



## FRONT PAGE DIALOGUE: **Women's Rights**

With the mission to “stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health and our families - recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country,” the Women’s March on Washington and its sister marches on January 21, 2017, brought an estimated 4,500,000 people onto the streets worldwide. Throughout its planning and execution, the march also shone light on long-discussed challenges for the U.S. women’s rights movement including issues of inclusiveness, intersectionality and allyship.

Sites of Conscience have an important role to play in facilitating constructive conversations and creating spaces where visitors, particularly those who may not always agree, listen to each other in new ways. Below is one model for engaging visitors in dialogue around the women’s rights movement using signage from the recent marches. We encourage you to adapt and ground the dialogue in the unique history that your Site of Conscience works to preserve and share.

### How to Use Front Page Dialogues

Rather than using all the model questions suggested under each phase, facilitators may select questions that reflect the evolving conversation of the group they are guiding in dialogue. Some questions may be useful for multiple topics; we mark these with slashes (ex. race/policing/protest). Finally, we are always available to work with you as you develop your dialogue session. If you are not familiar with the Arc of Dialogue model, you can contact Sarah Pharaon ([spharaon@sitesofconscience.org](mailto:spharaon@sitesofconscience.org)) or Braden Paynter ([bpaynter@sitesofconscience.org](mailto:bpaynter@sitesofconscience.org)) for support and more information.

### Guidelines

What are the group agreements or guidelines for the dialogue that help us establish the “container” that the dialogue occurs within? Here are some sample agreements:

1. Share the air: leave room for everyone to speak.
2. Our unique backgrounds and social status give us different life experiences.
3. Seek first to understand – ask questions to clarify, not to debate.

### Preparation

This dialogue invites participants to view signage created for the January 21, 2017 marches as a shared experience from which to begin their conversations. Print a selection of images from pages 2-12 of this document and hang these images around the dialogue space.

### Terms

*Cisgender* – Identifies with gender assigned at birth. Not transgender. (<https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/transgender-rights>)

*Intersectionality* – The interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/intersectionality>)

*Allyship* – An active, consistent and arduous practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person of privilege seeks to operate in solidarity with a marginalized group of people (<https://theantioppressionnetwork.wordpress.com/allyship/>)

*Gender binary* – A model of gender that classifies all people into one of two genders ([www.nonbinary.org](http://www.nonbinary.org))

### Sites of Conscience members who can be resources for your efforts:

- [Jane Addams Hull-House Museum](#)
- [Pauli Murray Project](#)
- [Women's Rights National Historic Park](#)
- [Kdei Karuna](#)
- [Museum of Women's Resistance](#)
- [Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation](#)
- [The Workhouse](#)
- [The Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Project](#)



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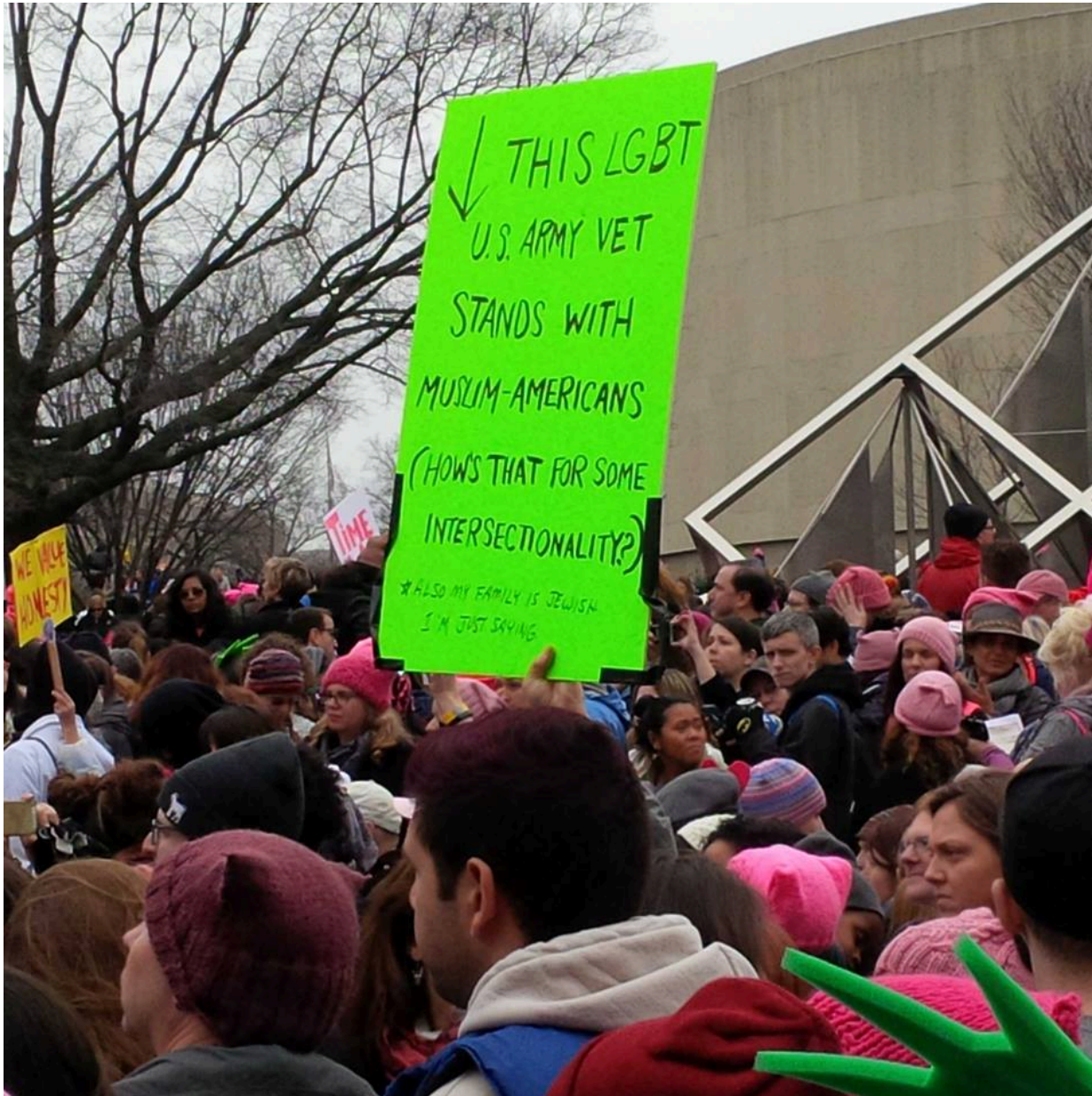




