confronting racism denial tools for action *within* **the health sector**

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

Keynote Address Session Two

"Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Health Care: Clinician and Health Care Organization Perspectives" Unequal Treatment Revisited: The Current State of Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

> *Via Zoom from London, England, United Kingdom* 12 July 2023

Anti-racism is a process

Name racism Ask"How is racism operating here?" Organize and strategize to act

1: Name racism

Racism exists

Racism exists Racism is a system

Racism exists Racism is a system Racism saps the strength of the whole society

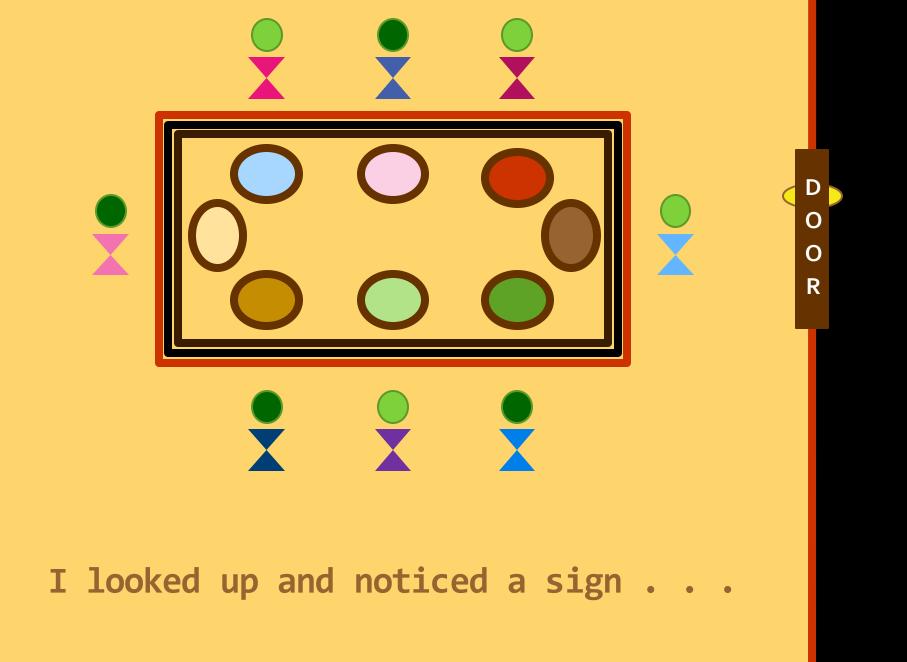
Racism exists Racism is a system Racism saps the strength of the whole society We can act to dismantle racism

Dual Reality: A restaurant saga

RESTRURANT







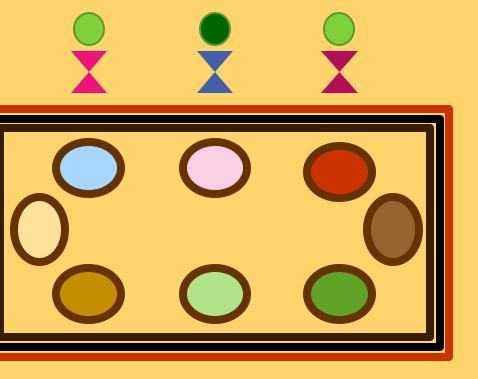






Racism structures "Open/Closed" signs in our society.





