THINGS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR, LIKE THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS ARE COMING, IN BETWEEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN YOUR COMMUNITY? BECAUSE WE KNOW YOU HAVE TO BE MORE INVOLVED THAN SHOWING UP IN NOVEMBER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY TO CHANGE.

SO THE WORK OF HIGHLANDER, WE REALIZE THAT IN BETWEEN TIME, WE'RE A 501C3 WE CAN'T SUPPORT PARTICULAR CANDIDATES BUT THE WORK HAPPENS, THE NARRATIVES HAVE BECOME RELIGION. SO RELIGIOUS SPACES ARE WHERE A LOT OF WORK GETS DONE. I DEFY SOMEONE TO TELL ME THAT JANUARY 6TH WAS NOT PLANNED AT BIBLE STUDIES, AT SUNDAY SCHOOL. BECAUSE THE PERSON THAT PRAYED IN THE CHAMBER OF THE SENATE AND THANKED JESUS FOR GETTING THEM THERE. SO THIS WASN'T JUST WHITE NATIONALISTS, IT WAS WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISTS. SO UNTIL WE DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT THERE'S THIS THING THAT THERE'S RELIGION THAT'S THE WAY GOD WANTS THINGS TO BE, WE'RE GOING TO BE FALTERING IN THIS COUNTRY. AND WE TALK A LOT AT HIGHLANDER, THAT ESPECIALLY ACROSS THE SOUTH, WE CAN'T LEAVE OUT THE PLACE OF ORGANIZING IN RELIGIOUS PLACES, HOW PEOPLE DO THAT IN RELIGIOUS PLACES AND HOW THAT'S CONNECTED TO POLITICS. BECAUSE RELIGION IS POLITICAL AND POLITICS ARE RELIGIOUS. THESE ANTI-TRANSPORTS BILLS, PEOPLE ARE STANDING ON RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. THE ABORTION BILLS, TOO.

SO I THINK HIGHLANDER IS HIGHING TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF -- SAY IN GEORGIA, I LIVE IN ATLANTA, AS SOMEONE EARLIER TALKED ABOUT THE REVEREND WARNOCK, THE PANDEMIC CAME, PEOPLE WEREN'T GOING TO CHURCH. BLACK VOTERS MATTERS HAPPENED IN GEORGIA. IT WENT TO RULE GEORGIA AND SAID TO BLACK PASTORS, SAYING WE KNOW Y'ALL NEED MONEY. WE WILL GIVE YOU MONEY, RALLY YOUR FOLKS. WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE. GIVE YOU MASKS AND HAND SANITIZER. IT TURNED GEORGIA BLUE. IT WASN'T ATLANTA. SO WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE WHERE THE WORK IS HAPPENING. WE'RE HERE FOR ACCOMPANIMENT SO YOUNG FOLKS ARE, AGAIN, TAKING ALL OF THIS IN AND THEY'RE WATCHING KIND OF THE MOVES TO SEE WHAT IS THE NEXT MOVE? WHAT DO WE DO NEXT? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, YOUNG PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO GO LEARN ABOUT IT BECAUSE THEY WERE TOLD NOT TO. SO WE'RE FOLLOWING THEM TO THE NEXT THING. SO I THINK IT BECOMES VERY CRITICAL FOR US WHO ARE OLDER TO WATCH HOW THESE NARRATIVES PLAY OUT AND FOLLOW WHAT FOLKS ARE DOING TO CONTEST IT. AND, AGAIN, WE START WITH THE POLITICAL EDUCATION SPIRAL WHERE YOU TELL THE STORY WHERE YOU ARE, WHAT YOU WANT YOUR WORLD TO BE, AND THEN YOU FIGURE OUT THE STRATEGIES AND THE WORK THAT GETS YOU THERE. AND I THINK THAT THAT IS WHERE WE ARE WITH A LOT OF OUR STRATEGIZING WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT INTERGENERATIONAL ORGANIZING. PEOPLE WANT THIS NATION TO BE WHO WE SAY WE WANT TO BE. AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO CHALLENGE IT AND STRATEGIZE AND FIGHT OVER IT BECAUSE THIS IS LIFE AND DEATH. IF THE NATION DOESN'T BECOME WHAT WE SAY OUR TENETS ARE, OUR FUNDAMENTAL VALUES ARE, IT WILL KILL THEM. IT WILL KILL ALL OF US IF THIS NATION DOESN'T RISE UP TO THAT. AND THEY RECOGNIZE THE STAKES I THINK BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE.

TURLEY: THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT, TRINA, AND FOR REMINDING ME AS THE MOTHER OF A TEENAGER AT ONCE IN MY LIFE, HOW IF YOU WANT THEM TO DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT, TELL THEM NOT TO. SO I APPRECIATE THAT. CRITICAL RACE THEORY NOW IS IN THE HEADLINES AND PEOPLE WILL BE CURIOUS TO KNOW WHAT IT'S ABOUT.

SO WE ARE BEGINNING TO GET SOME QUESTIONS FROM OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE SO I AM GOING TO SCROLL AND SEE WHAT WE WILL DO. IT SAYS WITH THE TEACHING OF CRITICAL RACE THEORY BEING BANNED IN MANY SCHOOLS, WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP TEACH THEIR CHILDREN ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE? SO I THINK TRINA JUST COVERED A LOT OF THAT FOR US WHICH IS MAYBE THIS IS BETTER TO STUDY OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. MAYBE THE STUDENT NEEDS TO COME TO THE CLASSROOM TELLING THE TEACHER ABOUT CRITICAL RACE THEORY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? REQUIRE KIRAN?

KIRAN: INVITE THE STORYTELLERS INTO THE CLASSROOM.

TURLEY: EVEN BETTER.

MZURI: I'M AVAILABLE TO COME TO CLASSES.

