

# HOW TO TALK ABOUT REPARATIONS

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## Self-reflection

**Ask yourself:** What identities do I hold? How are they similar to or different from the person I am speaking with? Are there areas for mistrust and bias? How might my identities and beliefs contribute to, impact, or influence the conversation? How much am I contributing to the conversation compared to the other person?

**Be prepared:** What questions can you ask to find out what issues are important to someone? You need to be able to quickly connect with them on a topic they care about, and it's important to meet people where they are at. Are you prepared to respond to someone who has a negative reaction? Follow the principle of unity- struggle-unity. This means start from a point of mutual understanding, be prepared to address points of disagreement or misunderstanding, and end on a point of solidarity.

**Action:** How can you move someone toward action? Do you know how to uphold the principles of self-determination? Do you know what kinds of action someone can take to further the movement for reparations while minimizing the risk of harm to marginalized communities? Are you able and prepared to act in a situation that has potential to cause harm?

## Scenario 1

You're going door to door in a nearby neighborhood talking with people about an upcoming event around reparations. The person who answers knows vaguely about reparations, but needs some more information as they aren't sure about how they can get involved or if they even should.

## Scenario 2

You're hanging out with a friend and you're talking about broad social issues happening (that can be lack of access to healthcare, to education, housing, etc). Navigate from talking broadly about issues to the disproportionate impact on Black Americans and how reparations can help change things for everyone.

## Notes

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# GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

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## **Talk to people about reparations**

Identify three people and make a plan to connect with them to talk about the movement for reparations in Champaign County.

## **Take the CURC reparations survey:** <https://shorturl.at/7XZ6K>

The purpose of this survey is to gather community input on reparations-related measures in Champaign County and other Illinois communities. Responses help guide CURC in understanding public perspectives, identifying community needs, and shaping effective and just policy recommendations.

## **Attend a CU Reparations Coalition Meeting**

CURC meets the third Thursday of every month at New Covenant Fellowship (NCF), 124 West White Street in Champaign.

## **Get involved with the PSL**

The Party for Socialism and Liberation is active in many struggles and movements throughout central Illinois, including the movement for reparations in Champaign County. If you haven't already, sign up for our mailing list. You can also sign up to join reparations outreach teams. Sign up sheets are available now, so don't leave before signing up to take further action. And stay in know by following @psl.cil on Instagram and Facebook.

## **Join the Action Network:** [pslweb.org/action](http://pslweb.org/action)

The PSL Action Network is a way for everyone to get involved in building the socialist movement. Every month, members of the Action Network receive materials (via physical mail and/or email) to use in daily conversations about the pressing political issues of the day. Action Network members also receive invitations to monthly webinars where we discuss political updates, and calls to action to help build the movement.

## **Learn more**

Go to <https://plcweb.org/reparations> to learn more about the history of the Black liberation struggle in the US and the need for reparations.