

Call to Urgent, Loving Action for The Earth and Her Inhabitants

The Earth and Her Inhabitants

**New England Yearly Meeting
2020 Sessions**

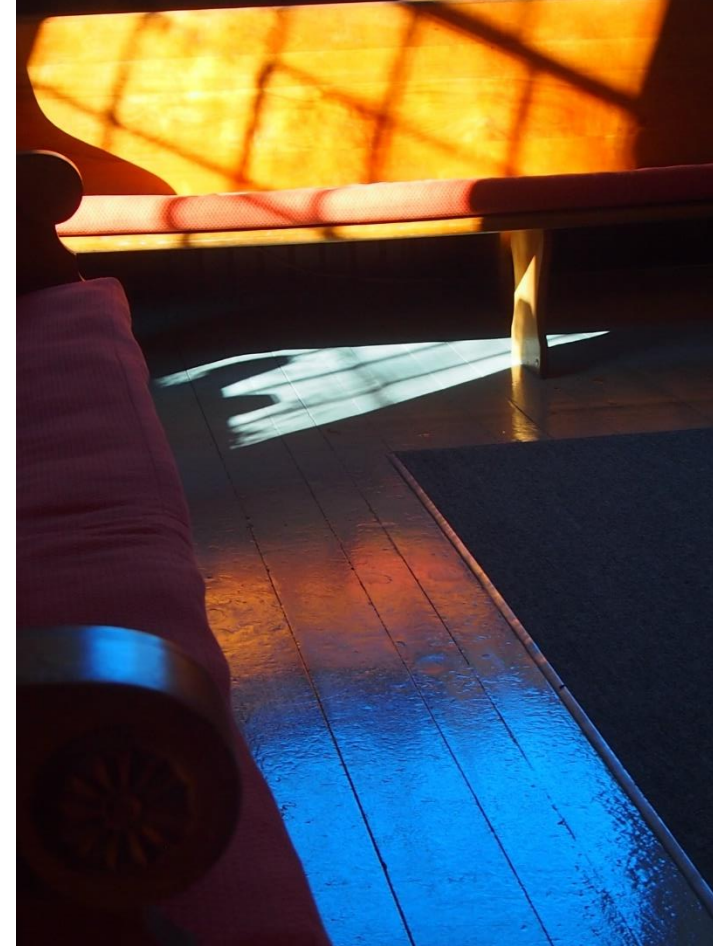
Earthcare Ministry Committee
Racial, Social and Economic
Justice Committee



