



FOUNDATION
AGAINST
INTOLERANCE
& RACISM

Pro-Human K-12 School Conferences

FAIR in 
Education

Goal

FAIR in Education's Pro-Human K-12 School Conferences promote school unity by advancing the values of fairness, understanding, and humanity. In partnering with schools, we work to ensure that students and staff are gaining the knowledge and skills to find a common sense of belonging. Participants will recognize that their unique, individual identities are not interchangeable with anyone else's while also understanding that we are all connected as part of the same human race. FAIR's Pro-Human Conferences emphasize compassionate approaches to intolerance and racism as a means to help schools build trust, understanding, and respect for every individual, regardless of immutable characteristics.

Structure

FAIR facilitators and speakers will lead a full or half day conference, beginning with a keynote speaker and followed by workshop sessions for students and staff. FAIR facilitators can also be available for a parent forum before or after the conference to answer any questions about content presented to students.

Keynote Speaker

Daryl Davis, renowned race-relations expert, explains how a pro-human approach can improve cross-cultural relationships, mutual respect, and understanding. Daryl Davis reflects on what it means to have open hearts and open minds through his personal experience with Klu Klux Klan members. Daryl's methods and messaging have led to numerous awards and acclaim for his book, *Klan-Destine Relationships*. Daryl Davis' impassioned lectures leave audiences feeling empowered to confront their own prejudices and overcome their fears, seeking to build bridges and develop understanding across differences. (1 hour with optional 30 min Q&A)



Student Sessions:

Honesty and Optimism: A Pro-Human Approach to Issues of Race in American History

It is difficult for students to reconcile the positive attributes of American identity they may learn in some classrooms or hear at home with the negative histories of African American enslavement, Native American displacement, Japanese American internment, and other instances of government-sponsored injustice. This session will provide students with the knowledge and tools they need to process both the positive and negative attributes of American historical identity in a coherent way. Students will be introduced to a pro-human lens through which to view and accurately understand difficult events and controversial topics in American history, politics, and society.

Human Relations: Why We Don't Get Along and What We Can Do About It

Our social media age has seeded fear, shame and cynicism amongst teenagers. This culture creates an aversion towards free thought and can stifle honest conversation. This session will take time to reflect on challenges teenagers face in an increasingly divided world and how they can find a way forward that allows freedom to stay true to their convictions, while also developing friendships with the “others” in their lives.

Speak Up!

While 88% of students agree that colleges should encourage students and professors to interact respectfully with people whose beliefs differ from their own, 63% of students feel that the climate on their campus prevents people from saying things that they believe (Heterodox Academy Campus Expression Survey, 2021). This session for students offers strategies for finding the courage to speak up in class, respectfully engage with opposing viewpoints, make connections across differences, and become intellectually adventurous and resilient.

Staff Sessions:

Honesty and Optimism: A Pro-Human Approach to Issues of Race in American History

"Enslaved" or "slaves"? "Black" or "African-American"? Is Thomas Jefferson good or bad? Approaching issues of race in the classroom, in the school office, or with parents can often feel like a minefield. The goal of this session is to equip teachers and staff members with the knowledge they need to embrace discussions about race from a pro-human perspective--one which is simultaneously honest about racist injustice and optimistic about the potential for progress.

Building Bridges

This workshop will offer a path to building trust and partnership between schools and families. Teachers will explore communication protocols and bridge-building strategies, and learn about common parent questions regarding curriculum, literature selection, and classroom discourse. The goal of the session is to help schools communicate effectively and engage families as partners in the work of educating American children.

Civil Discourse in K-12 Classrooms

Civil discourse is a key practice of healthy school communities. This workshop shares methods for creating a classroom climate that supports civil discourse and viewpoint diversity, and helps students build connections and understanding across cultures. Educators will learn how civil discourse helps students understand nuance, cultivate self-agency, and appropriately respond when their beliefs are questioned by others.

The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR) is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing civil rights and liberties for all Americans, and promoting a common culture based on fairness, understanding, and humanity. Visit www.fairforall.org for more information.



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