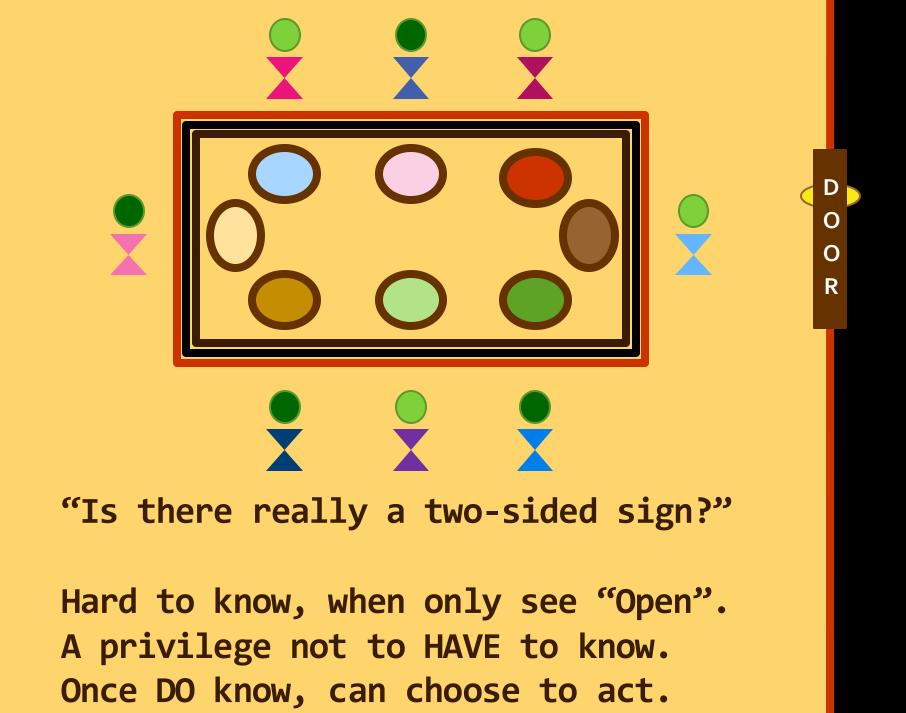
It is difficult to recognize a system of inequity that privileges us. Those on the outside are very aware of the two-sided nature of the sign.

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A system

Jones CP. ConfrontingInstitutionalized Racism. *Phylon* 2003;50(1-2):7-22.

A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value

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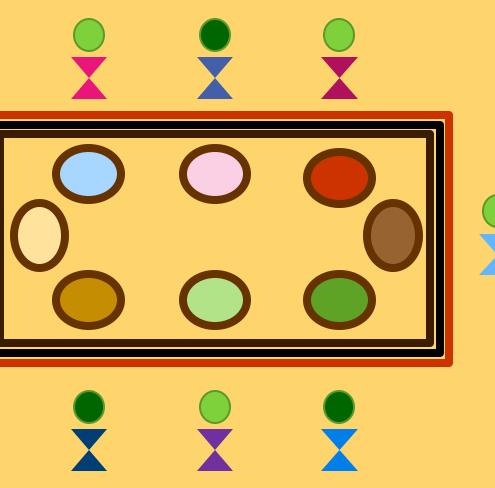
- Unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities
- Unfairly advantages other individuals and communities

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A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call "race"), that

- Unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities
- Unfairly advantages other individuals and communities
- Saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources

Jones CP. Confronting Institutionalized Racism. Phylon 2003;50(1-2):7-22.



Benefitted by the *status quo*

They do NOT:

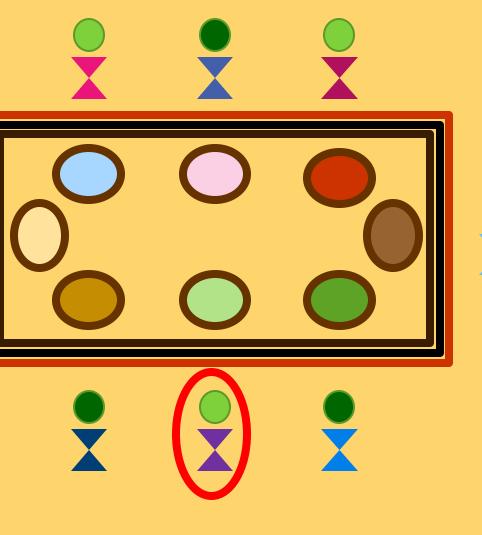
- Wonder why no one else is entering
- Want to examine the sign
- Care to know what the "outsiders" are saying
- Believe an "outsider" could add to their conversation
- Wonder how the food they are eating gets there
- Want to budge from their seats at the table