NEW ENGLAND
QUAKERS

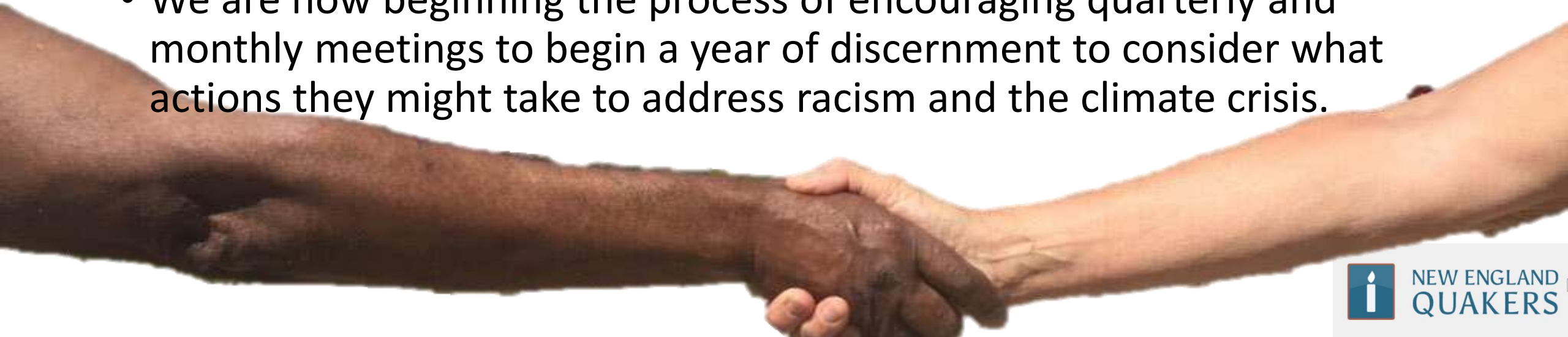
Introductions

- Gail Melix, co-clerk, Earthcare Ministry Committee
- Steve Gates, co-clerk, Earthcare Ministry Committee
- Beth Morrill, clerk, Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee
 - Contact any of us at caltoaction@neym.org
- Why are we here?
 - A major NEYM function is to support monthly & quarterly meetings!
 - Copy of this presentation at climatecalculator.org by tomorrow



Overview of 2020 Call

- Inspired by 2012 Kabarak Call <http://www.fwcc.world/call.pdf>
- At NEYM 2020 Sessions, attendees minuted their affirmation of a “Call to Urgent, Loving Action for the Earth and Her Inhabitants” presented jointly by the Earthcare Ministry Committee and the Racial, Social & Economic Justice Committee.
- We are now beginning the process of encouraging quarterly and monthly meetings to begin a year of discernment to consider what actions they might take to address racism and the climate crisis.



What is the background of the Call to Action?

- The Call arose for four reasons:
 - The deaths of George Floyd and many others have awakened in society, and our Society, a desire to address systemic racism
 - The climate crisis has become increasingly visible – and local – for many, and scientists tell us we are running out of time to avoid the worst impacts of that crisis
 - A series of videos presented as a Virtual Plenary at the 2019 Sessions by Lisa Graustein led many of us to see the underlying problems of both racism and the climate crisis arose from a common source – namely our unquestioning belief in the Doctrine of Discovery.
 - Some of us have discerned a leading to take actions to address social justice.

The Doctrine of Discovery

- We will start with the Doctrine of Discovery because it helps us understand where we are now
- You can view all of Lisa Graustein's virtual plenaries on the NEYM site.
- But today, we're going to share a section of a key video she created about the Doctrine of Discovery:
 - <https://neym.org/recordings/news/invitation-2019-annual-sessions-plenary> Doctrine of Discovery, video on minute, view this section: 4:03—9:24



The Call to Urgent, Loving Action

- Some of us may not have been at Sessions, so we're going to replay the presentation of the Call that was shown there.
- The text of The Call, along with other information, can be found on the NEYM website:
 - <https://neym.org/call-urgent-loving-action-resources-engagement>
- And the video version is here:
 - <https://youtu.be/3kiXR6lyl88>



Our message: there is hope!

- The hope comes from you and your meeting taking loving action.
- Which makes you more hopeful.
- Which encourages you to take more action....



Helping your monthly meeting

- We are committed to helping monthly meetings in their discernment. **What does your monthly meeting need to help it in its discernment about The Call to Action?**
 - Getting started (where are you and your meeting?)
 - See slides 14-15 of this presentation
 - Resource materials?
 - <https://neym.org/call-urgent-loving-action-resources-engagement>
 - Worship sharing support?
 - Workshops (led by a Quaker)?
 - Other?
- Please write us at calltoaction@neym.org to let us know what we can do to help.
- Optional: include where you think your meeting is on anti-racism and climate, and a contact person (if not yourself) for your meeting.