KIRAN: OR IF THEY'RE NOT ALLOWED IN, JUST – I THINK FIRST WE NEED TO STOP TELLING TEACHERS HOW TO TEACH HISTORY. RESPECT THE TEACHER FOR THEIR PROFESSION AND STOP TELLING THEM HOW TO DO THEIR JOB. I AGREE WITH EVERYBODY. IT'S JUST AN ABSOLUTE SHAME AND I THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE SMART. THEY UNDERSTAND STORYTELLING MORE THAN ANY OTHER GENERATION BECAUSE THEY'RE INUNDATED WITH IT. IF SOMEBODY SUPPORTS BLUE LIVES BUT DON'T LISTEN TO THEM WHEN THEY SEE OPEN CARRY IS DANGEROUS FOR ME, THEY CAN SEE THAT. AND I THINK IT'S NECESSARY THAT WE PROVIDE AS MUCH RESOURCES TO PUT THE TOOLS IN THE HANDS OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES TO TELL THEIR STORIES. AND THIS PARTICULAR TOOL KIT IS ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES BUT IT'S A TOOL KIT FOR FAMILIES AND TEACHERS AND GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS TO ACCESS AND LEARN ABOUT IT FOR YOURSELF AND TEACH IT FOR YOURSELF IF YOU NEED TO. AND PUT PRESSURE ON THE SCHOOL BOARDS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE TEACHING IT. BECAUSE IT'S INTEGRAL TO THE NATION AND IT'S BEEN MENTIONED THAT WE WILL FOLD AS A NATION IF WE DON'T ADDRESS OUR TRAUMA. ANYONE THAT GROWS UP AND DOESN'T ADDRESS THEIR OWN TRAUMA, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IT AND ADDRESS IT. BUT IT APPLIES TO THE NATION. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE PAIN AND TRAUMA AND NUANCES. EVERYONE'S EXPERIENCES ARE DIFFERENT. BUT THE TRAUMA WILL KILL US. WE HAVE TO LOOK IT IN THE EYE, COME BASE FACE TO FACE WITH IT, GRAPPLE WITH IT, AND AS MY GIRLFRIEND TALKS ABOUT AS A PAINTER, WE HAVE TO WORK FROM THE BROKEN TO CREATE THE MASTER PIECE AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE WORK THROUGH THE IDENTITY CRISIS TO BECOME AN INCREDIBLE NATION WE HAVE THAT POTENTIAL TO BE. BUT WE HAVE TO WORK FOR THAT STORY IN PROGRESS.

TURLEY: AGAIN, YOU BRING UP -- I'M GOING TO COME BACK TO YOU MZURI. YOU MENTIONED SCHOOL BOARDS. WE TALK ABOUT POLITICS BUT A LOT OF CHANGE CAN HAPPEN WITH -- MOST SCHOOL BOARDS ARE ELECTED. MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE DECISIONS FOR YOUR CHILDREN, YOU HAVE A SAY IN WHO GOVERNS EDUCATION IN YOUR PARTICULAR LOCAL COMMUNITY. MZURI, YOU WERE GOING TO ADD.

MZURI: YES, I WAS GO TO ADD A SIDEBAR ABOUT THE OVER 200 ANTILYNCHING BILLS THAT HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP IN THIS COUNTRY AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS AND NOT ONE HAS PASSED. BUT THIS RECENT UNPRECEDENTED HATE -- ASIAN HATE, THEY HAD A BILL THAT PASSED WITHIN 30 DAYS, SWEEPED RIGHT THROUGH THE SENATE AND THE CONGRESS. SO I FIND THAT VERY INTERESTING HOW THAT COMPARES TO WHAT OUR SITUATION HAS BEEN IN AMERICA. NOT ONE LYNCHING BILL HAS BEEN PASSED. NOT ONE. ALL THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN LYNCHED AND KILLED. SO I WANTED TO ADD THAT TO THE TABLE. AND ADD THE VOTE TOUR.

TURLEY: THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THAT UP. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE NOT VISITED THE MEMORIAL IN MONTGOMERY ABOUT AMERICAN LYNCHING PLEASE DO SO. BECAUSE MORE THAN ANY OTHER GROUP IN THIS COUNTRY AND IF WE LOOK AT GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH WHICH IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS A MODERN LYNCHING AND THERE HAVE BEEN 188 DEATHS SINCE HIS DEATH IN 2020. SO THIS IS VERY REAL. NOT BEING TAUGHT. WE DON'T SAY THIS, BLACK LIVES DO NOT REALLY MATTER IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE THE MOVEMENT. AND A VIEWER WANTS TO KNOW, I'LL DIRECT TOWARDS LECIA, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TERRORIST GROUP?

LECIA: WELL I THINK YOU JUST SAID IT, BLACK LIVES DON'T MATTER IN THIS COUNTRY WHICH IS WHY THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES BEGAN. THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER IS ASKED WHY ISN'T

BLACK LIVES MATTER A HATE GROUP BECAUSE THERE IS A GROUP CALLED WHITE LIVES MATTER THAT IS. WE DEFINE IT AS A GROUP THAT MALINES A GROUP OF PEOPLE BASED ON CHARACTERISTICS. BLACK LIVES MATTER IS ABOUT SELF ONLY APPOINTMENT, IT'S ABOUT HEALING THAT KIRAN TALKED ABOUT. LETS ABOUT DEALING WITH TRAUMA AND COMING INTO OUR OWN POWER. IF I CAN GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL STORY OF THE THREE WOMEN WHO FOUNDED BLACK LIVES MATTER AND LAUNCHED THAT HASHTAG AS A LOVE NOTE TO OURSELVES AND AS A REMINDER TO OURSELVES AND THAT'S HOW IT BEGAN. SO PEOPLE WHO -- IF YOU -- I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WHOEVER OFFERED THAT, I'M ASKING YOU, PLEASE LOOK INTO THE HISTORY OF BLACK LIVES MATTER. THERE'S A WEBSITE, TELLS YOU EXACTLY WHAT IT'S ABOUT, HOW AND WHY IT STARTED AND WHAT IT MEANS. I INVITE YOU TO DO YOUR RESEARCH AND COME TO UNDERSTAND. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE THE WORDS BLACK LIVES MATTER FALL FROM YOUR LIPS, THEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