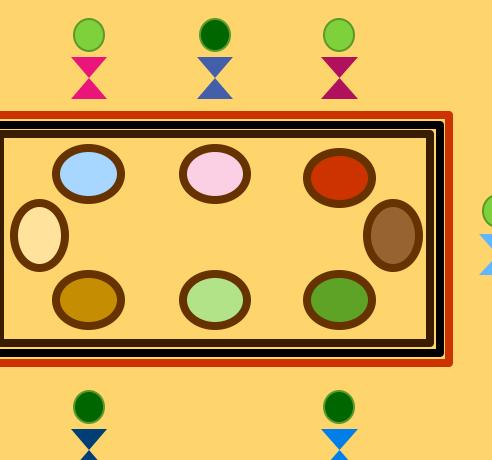
Know two things

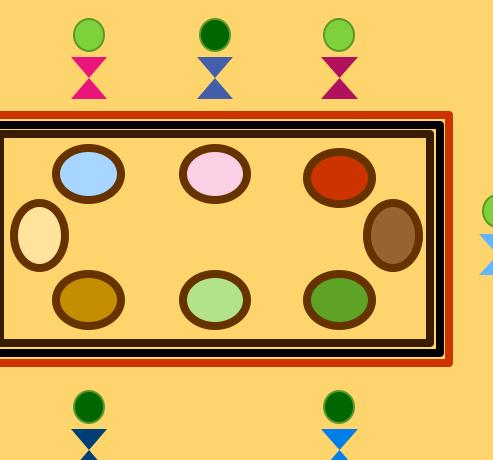
They KNOW that:

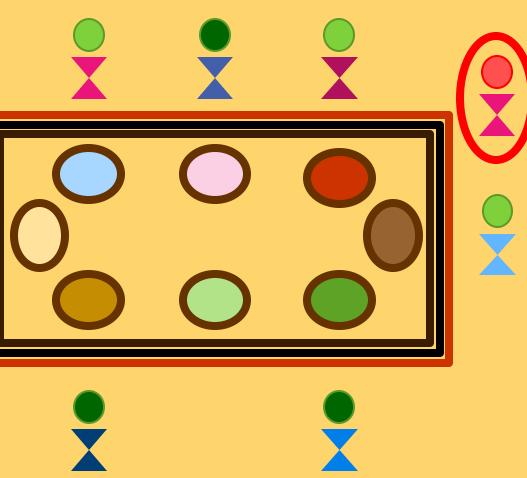
- There is a two-sided sign going on
- The operation of that two-sided sign saps the strength of the whole society

Circumstances of birth do not completely determine values









Be courageous

- Be curious
- Be collective
- Build community

Jones CP, Corbie G (podcast host). *A Different Kind of Leader,* Season 2 Opener, Part I, October 13, 2020. See https://www.differentkindofleader.com/episodes/episode/4bb6851e/be-courageous-be-curious-interviewing-dr-camara-jones-part-i.

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Travel as much as you can, both across town and around the world

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Care about the whole

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- **Care about the whole**
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- Organize! Collective action is power

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Be interested | believe | join in the stories of others

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- Be interested | believe | join in the stories of others
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- Go across town and stay a while

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Identify mechanisms

Jones CP. Toward the Science and Practice of Anti-Racism: Launching a National Campaign Against Racism. **Ethnicity and Disease** 2018;28(Suppl 1):231-234.

Identify mechanisms

- Structures
- Policies
- Practices
- Norms
- Values

These are the elements of decision-making!

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Structures: the *who?, what?, when?*, and *where?* of decision-making

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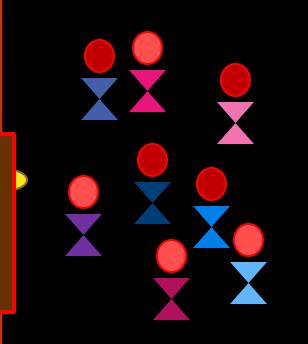
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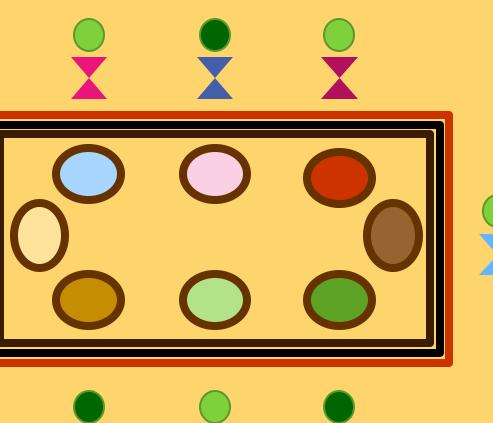
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3: Organize and strategize to act