We are encouraging meetings to help one another

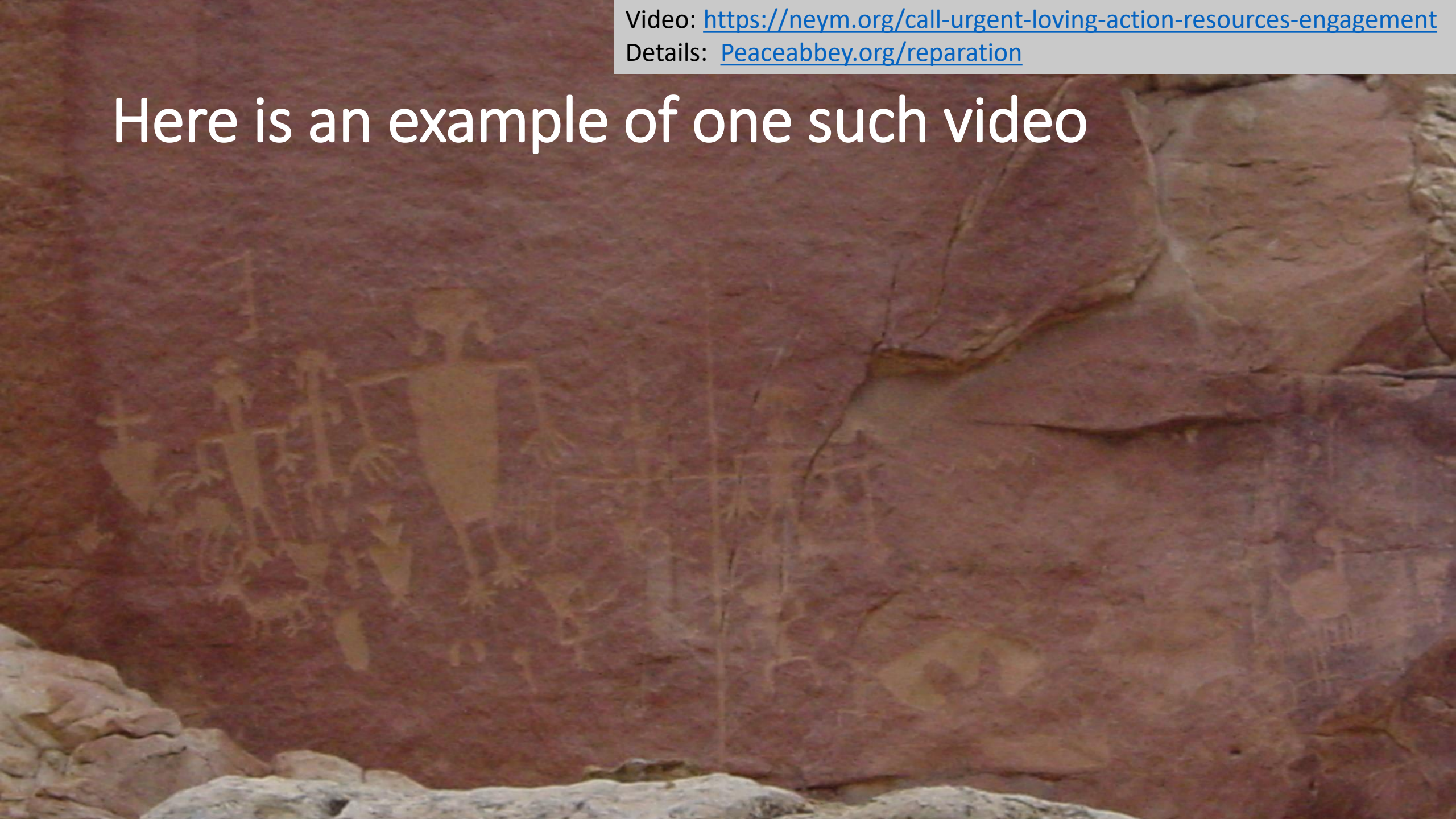
- Are you willing to share your experiences to date on anti-racism and reducing the climate crisis? If so, we are encouraging meetings to record videos (3-6 minutes) on Zoom describing their experiences. We'll edit and post these for you so other meetings can use them as a resource.
- See: <https://neym.org/call-urgent-loving-action-resources-engagement> for examples.



