

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh Center for Race and Gender Equity

ACTION CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

December 16th, 2020

Immigration and Racism

PANELISTS

- Yinka Aganga-Williams, Executive Director Acculturation for Justice, Access, and Peace Outreach (AJAPO)
www.ajapopittsburgh.org or email info@ajapopittsburgh.org
- Aya Attal, Fellowship Coordinator at Global Minds Initiative
<https://globalminds.world/about/#team>
- Guillermo Velazquez, Executive Director Pittsburgh Hispanic Development Corporation
www.phdcincubator.org; 412-343-0545; info@phdcincubator.org

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION & RESOURCES

- Immigrants to the US, including Pittsburgh, experience racism and prejudice about their culture, religion, and language. Many immigrants arrive to the US with education and skills and contribute to the local economy. However, they are often mis-perceived as unskilled or unqualified.
 - Important and accurate facts about immigrants in PA that dispel many myths and misunderstandings:
<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/immigrants-in-pennsylvania>
 - A snapshot of economic contribution by immigrants within Pittsburgh region:
<http://research.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Advancing-the-Pittsburgh-Region.pdf>

Missed December's Action Conversation?

You can find recordings of all our previous Action Conversations at youtube.com/ywcapgh

Resources and reading:

When settling into new communities, many immigrants encounter language barriers and must navigate unfamiliar medical, legal, and daily living situations. Services in a variety of languages and connections with both new neighbors and familiar culture can be resources for success.

- Resources for Immigrants:
 - ✓ http://www.ajapopittsburgh.org/programs_services.aspx
 - ✓ <https://www.phdcincubator.org/community/citizenship>
 - ✓ <http://www.vibrantpittsburgh.org/Module/DocMan/DocFileFile?id=58>
 - ✓ <https://www.jfcspgh.org/services/refugee-immigrant-services/>

TAKING ACTION

Community members can challenge racism and anti-immigration myths by acting as allies and advocates. Learn more and/or volunteer at organizations and seek out new experiences and conversations:

- ✓ <https://globalminds.world/programs/> for youth engagement
- ✓ <https://www.helloneighbor.io/> to support refugee families
- ✓ <https://www.ansarpitt.org/> for immigrant services and relief

Contact your local, state and federal elected officials and request/hold them accountable for supporting fair and equitable immigration policies and funding that meet fully people's needs.

- City of Pittsburgh | Locate your Ward/council rep and contact information:
<https://pittsburghpa.gov/council/neighborhoods-wards>
- Allegheny County | Locate your council member:
<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/county-council/council-members.aspx>
- Find your PA Legislators with this online tool:
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>
- Locate your US elected officials:
<https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>