

YOUR ROLE IN HUMAN RIGHTS

"If we do not *stand* for something,
we will *fall* for anything."

Prepared by

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

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—Carl Schurz—

1. Take every opportunity to exercise your right to vote in every election.
2. Assume that all responsible citizens want to solve the human rights problem.
3. Take every means at hand for **legal** redress in cases of discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry or age. Do not let an opportunity go by which might strengthen and promote existing laws against discrimination.
4. Treat every person as an individual and do not assume stereotyped judgments.
5. Get into community activities wherever you can serve. Be seen in the community in general—not just in activities affecting your racial, religious or nationality group.
6. In order to take advantage of new “merit” employment opportunities, all adults should encourage our youth to stay in school and acquire as much training and education as their abilities permit.
7. Make friendships across racial lines on a family basis.
8. Vote for legislation which will make discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin or age illegal.
9. Watch your language—toss out derogatory terms. Watch the jokes that are told in your presence. If they tend to make fun of, or ridicule minorities refuse to listen to, or repeat them.
10. Speak out—do not listen to discussions based on race hatred, belittling comments or false assumptions. Talk out as befits a citizen of a nation “under God”. Silence is the most damaging thing you can do—“all it takes for evil to triumph in the world is for enough good people to do nothing.”
11. Compliment those TV, radio and community programs which seek to eliminate race hatred. Your voice is needed.
12. Take part in community and church programs aimed at proving the worth of the individual and eliminating discrimination wherever it exists.
13. Think about the many ways in which we are alike as members of the “human race”. Begin thinking in terms of humanity and our common problems as citizens of a great nation and members of a society under God. External differences have a way of fading away when we do. If we think along these lines we can dissolve our fear and work constructively to solve the human rights problem.
14. Be courteous, cheerful and well-mannered when using public facilities and accommodations.
15. Respect the law and law enforcement officials. **Do not** protect law violators.
16. Welcome into your neighborhood any responsible person of whatever race, religion or nationality and work with him to build, improve and maintain a community which is good for all.
17. Support and encourage all organizations—government or private—that are constructively seeking to improve intergroup understanding.
18. In an objective manner recruit qualified minority citizens for membership in your service clubs, community organizations, political associations and other civic endeavors.
19. Assist and guide young people in selecting constructive community activities and serve as an example of responsible citizenship.

“Seek the Truth without prejudice;
Speak the Truth without fear.”

—Carl Schurz



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