Video: <https://neym.org/call-urgent-loving-action-resources-engagement>

Details: [Peaceabbey.org/reparation](https://peaceabbey.org/reparation)

Here is an example of one such video



The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice

- * We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbors as ourselves, to aid the widow and the orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.
- * We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?” (Job 38:4)
- * We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.
- * We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and ecojustice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.



<http://www.fwcc.world/call.pdf>



So what can we do about racism and climate change? (Resources for your monthly meeting)

- We can begin with understanding where we and our meetings are now.
- Please look at each of the following slides and write down where you are personally (for your own use only) and where you think your meeting is.
 - If you/your meeting is at several of these steps, pick the one that is most representative of where you/most of the meeting are
 - Depending upon where you are, you may want to consider different options in determining what actions to take.

Journey on climate action

1. **Denial.** Deny that climate change is occurring.
2. **Grudging acceptance.** Agree that climate change is occurring but argue that it is not caused by human action (or inaction).
3. **Passive acceptance.** Agree that climate change is occurring and is man-made, but don't take action because of being overwhelmed by the immensity of the problem.
4. **Local personal action.** Commit to a few, then to an on-going set, of actions over time to significantly reduce one's carbon footprint.
5. **Personal inner transition.** Realize that climate change is just one of the issues caused by our lack of proper stewardship of ourselves and the planet. Start working on the "inner transition" (acceptance of the need to change one's worldview) required to address this.
6. **Expanded horizons.** Look for inspiration from other (e.g., indigenous) cultures and how they have addressed the same problems.
7. **Sustained broader action.** Realize that reducing one's footprint by the desired 80% (or so) isn't really possible without societal action on how goods and services are produced, so become involved with others in social/political action.
8. **Societal transitions.** Help others make the inner transition and expand their horizons.
9. **Drawdown.** Realize that social/political action needs to include not just reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted, but actually removing them from the atmosphere. Take actions to encourage societal changes that lead to drawdown.
10. **Climate justice.** Combine climate action with social justice, so that those most affected by climate change are the ones to benefit from your actions. Do this at as large a scale as possible.

Source: Stephen C. Gates. Earthcare Ministry

Journey on anti-racism action

1. **Actively Joins in the Behaviour**

Actions that directly support the oppression of the target group; making fun of people that don't fit into the traditional roles/characteristics of the agent group; engaging in verbal and/or physical harassment of target group members

2. a) **No Response: Denying or Ignoring**

Inaction that supports oppressive behaviours and discrimination against the target group; unwillingness or inability to understand the effects of oppressive behaviours

2. b) **No Response: Recognizing but Not Action**

Recognition of the harmful effects of oppressive behaviours/discrimination; this recognition does not result in action to interrupt; taking action is prevented by lack of knowledge of what to do, lack of willingness to do it

3. **Educate Oneself: (Awareness)**

Learning more about own bias/fears/and comfort levels; being able to explore and claim their own culture and identity; recognition of the harmful effects of oppressive behaviours/discrimination; educates oneself to learn more about the target group and about oppression

4. **Interrupt the behaviour: (Skills)**

Increased confidence and ability to confront inappropriate behaviour related to multicultural issues; willingness to provide opportunities for residents to learn more about multicultural issues

5. a) **Interrupt and Educate: Questioning and Dialoguing (Skills/Knowledge)**

Recognize small cultural differences; able to articulate the difference between oppression and discrimination; attempt to begin educating others; goes beyond just interrupting oppressive behaviours to interaction & engaging people in dialogue

5. b) **Interrupt and Educate: Supporting and Encouraging (Knowledge/Social Action)**

Supporting and encouraging the anti-oppressive actions of others; risk-takers in interactions involving multicultural issues; actively educate on multicultural issues; willingness to reach "out of their comfort zone"

6. **Initiate an Organized Response (Social Action)**

Actively anticipate and identify interpersonal, institutional, and/or societal oppressive actions and practices, and works to change them; experience and celebrate different cultures