TURLEY: WELL, YOU HAVE OUR SENATORS THAT TOLD THE COUNTRY THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER IS A HATE GROUP, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE CONGRESSMAN SITTING IN THE SENATE RIGHT NOW WHO HAVE LABELED IT A HATE GROUP AND COMPARED IT -- I THINK WE HAD ONE CONGRESSMAN STATE THAT HE WAS NOT AFRAID OF WHAT HAPPENED ON JANUARY 6TH BECAUSE THEY WERE AMERICANS BUT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AFRAID IF IT HAD BEEN BLACK LIVES MATTER. SO -- WE HAVE THAT IMPRESSION.

LECIA: AGAIN I THINK IT'S PEOPLE'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S REAL AND NOT REAL. AND NOT TO BELIEVE WHAT EVERY POLITICIAN SELLS. IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT A LOT OF ANTI-SEMITISM AND ANTI-TRANS, ALL OF IT, COMES FROM OFFICIALS. SO WE ARE PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A CITIZEN IN DEMOCRACY IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON FOR YOURSELF. THAT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

TURLEY: VISIT THE WEBSITE. LEARN ABOUT BLACK LIVES MATTER AND WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO BEGIN WITH. SO ANOTHER VIEWER WANTS TO KNOW, THEY DON'T LIVE IN GEORGIA OR FLORIDA OR ANY OF THE STATES THAT ARE PROMOTING VOTER SUPPRESSION, BUT THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY CAN DO IF THEY'RE NOT IN THESE STATES. IS THERE AN ORGANIZATION THEY CAN JOIN TO HELP THE STATES THAT ARE BEING SUPPRESSED? TRINA, GO AHEAD.

TRINA: I WOULD NOT ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIVE IN THE SOUTH YOUR STATE ISN'T EXPERIENCING IT. ONE OF THE REASONS WE KNOW ABOUT IT THAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE BLACK BELT IS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT AND PEOPLE ARE RESISTING IT. AND ONE OF THE THINGS I APPRECIATE ABOUT WRITER IS RECOGNIZING THAT VOTER SUPPRESSION HAS BEEN HAPPENING FOR A LONG TIME BUT THIS STATE OF IT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN RESPONSE TO OUR WINS. SO SOMETIMES IT BECOMES ABOUT THE POWER OF A NARRATIVE IN WHICH WE ALWAYS FEEL LIKE WE'RE PLAYING DEFENSE AND SO IF PER CANS CHANCE, WHICH I'M SKEPTICAL ABOUT, BUT IF YOU'RE IN A PLACE THAT'S NOT EXPERIENCE EXPERIENCING ANY VOTER SUPPRESSION WHETHER AGAINST BLACKS, ELDERS, NONE OF THAT APPLIES.

TURLEY: OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

TRINA: RIGHT. THAT NOBODY'S VOTE IS BEING SUPPRESSED THEN FIRST OF ALL THAT'S A MODEL FOR THE REST OF US. BUT I WOULD DIG IN TO SEE WHERE IT'S BEING SUPPRESSED AND EVEN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT IT ISN'T HAPPENING SO YOU MAY BE THE ONE TO LIFT UP THE NARRATIVE BECAUSE PART OF THE NARRATIVE FOR US IS THAT WE'RE ALWAYS ON DEFENSE, THEY'RE SUPPRESSING OUR VOTES BUT OFTEN THAT IS IN RESPONSE TO ACCESS THAT WE HAVE HAD. SO WE KNEW SOMETHING WAS GOING TO COME IN GEORGIA WHEN GEORGIA WENT BLUE IN NOVEMBER FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS WELL AS THE TWO SENATE ELECTIONS, I'M MARRIED TO A STATE SENATOR AND THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING AND WAITING AND LISTENING TO THE LEGISLATIVE CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT THE OTHER SIDE IS GOING TO DO BECAUSE THEY ARE UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. SO THEY'RE GOING TO -- THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF STRUGGLE AROUND REDISTRICTING THIS YEAR IN

REVENGE FOR WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR AND WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR IN THE MIDTERMS. SO JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T SEE IT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT HAPPENING WHERE YOU ARE.

TURLEY: THANK YOU FOR THAT. THAT'S A GOOD POINT. MUCH DOES HAPPEN BEHIND THE SCENES. LECIA, YOUR COMMENTS.

LECIA: I COMPLETELY AGREE. AND I WOULD JUST UPLIFT THAT VOTER SUPPRESSION MANIFESTS ITSELF IN A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS. YOU MENTIONED REDISTRICTING, THAT'S A WAY IT HAPPENS NATIONALLY. I DON'T KNOW OF ONE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL JERRYMANDERING, THAT'S A FORM OF VOTER SUPPRESSION AS WELL.

TURLEY: AND IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE STATES YOU'RE HEARING IN THE NEWS. IT COULD BE GOING ON RIGHT NOW AND PROBABLY MORE EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT. SO I WOULD ENCOURAGE THE VIEWER TO PLEASE CHECK INTO WHAT VOTING CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN THEIR PARTICULAR STATES. IT SAYS HOW CAN WHITE PEOPLE BEST GET INVOLVED WITH THINGS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES? IT SEEMS SOMETIMES THAT WHITE PEOPLE THINK THEY DON'T BELONG IN THE NAACP OR IN OTHER PLACES. SO HERE'S ANOTHER WHITE PERSON TRYING TO PUT THEMSELVES IN OUR PLACE. WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THIS PERSON? THEY FEEL THEY MAY NOT BE WELCOMED IF THEY TRY TO JOIN A BLACK GROUP SO IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE THEY CAN DO?

