A Conversation about the Manifestation of White Supremacy in the Institution of Child Welfare, Level 1

Malena Arnaud, MSW, Center for Family Representation, NY

Corey Best, Birth Parent National Network, FL

MJ Jihad, MSW, MJ Consulting Firm, CO

Renee Jones, MSW, Washington State Office of Public Defense

Beilul Ogbazghi, Washington State Office of Public Defense
The Conversations

• Legacies of White Supremacy and Anti-Blackness
• Become Grounded in the Dimensions of Racism
• Interrogate several ways White Supremacy Manifests itself in Child Welfare
• Insights, Reflections, Deepened Truths
Community Agreements

- Choose authenticity over comfort
- Embrace messiness & kindness
- Practice personal and group accountability
- Be aware of equity of voice
- Listen with the same passion with which you want to be heard
- Honor subjectivity versus objectivity
Racial Hierarchical Ideology
*Legacies that churn white supremacy*

- Patriarchy
- Capitalism
- Theft of Native Land
- Segregationist
- Slavery
- Colonization
- Universal Christianity
- Assimilationist
- Race Evasion
"[T]he institution of slavery, per se, is as justifiable as the relation of husband and wife, parent and child, or any other civil institution of the State, and is most necessary to the well-being of the negro, being the only form of government or pupilage which can raise him from barbarism, or make him useful to himself or others; and I have no doubt but that the institution, thus far in our country, has resulted in the happiness and elevation of both races; that is, the negro and the white man. In no period of the world’s history have three millions of the negro race been so elevated in the scale of being, or so much civilized or Christianized, as those in the United States, as slaves. They are better clothed, better fed, better housed, and more cared for in sickness and in health, than has ever fallen to the lot of any similar number of the negro race in any age or nation; and as a Christian people, I feel that it is the duty of the South to keep them in their present position, at any cost and at every peril, even independently of the questions of interest and security."

"Contrabands" were enslaved people who escaped from plantations and sought protection from Union forces during the Civil War. These men escaped from plantations in South Carolina in 1862. (Collection of the New-York Historical Society, neg # 44751.)
Malena Arnaud, LMSW
• Social Work Supervisor
• Center for Family Representation, New York
• marnaud@cfrny.org

The implications that “white as right” has on the institution of child welfare, foster care and social work practice
Oppression, Myths and the Interconnected Bonds that Reproduce Racial Disparities

Beilul Ogbazghi
• Parent Representation Program Social Service Worker
• Contracted with the Washington State Office of Public Defense

Beilulo@parentsrepwa.org

• Black and brown children and youth are disproportionately represented in Child Welfare
• Racial myths justify and perpetuate racially discriminatory treatment of Black and brown bodies
• The foster care system is an industrial complex
In the years before the Civil War, inflated estimates of mental illness among free blacks were used by anti-abolitionist to “prove” that blacks were better off as slaves. (Painting Insanity Black: Why are there more Black Schizophrenics, Annie Murphy Paul)
Weaponizing White Womanhood

Renee Jones, MSW
• Defense Social Worker
• Washington State Office of Public Defense
• ReneeJ@ParentRepWA.org
• Erasure of liberal white women in white violence
• Power in gatekeeping in white supremacist systems & structures
Justice Starts With YOU

Level 2—Cultivating anti-racism in practice!
Wednesday September 16, 2020
1:30-3:00p Est

Continuous institutional and structural analysis

Confronting and naming racism

Courageous partnerships with families

Rigorous organizational self-assessment

Shared Accountability

Commitment to action, innovation and transformational change