NAME 2020 Conference Special Announcement

The National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) is honored to host our 2020 convening virtually, accommodating the social isolations COVID-19 exacerbates.

Because anti-Black violence, systemic anti-people of color racism, and colonization remain normalized across the globe, the National Association for Multicultural Education continues to plan its 30th Anniversary Conference, scheduled for October 8-10, 2020. Please plan to join us, virtually.

The theme for the 2020 international conference “Living Multicultural Education: Peace & Justice thru the Ballot Box & Activism,” reflects our current times: People need to vote!

In the spirit of fostering civil rights to ensure access to voting and education, NAME is partnering with Teaching Tolerance: A project of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), to host a range of engaging speakers, panels, workshops, lessons, and participants from Oct. 8-10. Key sessions will challenge anti-Blackness and highlight anti-racist strategies to address our interwoven struggles for freedom, with a focus on the role of education in fostering generations of those who labor for civil rights. The disparities in education highlighted by the new Coronavirus will be addressed, as well.

As former U.S. President Barack Obama said in his July 30 eulogy for U.S. Rep. John Lewis, ensuring people’s voice at the ballot box as Lewis did during the Civil Rights Movement will help push the U.S. to its ideal of “a more perfect Union.” While voting may seem like a passive response to continued assassinations of unarmed Black people, NAME sees “I can’t breathe” as a rallying call for a collective movement to end anti-Blackness across all systems, including the prison industrial complex (which includes policing), housing, jobs, governance, food, and of course, educational systems. NAME recognizes the many, like Rep. Lewis, who have paved the way for the steps activists, protesters, and educators take now to demand structural changes so that Black Lives Matter!

On November 3, 2020, democracy in the U.S. will once again be tested. Counter efforts continue to suppress the vote, as has always been the case in the U.S. Vigilance is needed to ensure that votes matter, but at minimum, we must vote. None of this will be easy, and we cannot vote our way out of toxic racism. Cosmetic changes like dropping racist product packaging, eliminating racist mascots in professional sports and pulling down or defacing monuments is hardly enough.

Individuals must educate themselves so that they cast ballots in local, regional, state and national elections for the candidates best suited to change public policy, promote multicultural education from preschool through college, right the wrongs of the current U.S. administration, and put an end to the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racism.

NAME knows that voting in officeholders as critical change agents for social justice and equity is the only way for the United States to effectively ensure the U.S. Constitution functions as it should for everyone. Join the NAME community as we continue to resist, educate, challenge, vote and love our way towards the world we all need. Confirm that you are registered to vote at vote.org! If you are not registered, you can register at rockthevote.org! Most states allow online voter registration. Also, check out SPLC’s VOTE YOUR VOICE initiative. Please share these websites with your colleagues and friends.

~ Registration for the Virtual Convening of the 30th Anniversary of NAME will open soon
~ The conference at a glance, to date is available now, here or on the NAME website
~ More conference details will be coming your way in shortly
~ Presenters will be notified of their proposal status in the coming days
~ Registration rates will be $79-$99
~ Intensive Institutes will be offered on October 8
~ The rate for institutes is $30 for conference participants

To download and share this statement, click here