LECIA: I WOULD JUST SAY HISTORICALLY THE NAACP HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPEN TO WHITE PEOPLE. I MEAN, IN THE KIND OF IN ITS EARLIER YEARS -- I WAS REMINDED WHEN I SAW THE SIGN OR THE FLAG THAT SAID A PERSON WAS LYNCHED TODAY, THE NAACP WAS SUPPORTED BY WHITE FOLKS, BY JEWISH WHITE FOLKS, AND STILL IS OPEN TO SUPPORT FROM ANY INDIVIDUAL. SO I THINK IT'S MORE OF A MATTER OF THE PERSON DEVELOPING THEIR OWN COMFORT. IT'S NOT -- I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THEY MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE BUT MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK THROUGH THAT. IF YOU WANT TO WORK FOR CHANGE AND YOU WANT TO EMBRACE THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS AND WORK ALONGSIDE OF OTHERS, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME HARD WORK AROUND CREATING COMFORT FOR YOURSELF OR NOT. I'M NOT COMFORTABLE. I GOT TO GO IN WHITE SPACE ALL THE TIME. NOBODY SAID, ARE YOU COMFORTABLE, LECIA? YOU GOOD? I MEAN. [LAUGHTER] WE'VE BEEN DOING THAT FOREVER. AND STILL TO THIS DAY. SO COME ON NOW.

TURLEY: JUST A LITTLE BRAVERY.

MZURI: JUST WANTED TO ADD THAT THE SPRINGARN AWARD IS NAMED AFTER A JEWISH MAN, VERY HIGH HONOR.

TURLEY: SO YOU SEE HOW ONE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN TAGGED AS A BLACK ORGANIZATION BUT IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AN INTERRACIAL GROUP SO THAT MIGHT BE A VERY EXCELLENT PLACE TO START. AND TRINA, IN YOUR CASE, ISN'T HIGHLAND'S HISTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INTERRACIAL CENTER, CORRECT?

TRINA: YES, THAT'S CORRECT. FOR -- ESPECIALLY EARLY ON IN OUR HISTORY, SAY IN THE 1930S, 40S, 50S, IT WAS ONE OF THE ONLY PLACES IN THE SOUTH WHERE BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR COULD SIT DOWN ELBOW TO ELBOW, SLEEP IN THE SAME BUILDING. IN FACT THE FIRST PLACE OF HIGHLANDER WHERE WE ARE IN MONTEAGLE TENNESSEE GOT SHUT DOWN BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE WERE SAYING WE WERE DOING ILLEGAL STUFF BECAUSE IT WAS ILLEGAL FOR WHITE AND BLACK FOLKS TO SIT AND HAVE MEALS TOGETHER. SO HIGHLANDER ALWAYS STOOD IN THAT PLACE ON THE EDGE OF COMING TOGETHER AND CONSPIRING TOGETHER EVEN AGAINST THESE UNJUST LAWS THAT SAID WE NEED TO BE APART. I THINK FOR THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE COMMENT OR MADE THE QUESTION IS, IF THERE IS DIFFICULTY GOING INTO MULTIRACIAL SPACES AND PREDOMINANTLY

BLACK SPACES, BE IN WHITE SPACES. BECAUSE A LOT OF THIS WORK IS FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO DO WITH OTHER WHITE PEOPLE. AND THE DECONSTRUCTION THAT HAPPENS AROUND WHITE SUPREMACY AND WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALISTS IS A WHITE TO WHITE FOLKS CONVERSATION. WE CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH. NOW WE'RE DOING WORK IN OUR OWN GROUPS, NOT TO SAY WE DON'T COME TOGETHER, BUT GROUPS LIKE SURGE IS A GROUP FOR WHITE PEOPLE BY WHITE PEOPLE WORKING ON RACIAL JUSTICE. SO SOME OF THE WORK NEEDS TO HAPPEN IN SINGLE RACIALIZED SPACES BECAUSE TO BE HONEST, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY THE THINGS TO A WHITE PERSON IN THE WAYS THEY NEED TO HEAR BETTER THAN A WHITE PERSON WOULD DO BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT BECAUSE THEY KNOW YOUR EXPERIENCE BETTER THAN I DO.

SO IT MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET DOWN AND DIRTY WITH OTHER WHITE FOLKS. I SAY THIS TO MY FRIENDS AND COMMUNITIES, GET YO PEOPLE. FOR FOLKS WHO ARE TALKING ABOUT TERRORISTS, THE GROUP THAT GOES OUT AND SHOOTS FOLKS RANDOMLY ARE WHITE MEN. THE PEOPLE COMMITTING THAT ON A REGULAR BASIS, I'M TELLING MY FRIENDS, GO GET YOUR UNCLE WHO'S GETTING RADICALIZED IN THE BASEMENT, TALK TO YOUR AUNTIE WHO'S TALKING RACIST THINGS AT THANKSGIVING. YOU THINK BLACK LIVES MATTER, TALK ABOUT YOUR CHURCH. TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL BOARD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE WITH US TO CARE ABOUT US. EVEN THAT IS A PRIVILEGED IDEA. AND LASTLY, PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN -- THIS IS A PART OF HOW BLACK PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO CAME TO THESE DOORS THROUGH CHATTEL SLAVERY, PEOPLE SEE US AS PROPERTY AND COMMODITIES. ANYBODY CAN ENTER INTO BLACK SPACE AND KNOW WHAT TO DO. THERE IS AN AREA OF STUDY ABOUT IT. YOU CAN GET INTO OUR CULTURE ON SOCIAL MEDIA. JUST BECAUSE SINGERS CAN SING LIKE US, DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW US. DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE AND CULTURE, UNDERSTANDING, PHILOSOPHIES. SO TAKE SOME TIME TO LEARN AND GET YO CHOPS UP AND DON'T ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU LIVE AROUND US OR YOU BEEN AROUND BLACK PEOPLE THAT YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING. I WAS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST BEFORE I WAS A SCIENCE TEACHER. I HAD TO STUDY MANDARIN BEFORE I WENT TO CHINA. EVEN THOUGH I KNOW ABOUT CHINESE THINGS, I HAD TO STUDY THE LANGUAGE, THE CULTURE, AND SIT DOWN AND LISTEN, NOT GIVE MY OPINION, NOT GIVE WHAT I KNOW, BUT JUST SIT AND LISTEN AND ABSORB HOW PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES. AND SO IT MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE POSTER TO LEARN ON YOUR OWN AND IN YOUR GROUP OF WHITE PEOPLE BEFORE YOU WADE OUT INTO THOSE WATERS.