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Anti-choice marchers. Photo: Lisa Ryan



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## PHASE I - COMMUNITY BUILDING

Questions in Phase 1 help build the "learning community" and break down artificial barriers between people by allowing participants to share information about themselves.

What is one thing that is necessary for the women's rights movement to succeed?

Share your impression of the women's marches.

How do you define "ally"?

Who is a woman in your life you respect? How did their life experiences shape how you view "women's rights"?

Share a story of an act of resistance you witnessed or participated in.

If you participated in the women's marches, what motivated you to do so?

*To DO: Before starting Phase 2, allow people to view the images included in silence. Invite participants to stand next to the protest sign image they are interested in talking about more. Give these groups several minutes to discuss why they chose their quote before coming back to the larger group.*

## PHASE II - SHARING OUR OWN EXPERIENCES

Questions in Phase 2 help participants recognize how their experiences are alike and different and why.

In looking at the march signs, what words stand out? How do you use these words? How do you hear them used? How might they be used differently?

When did you first see a depiction of gender and think either, "I'm supposed to be like that" or "I'm not like that"?

Who fits under the women's rights umbrella? How have you worked to widen it? When have you found it useful to limit it?

When has an ally been helpful to your efforts? When have you witnessed their good intentions gone awry?

Who or what first taught you about "feminism" and what did you learn?

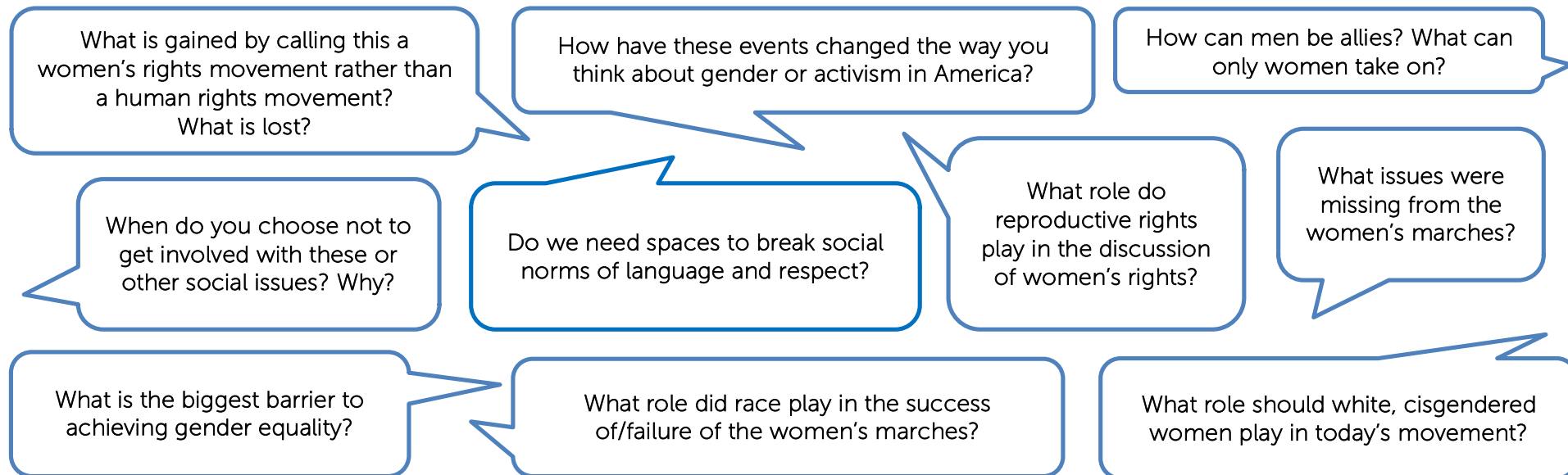
When have others' definitions of women's rights encouraged you to or turned you off from participating?

When has a word or particular language made you feel small? When has it empowered you?



## PHASE III - EXPLORING BEYOND OURSELVES

Questions in Phase 3 help participants engage in inquiry and exploration about the dialogue topic in an effort to learn with and from one another.



## PHASE IV - SYNTHESIZING THE EXPERIENCE

Questions in Phase 4 help the group to reflect on the dialogue and what they learned.

