

## SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

### Sharing Power through Community Engagement

1. Recall a current event that had more detrimental outcomes for one group of people than compared to other groups (see those cited below such as the BP oil spill, Hurricane Katrina and the closing of the South Park Bridge). Were you a part of the privileged or disadvantaged group? Discuss how this impacted your interpretation of the event.
2. Think about a time when you felt vulnerable and powerless due to circumstances outside of your control. How did you react? Was there someone who spoke up for you or served as your advocate? How might having an advocate or an opportunity to have a voice in decision-making have changed the outcome and your experience?
3. Share a time you believed an issue did not impact you until you heard someone's story. How did this change your perception of the issue? Can you recall instances in which privileged parts of your identity allowed you to ignore a social problem or crisis? Please discuss if and how a lack of awareness about an issue contributes to the severity of the problem.
4. Reflecting on the various current events in the articles below, who do you think holds the power to make decisions that impact vulnerable populations? If those most affected by any crisis or social problem had power to make significant decisions, how might the outcomes be different? Comparing the various events cited below, please discuss how you see community participation as beneficial for all in our society.
5. Think about how decisions are made in your workplace or personal life. What differences in power can you see? Brainstorm ways in which you can open doors for sharing power and community engagement in the decision making process. How can you utilize the input of those most impacted by inequitable circumstances to evoke more positive outcomes?

*Need support facilitating discussion around equity and cultural competence? Contact ReachOut for more information about our services and resources: [info@reachoutfornewfutures.org](mailto:info@reachoutfornewfutures.org).*

## RESOURCES

**Web Article:** Legacy of Unfairness: Why some Americans get Left Behind.

**Web Address:** <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/Exec%20Summary%20Legacy.html>

**Web Article:** Here's Where BP is dumping its Oil Spill Waste.

**Web Address:**

[http://colorlines.com/archives/2010/08/heres\\_where\\_bp\\_is\\_dumping\\_its\\_oil\\_spill\\_waste.html](http://colorlines.com/archives/2010/08/heres_where_bp_is_dumping_its_oil_spill_waste.html)

**Web Article:** Human Right to Participation of Hurricane Katrina Survivors.

**Web Address:** [http://www.nesri.org/fact\\_sheets\\_pubs/Right%20to%20Participation.pdf](http://www.nesri.org/fact_sheets_pubs/Right%20to%20Participation.pdf)

**Web Article:** Wake held for South Park Bridge Closure.

**Web Address:** <http://www.nwcn.com/news/South-Park-Bridge-to-Permanently-Close-Wednesday-97454654.html>