TURLEY: IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AN INTERRACIAL NETWORK FOR PEOPLE. SO WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THIS VIEWER OR COMMENTER ABOUT HOW TO INTERACT IF SHE'S WHITE AND WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BLACK SPACE AS SOON AS.

KIRAN: I THINK ONE OF MY FORMER BOARD MEMBERS SAID ALLOW A STORY TO BE YOUR GUIDE. WHEN I SAY THAT, IT'S LIKE, ALLOW THE STORY TO GUIDE YOU IN THE PLACES THAT YOU LIVE. ALLOW YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE STORIES OF WHAT YOU DON'T SEE. ALLOW YOURSELF TO ALSO LISTEN TO A COMMUNITY PARTICULARLY A COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN SIDELINED FROM THE CANON OF ACADEMIA. AND PARTICULARLY IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, THEY'VE BEEN SIDELINED FROM ACADEMIA. THE STORIES LIE OFTEN IN THE ORAL TRADITION. SO YOU'RE ALLOWING YOURSELF TO LET THE STORY BE YOUR GUIDE, GO FOR THE DISCOVERY. IT'S THE SAME AS EDUCATING YOURSELF.

ANOTHER COMPONENT OF THAT IS FIGURING OUT WHERE YOUR BEST PLACE MIGHT BE AND I WANT TO GIVE ONE EXAMPLE OF THAT. AND IT GOES BACK TO A RECENT EVENT WHERE A STUDENT KNEELING DURING THE AN THEM, MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS AND I THINK IT WAS 2020 LEGISLATORS STATED WITHIN A COUPLE DAYS GOT A LETTER TOGETHER SLAMMING THEM BASICALLY WHICH WAS SO DISHEARTENING BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A SACRED MOMENT FOR THE BLACK ISSUE. AND I THINK EVEN THOUGH THAT HAPPENED, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I FELT SO MUCH HOPE WAS A GROUP OF STUDENTS -- AND THE HEAD OF THAT WAS A WHITE MAN -- YOUNG STUDENTS ORGANIZED, VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND CREATED A DEMONSTRATION ON THE CAMPUS. IT'S THEIR HOME, THEY'RE THE STUDENTS.

YOU KNOW, AGAINST THAT. AND I THINK THAT ORGANIZATION, USING YOUR NETWORKS, USING YOUR SKILLS, USING YOUR NETWORKS AND NOT JUST ON THE STREETS, IN THE CHURCHES, THE PLACE OF WORSHIP IN THE FAMILY STRUCTURES AND ADDRESSING IT WHERE YOU CAN WITH THE POWER THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE AND USING THAT POTENTIAL PRIVILEGE THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO CREATE ACTION AND WE'RE MOVING THE MICROPHONE TO PEOPLE WHO HISTORICALLY HAVEN'T HAD THAT AND YOUR JOB MIGHT BE TO HELP MAKE THAT THAT HAPPEN.

AND ONE THING I ENCOURAGE IS BE REALLY CONSCIOUS OF WHERE THE RACISM GENERATES FROM. IT'S A PLAN. GET TO THE ROOT CAUSE OF WHO'S WRITING THAT STORY, WHO'S WRITING THAT PLAN, AND WHAT IS INSPIRING THOSE PEOPLE TO GO AND DO THE INSURRECTION ON JANUARY 6TH. WHERE IS THAT COMING FROM? GET TO THE ROOT CAUSE OF THAT NARRATIVE AND CHALLENGE THAT, WHETHER WITH A MAN OFFICER, A POLITICIAN OR SOMEONE BEHIND THE SCENES THAT IS CREATING THIS NARRATIVE TO FOOL US AND MANIPULATE US. STORYTELLING IS SACRED AND WHEN SOMEONE MANIPULATES IT TO CREATE HARM LIKE WHAT HAPPENED JANUARY 6TH, THEN THEY'RE ABUSING WHAT'S SACRED TO OUR HUMANITY AND OUR JOB IS TO CALL THAT OUT AND WE DO THAT WHEN IT'S USED TO MANIPULATE TO CREATE VIOLENCE. AND OUR JOB AS STORYTELLERS IS TO CALL THAT OUT AND FIND IT AND ADDRESS IT. SO THERE'S SOME MORE BUT I'LL BE QUIET.

TURLEY: NO, IT'S GOOD STUFF. I'M LOOKING AT SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS AND WAS JUST TRYING TO DECIDE. SO I'M GOING TO THROW IT OUT THERE. HOW DO -- WHY -- WHEN WILL BLACK PEOPLE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS WHEN IT COMES TO -- [LAUGHTER] I KNOW. I'M NOT EVEN SURE -- I MEAN, I FEEL AS THOUGH THIS IS ONE OF THOSE UNDERLYING EMOTIONAL QUESTIONS THAT SOMEONE IS STRUGGLING WITH ABOUT THE VIOLENCE THAT'S HAPPENING OR THE DISCUSSION WE'RE HAVING THAT SOMEHOW THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND I'M NOT SURE FOR WHAT SO MAYBE THE VIEWER CAN CLARIFY THAT A LITTLE MORE.

