



FACTSHEET

How You Can Be an Ally in Working Against Anti-Black Racism

Content developed from “Anti-Racist Praxis with Street-Involved African Canadian Youth” by Julian Hasford, Peter Amponsah & Treisha Hylton, in *Mental Health and Addiction Interventions for Youth Experiencing Homelessness: Practical Strategies for Front-Line Providers* (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press, 2018).

An ally is someone who recognizes that the privilege they have in relation to others is a result of the unjust patterns of a society – and commits to changing these patterns.

Challenging racism can be intense emotional and intellectual labour.

Allies should not expect people of colour to shoulder the responsibility for this work. Rather, by reflecting on and challenging racism whenever they encounter it, allies can commit to taking on some of this difficult work.



How can I be an ally?

Listen more than you speak; be aware of how much space you take up in conversations.



Be receptive to feedback and criticism from people of colour. If someone points out something you do or say that is hurtful, maintain a stance of humility and take this feedback seriously.



Commit to ongoing learning about anti-Black racism and whiteness from existing resources.



Help amplify voices by supporting organizations for or by marginalized people. Support can take the form of fundraising, advocacy, or recruiting other allies.