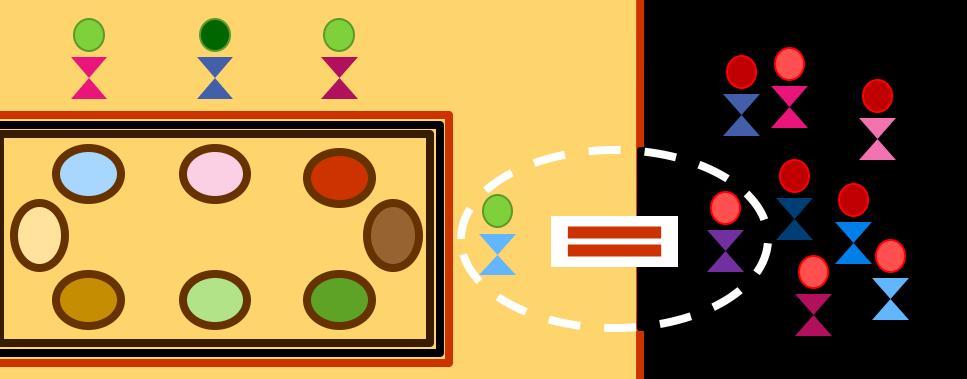




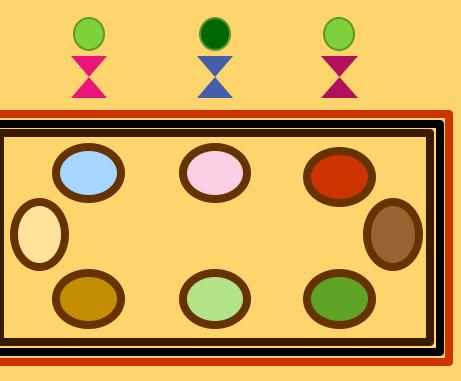
What can we do today?