MZURI: I'LL SAY THIS, WHEN AMERICA TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR DROPPING BOMB ON TULSA OKLAHOMA. IT STARTS WITH AMERICA TAKING SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THE OPPRESSIVE HATEFUL ACTS DONE TO AFRICAN AMERICANS SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE. WE'VE HAD INCREDIBLE COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES THAT WERE SELF DEPENDENT, THAT WERE INDEPENDENT AND NO ONE WANTS TO LOOK AT HOW THEY WERE DESTROYED. THEY JUST WANT TO LOOK AT WHERE WE ARE BUT NOT WHERE WE'VE COME THROUGH FROM SLAVERY TO SUCCESS TO NOW WHERE WE ARE NOW FLEDGLING. I MEAN, THE OTHER DAY I SAW A YOUNG BLACK KID WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND I JUST SAID WOW. I JUST SAID ANYBODY COULD STOP THIS KID FOR NO REASON AT ALL AND JUST HARASS HIM, THE POLICE AND SAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOMEBODY ELSE.

SO I THINK THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS WITH POLICING AND THE RESPONSIBILITY STARTS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE LAWS AND HOW WE'RE TREATED. LIKE I SAID, NO LYNCHING BILLS HAVE BEEN PASSED FOR US. SO THAT'S -- YOU KNOW, SOMEBODY ELSE NEEDS TO -- YOU KNOW, NOT JUST US NEEDS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. AND I WILL AGREE WITH THAT. FOR WHAT I DON'T KNOW, BUT I THINK WE HAVE TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR OURSELVES ON A LOT OF DIFFERENT LEVELS, BUT, YOU KNOW, WHATEVER THE REST OF THAT QUESTION IS MAYBE I COULD ADDRESS IT MORE IN DEPTH IF I GOT THE REST OF THE QUESTION.

TURLEY: LECIA OR TRINA, ANYTHING ELSE BLACK FOLKS NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR? HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER? WHAT MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WE NEED TO PICK UP?

TRINA: I'M GOING TO TRY TO EXERCISE COMPASSION HERE AND ASSUME THAT THAT QUESTION WAS ASKED IN GOOD FAITH. SO THE INTELLECTUAL SIDE OF ME DOES FEEL LIKE IT'S A STRAW MAN AND THAT IT WASN'T ASKED IN GOOD FAITH BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT HERE AND SO I'LL RESPOND THAT I SAID IN MY INTRODUCTION THAT I'M MARRIED TO AN APPALACHIAN PREACHER. SO I WOULD ASK THE QUESTION ABOUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO REMOVE SOMETHING

FROM SOMEBODY ELSE'S EYE IF YOU HAVE A PIECE OF LUMBER IN YOURS? SO THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE FEELINGS THAT BLACK PEOPLE ARE NOT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS, WHAT'S IN YOUR EYE? WHAT ARE THE ACTIONS THAT YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TO MODEL THAT? BECAUSE I THINK THAT WAS THE TEACHING OF JESUS IS THAT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE NOT HOLDING YOURSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR. SO THAT IS THE FIRST QUESTION.

THEN IF YOU ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH BLACK PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND ACTIONS THAT YOU BENEFIT FROM, SO IT MAY NOT BE YOUR DIRECT ACTION, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT COMMUNITIES, TALKING ABOUT HISTORY, WE TRY TO CHOP OFF HISTORY. THERE ARE LONG HISTORIES THAT GOT US HERE. SO WHATEVER YOUR COMMUNITIES IS, ASKER OF THE QUESTION, ARE YOU TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF YOUR COMMUNITY? AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE'S NO OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WHO HAD JIM CROW LAWS. NO OTHER PEOPLE WHO SYSTEMATICALLY LYNCHED PEOPLE BESIDES WHITE PEOPLE. SYSTEMATICALLY MADE LEGISLATION WHO SAID WHO COULD AND COULD NOT MARRY OTHERS. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE OUTLIERS, BUT SYSTEMATICALLY ABLE TO DO THAT AND THEN PASSED DOWN GENERATIONAL WEALTH AS A RESULT OF THAT. SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO POINT FINGERS, THROW STONES, POINT OUT SOMETHING IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S EYE AND SAY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT, YOU HAVE TO BE SURE THAT YOU'RE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IN YOUR COMMUNITY, FOR YOU AND YOURS OF HOW YOU GOT WHERE YOU ARE BEFORE YOU CAN ASSAIL THAT ON OTHER FOLKS.

NOW, IF YOU ARE DOING THAT IN GOOD FAITH, YOU MUST BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH BLACK PEOPLE AND GO ASK THEM. GOOD AND RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. I GUARANTEE WHEN YOU DO, THEY'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THE WORK THAT IS HAPPENING IN BLACK COMMUNITIES TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE, THE WORK TO GET MORE THAN JUST ADEQUATE EDUCATION FOR OUR KIDS, THE WORK TO TAKE CARE OF OUR ELDERLY, THE WORK TO CARE FOR OUR QUEER AND TRANS KINDRED. THE WORK TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE AREN'T STARVING ON THE STREETS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THE WORK TO DEAL WITH ADDICTION. WHEN WE WERE DEALING WITH ADDICTION IT WAS WAR ON DRUGS. WHEN WHITE PEOPLE DEAL WITH IT, IT'S ACADEMIC IN TREATMENT. WHAT OUR FAMILIES ARE DEALING WITH, STILL ARE, TOO. IF YOU LOVE YOUR FAMILY AND YOU LOVE MY FAMILY BECAUSE BLACK LIVES MATTER, THEN BE BALANCED IN OUR QUESTION AND OUR ANSWERS.

