

Understanding Racial Justice

Indivisible Grand Traverse is proud to partner with **Title Track** and **Northern Michigan E3**, formerly the Northern Michigan Anti-Racism Task Force, to offer the fourth round of Understanding Racial Justice, a five-week course for white people ready to lean into the racial justice movement. The course is co-facilitated by skilled longtime facilitators Elizabeth Wolff and Seth Bernard.

This course is sure to be a transformative community- and capacity-building experience that supports your quest to join the movement for racial justice. This course is appropriate for white people who have had little to no prior antiracism or anti-oppression training. Themes explored will include race, racism, privilege, identity, solidarity, accountability, oppression, liberation; as well as cultural trauma and healing, and what it means to become an embodied antiracist white person.

Understanding Racial Justice is an investment in healing and growth, developing leadership and professional skills, enhancing conflict resolution skills, and opening the local economy to growth and diversification. We believe that there is a moral imperative for citizens to be able to engage in the conversations that this course explores.

From a recent [Ticker article](#), here is some background about the course in the words of the facilitators, Elizabeth Wolff and Seth Bernard:

For Wolff, who has been trying to facilitate this type of workshop since the 2016 presidential election, it's been heartening to see locals warming up to the concepts.

"There are a lot of people that, previously, were reflexively defensive [about racism], because they thought it didn't have anything to do with them," Wolff explains. "That's part of what this course is helping people to understand. It's not about saying, 'Oh, I'm a good white person. It's not my fault. I didn't put this stuff in place. I'm not responsible for my ancestors' actions.' It's about understanding that we have inherited this whole paradigm, and about looking at how we can take responsibility for it. We're all complicit, despite our best intentions. We're trying to cultivate a community where it's okay to acknowledge all of that and not go into a place of shame and collapse."

"Sometimes, it can seem like people [talking about racism] are getting into an intellectual debate," Bernard adds. But when we go into the heart more and tell our stories and connect with feelings, it's a lot easier to feel the pain. I have a six-year-old daughter, and if she was African American, she'd be 10 times more likely to go to prison. That's just a fact, and it pulls on your heartstrings when you think about your own children...we live in a real polarized time, but it's an opportunity for us to take a different approach."

This course will be offered via Zoom and is limited to 40 participants. Session 4 of the course will run November 9-December 7 (Mondays from 5:30-7:30pm). Participation requires attendance at all five two-hour sessions except for the case of emergency situations. Due to the high level of interest in this course, please only register if you are able to attend all sessions. There will be an average of one hour of additional work per week that will complement the live sessions.

The payment structure for this course is sliding scale: \$125 – \$500 (\$25-\$100 per week). The pricing is as low as possible to make this work accessible to all who are interested, understanding that the upper end of the sliding scale is an excellent value for two hours of live session time per week with two experienced facilitators, as well as invitations for deepening and support resources between sessions. We are grateful for your interest and if you are able to contribute beyond the sliding scale, your donation will go into a scholarship fund for this program.

Registration for the course is open now:

[Registration form](#)

[Scholarship registration form](#)

Donations

[Donations to course scholarships, Northern Michigan E3, Title Track or to indigenous mutual aid: The Eagle and Condor Fund, are appreciated.](#)

About Indivisible Grand Traverse

We are a nonpartisan group that welcomes people of diverse political beliefs. We believe in respectful dialog, mutual support, and political action to further our ideal of effective and responsive government for all citizens.

Link to the Ticker article about the Northern Michigan Anti-Racism Task Force, which is now called Northern Michigan E3 (E3 refers to “Educate, Elevate, and Engage.”)

<https://www.traverseticker.com/news/marshall-collins-wants-traverse-city-to-get-used-to-being-uncomfortable/>

Title Track: <https://www.facebook.com/titletrackmichigan/>