Look for evidence of two-sided signs

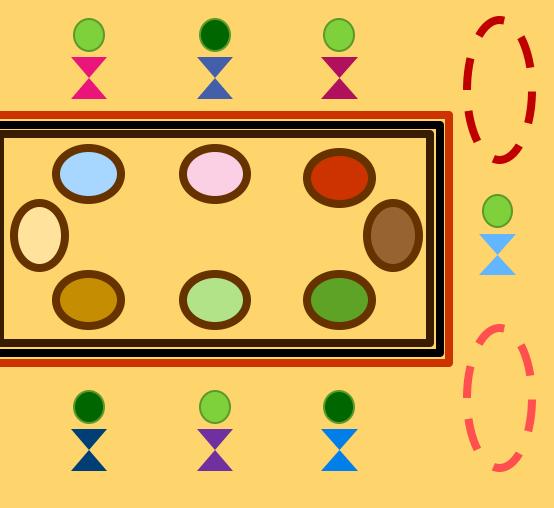


Burst through bubbles to experience our common humanity

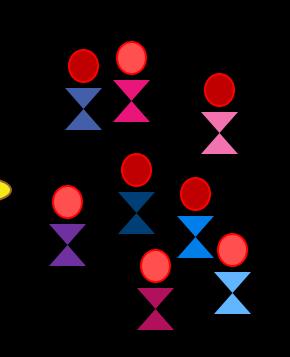


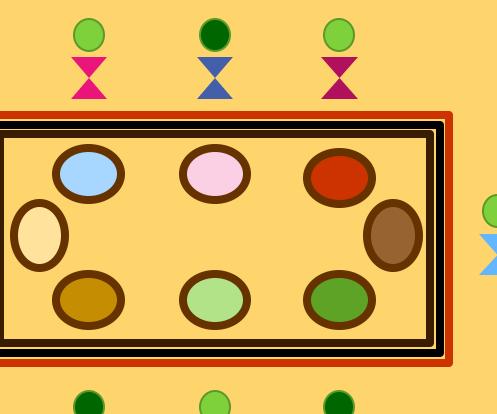
Be interested

Believe Join in The stories of others

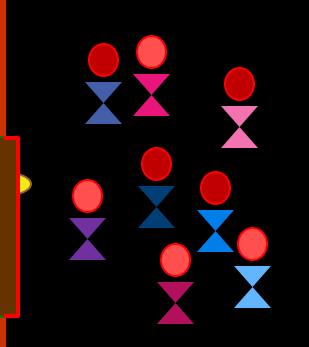


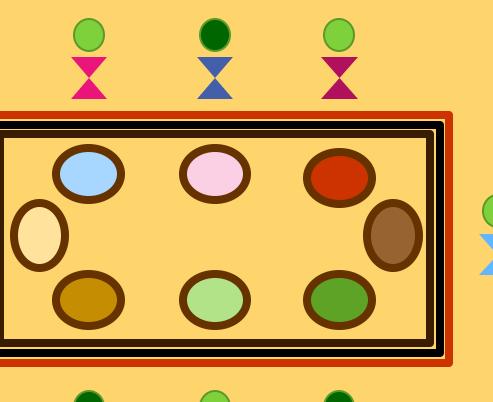
See "the absence of"



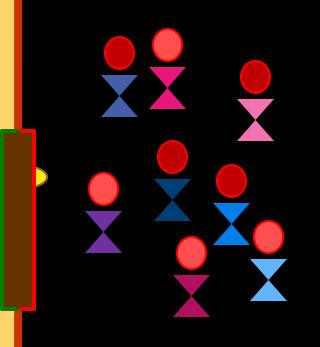


Reveal inaction in the face of need

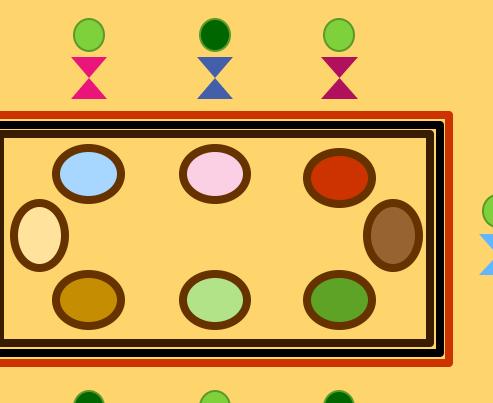




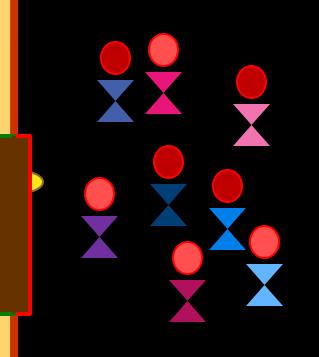
X



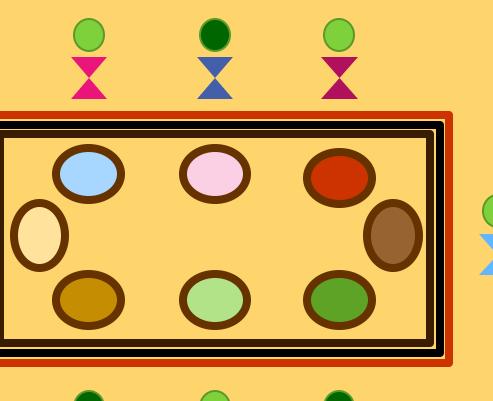
Know our power

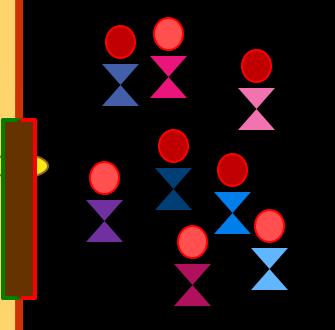


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Action is power





Collective action is power

Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

Leverhulme Visiting Professor in Global Health and Social Medicine *King's College London*

Past President *American Public Health Association*

Adjunct Professor *Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University* **Senior Fellow and Adjunct Associate Professor** *Morehouse School of Medicine*

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