TURLEY: AND WHEN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT CHURCHES AND THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, SLAVERY OCCURRED UNDER THE BLESSING OF THE CHURCH, YOU KNOW. THE CHURCH DID ACTUALLY BLESS THE SLAVE TRADE AND IT'S ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED A PART OF A CHRISTIAN DUTY, IN MANY WAYS, TO ENSLAVE BLACKS IN ORDER TO BRING THEM TO THE LIGHT OF THE CHURCH. SO THERE'S ALL SORTS OF MESSED UP -- SORRY, THAT'S NOT PROPER ACADEMIC LANGUAGE -- THERE'S BEEN SO MANY MISCONSTRUED IDEAS WHICH IS WHY I THINK, AGAIN, WE NEED CRITICAL RACE THEORY, WE NEED SOCIAL JUSTICE THEORY, WE NEED YOU TO REALLY KNOW, AS LECIA HAS SAID, SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION. YOU NEED TO REALLY DO SOME WORK, SOME READING AND STUDYING ON YOUR OWN TO REALLY KIND OF -- BEFORE WE START TALKING ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES. SO I DON'T THINK LECIA WANTS TO TOUCH IT SO WE WILL MOVE ON.

LECIA: I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU, TRINA. I APPRECIATE YOUR POSITIVE REFLECTION. I APPRECIATE THAT AND I WANT TO APPROACH IT IN THE SAME LIGHT. AND I DID COME TO THE SAME PLACE AROUND SELF EDUCATION. I JUST READ A PIECE THIS WEEK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF GENERATIONAL WEALTH OR THE LACK OF GENERATIONAL WEALTH AND THE REASON BEHIND THE WEALTH GAP AND WHAT IT'S DONE TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES AND INDIGENOUS FAMILIES. NO OTHER GROUPS FIND THEMSELVES THREE GENERATIONS LATER IN WORSE CONDITION THAN BEFORE. SO THAT INFORMATION IS THERE AND I SOMETIMES WONDER -- AND IT'S NOT HIDDEN. I'M SURE I READ IT IN THE POST OR SOME BASIC MEDIA OUTLET. AND I'M STRUCK BY WHAT PEOPLE PAY ATTENTION TO IN THE NEWS AND WHAT PEOPLE DON'T. ESPECIALLY WHEN I RECOGNIZE INTELLECTUALISM AND THE

VALUE OF INFORMATION AND FACTS THAT AS A WHITE CULTURAL TRAIT OR VALUE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DON'T READ AND BELIEVE DINED OF THE RESEARCH. DHE RESEARCH IS THERE FOR ANY QUESTION THAT YOU HAVE AS TO THE CONDITIONS ON THE RESULTS OF SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION THAT BIPOC COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH. IT'S THERE. AND I JUST NEED YOU TO READ IT AND BELIEVE IT. AND WHAT TROUBLED MY HEART IS THAT I FEEL LIKE I'M PUT IN THE POSITION TO CONVINCING YOU WHEN THE RESEARCH, JUST THE FACTS ARE JUST THERE. THEY'RE THERE.

TURLEY: ARE YOU SURE THAT'S NOT JUST FAKE NEWS, LECIA?

LECIA: AGAIN, THAT'S WHAT YOU CHOOSE. BUT YOU BELIEVE STUFF WHEN YOU WANT TO. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW. I WAS RAISED TO BELIEVE THAT -- I DON'T KNOW IF HARVARD PUTS OUT A RESEARCH STUDY, MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH THERE.

TURLEY: MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRUTH THERE. SO WE TALKED ABOUT CHURCHES QUITE A BIT. WHITE AND BLACK CHURCHES ARE SO DIVIDED. WHAT SUGGESTIONS DO PRESENTERS HAVE TO HELP CHURCH GOES COME TOGETHER TO WORK FOR UNDERSTANDING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE? OBVIOUSLY WE SEE CHURCHES --

LECIA: CAN I START WITH THAT? I WANT TO PICK UP ON WHAT TRINA SAID. I OFTEN FEEL THAT AROUND CHRISTIANITY. THEY'RE ALL CHRISTIAN. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY? AND I WAS RAISED IN THE BLACK CHRISTIAN TRADITION OF COURSE SO I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT BRINGING BLACK AND WHITE CHURCHES TOGETHER BECAUSE I'M TROUBLED BY WHERE CHRISTIANITY IS TODAY AT LARGE.

TURLEY: TRINA, WHAT WOULD YOUR SPOUSE SAY? HOW DO WE BRING THE CHURCHES TOGETHER?

TRINA: LET ME TELL YOU WHY THIS IS FUNNY. I'M A MUSLIM AND NOT CHRISTIAN. I'M MARRIED FOR AN EPISCOPAL PRIEST. I GREW UP IN THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, SO IF ANYBODY ASKS YOU, I'M A PENTECOSTAL MUSLIM. BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE SPIRIT. SO I DO THINK THAT LECIA IS RIGHT, THAT FIRST OF ALL, THE CHURCH IS MORE THAN ONE THING AND PBS JUST PUT OUT A SPECIAL A FEW MONTHS AGO ABOUT THE BLACK CHURCH. THERE'S MORE THAN ONE CHURCH AND I LARGELY -- I WON'T SAY ACCUSE BUT WHATEVER'S CLOSE ADJACENT, THE CHURCH FOR WHITE NATIONALISM, BECAUSE IT'S WHITE CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST RIGHT NOW AND THAT HAS COME THROUGH DOMINIONIST THEOLOGIES ABOUT WHAT GOD BELIEVES ABOUT THIS. SO LET'S BE CLEAR THAT WHILE THERE'S SOME OVERLAP, THE BLACK CHURCH AS AN ENTITY ONLY EXISTS BECAUSE WHITE PEOPLE SAY YOU CAN'T BE THERE. THE FACT THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT CHURCHES IS BECAUSE WHITE PEOPLE WERE SELLING US A PARTICULAR CHRISTIANITY ESPECIALLY DURING ENSLAVEMENT AND THEN POST ENSLAVEMENT THERE WAS A LOT OF STRUGGLE.

