

SUGGESTIONS TO WHITE AMERICANS WHO WANT TO IMPROVE
RACE RELATIONS

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If white Americans want to contribute significantly to the improvement of race relations in the United States, there are several things which they may do. Some of these are the following:

1. Recognize that Negroes, as American citizens, are entitled to equality of opportunity, equal protection of the law, no civic restrictions because of race or color, for which origin they are not responsible.

2. Recognize that as human beings, like other non-Negro human beings, they desire to perpetuate their biological heritage.

3. Recognize that they have the right to transmit their heritage, and that their offspring should not be penalized because of their Negroid features or their Negro ancestry.

4. Recognize that contemporary Negroes and their ancestors are, and have been, denied equality of opportunity, equal protection of the laws, and equal access to public services, because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

5. Recognize that over the years white Americans have profited economically and educationally from the labor of Negroes, and that even now they, as a racial group, are benefiting more than Negroes as a race from the labor of Negroes.

6. Recognize that the denial of equality of opportunity, and of equal protection and services are undemocratic and unconstitutional.

7. Try to imagine themselves as American citizens, segregated, restricted, and deprived, as Negroes are, and try to imagine how they would feel and act.

8. Recognize that Negro Americans have the constitutional right to expect, and to work for, the kinds of opportunities, protection, and services which white Americans want for themselves.

9. Recognize that a principle of social justice is that from those who have benefited much, much is expected.

10. Recognize that it is undemocratic, if not immoral, for a person or a group to exploit unfairly another person or group.

11. Recognize that those who have been blessed or benefited have the responsibility to lead in the promotion of the general welfare and in the removal of civic injustice.

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