I WENT TO A METHODIST SEMINARY AND THERE ARE OTHER BLACK AUTONOMOUS LIKE AMES. THOSE EXIST BECAUSE THE WHITE PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT US WITH THEM. BECAUSE GOD SAYS YOU ARE LESS THAN WE ARE. SO LET'S BE CLEAR THAT THERE'S SOME REPAIR THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN FOR CHURCHES TO COME TOGETHER. I KNOW THERE ARE SOME CHURCHES THAT ARE INTERRACIAL AND I WOULD ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP AND THE CONVERSATIONS THEY'RE HAVING ABOUT THAT REPAIR, BUT I THINK FOR WHITE CHURCHES, ESPECIALLY THINKING ABOUT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WHITE CHURCHES HOLD SOME OF THE MOST REAL ESTATE AND SOME OF THE MOST CAPITAL IN THIS COUNTRY. AT ONE POINT THE METHODIST PUBLISHING COMPANIES WERE SOME OF THE BIGGEST IN THE COUNTRY. I THINK THE MAJORITY OF THE U.S. PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN METHODIST OR BAPTIST. SO THERE'S A CONNECTION THERE AND A LOT OF THAT HAS BEEN BECAUSE OF COLONIALISM AND MISSIONARY WORK AND WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM HISTORICALLY AND GENERATIONAL WEALTH BEING PASSED DOWN IN HOUSEHOLDS AND ALSO INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE CHURCH.

SO FOR WHITE AND BLACK CHURCHES TO COMING TO, THERE'S IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS THAT Y'ALL NEED TO HAVE ABOUT WHY Y'ALL AREN'T TOGETHER ALREADY. WHITE FOLKS SAID YOU CAN'T BE HERE. I WORK WITH ATLANTA PROTEST AND WE PROTEST AS PEOPLE OF FAITH BUT THE OTHER SIDE OF OUR WORK IS TO WORK ON AND WRITE THROUGH THEOLOGY FOR OUR FOLKS OF FAITH. I WRITE PROGRESSIVE AND LIBERATIVE ISLAMIC THEOLOGIES, CHRISTIAN AND BUDDHIST FOLKS, WRITE BE THEOLOGIES TO SHARE WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO DON'T FEEL LIKE THEY HAVE THE TOOLS IN BIBLE STUDY. THEY HAVE DOMINIONISTS, EXCLUSIONISTS, AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISTS AND HOME SCHOOL CURRICULA, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS. SO FOLKS CAN CREATE TACTICS IN THEIR OWN CONTEXTS BUT OUR WORK IS TO CREATE TOOLS SO WHEN YOU ASK THAT QUESTION I CAN POINT YOU TO A RESOURCE AND SAY THIS IS WHAT SOME OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL FOLKS DO.

SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FEELINGS OF SCARCITY. AND IT SHOWS UP AS POLITICS OF SCARCITY. IF THIS POT OF MONEY EXISTS, IF YOU HAVE IT, I CAN'T HAVE IT. IF BLACK LIVES MATTER, THAT MEANS WHITE LIVES DON'T MATTER. WE HAVE TO COME THROUGH WITH POLITICS OF ABUNDANCE. THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH. MORE THAN ENOUGH FOOD, MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY, MORE THAN ENOUGH SPACE, MORE THAN ENOUGH JUSTICE FOR ALL OF US. SO WE HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF THAT PLACE OF THINKING THROUGH A LENS OF SCARCITY AND I THINK CHURCH -- BECAUSE THIS IS A MAJORITY CHRISTIAN NATION -- CHURCH IS THE FIRST PLACE FOR IT TO HAPPEN TO CHANGE THIS ENTIRE CULTURE AND I SAY THAT AS A MUSLIM. BECAUSE YOU HAVE THE CRITICAL MASS OF PEOPLE, A CRITICAL MASS OF RESOURCES, AND YOU HAVE TENETS, FUNDAMENTAL TENETS THAT PEOPLE WILL GIVE THEIR MONEY TO.

TURLEY: TRINA. THANK YOU SO MUCH. WE'RE OUT OF TIME BUT I GOT TO THROW IT TO KIRAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH. YOU GET THE LAST WORD FOR THIS ONE AS WE LEAVE.

KIRAN: ONE THING I WOULD SAY, EVERYTHING TRINA JUST SAID I BELIEVE SPEAKS FOR THE HUMANITIES. IT'S ABOUT TURNING OFF FOX NEWS, CONNECT WITH THE HUMANITIES, CONNECT WITH PEOPLE. THE REASON I JUST WANTED TO SAY ONE THING VERY QUICKLY IS THIS IS THE 12TH SESSION OF THE FREEDOM STORIES AS THEY'RE CLOSING AND I WANTED TO SAY PUBLICLY IN THIS FORMAT A THANKS TO DR. ALICESTYNE. YOU HAVE REALLY -- I'M GOING TO START CRYING -- YOU HAVE BROUGHT THIS PROGRAM IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WAY AND BROUGHT TOGETHER SCHOLARSHIP, STORYTELLERS, YOU'VE HELPED ALL OF US TO CULTIVATE MEANING IN THESE MOMENTS AND YOU HAVE DONE IT ENTIRELY THROUGH A PANDEMIC. AND YOU ARE QUITE FRANKLY THE NICEST AND KINDEST PERSON I'VE EVER WORKED WITH. SO I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU. AND THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENE, THE TECH SUPPORT HAS BEEN THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY. BUT ALICESTYNE, YOU'VE BEEN INCREDIBLE TO WORK WITH. YOU HAVE TRULY MADE AN IMPACT TO THE IDEA BUT US AS AN INSTITUTION LEARNING HOW TO DO THINGS BETTER. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

TURLEY: THANK YOU KIRAN. THANK THE CENTER. THANK OUR PANELISTS. PLEASE KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING. IT'S NOT AN END, JUST A NEW BEGINNING. THANK YOU SO MUCH. AND IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE, PLEASE VISIT ALL THESE WONDERFUL RESOURCES THAT WE'VE PROVIDED FOR YOU IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THE LEARNING. SEE YOU. PEACE.