

## The Usual Statements

Also known as “What people of color never want to hear again” from white people engaging in discussions about racism. The following are just a few statements commonly heard during anti-racism trainings. This list is not exhaustive but is meant to be used as a guideline for ‘what not to say’ for white people who are sincerely working on their white privilege.

1. Why are you so angry?
2. You’re too sensitive.
3. I feel (unsafe, judged, attacked, abused, etc.)
4. I will only talk if everyone is respectful.
5. I’m a person of color too. Isn’t ‘white’ a color?
6. I’m colorblind: I just see people, not skin color.
7. Why isn’t it separatist to have a group just for people of color?
8. What about MY class/gender/religious/sexual orientation oppression as a white person?
9. Talking about racism takes the focus off of (women’s issues, the environment, classism, etc.)
10. When are we going to stop talking about racism and get to the real work?
11. I can’t possibly be racist because I am dating a person of color (or, because I adopted a transracial baby.)
12. That other person of color isn’t offended, so why should you be?
13. You are so articulate. You speak so well.
14. We can’t find any qualified women of color to join our workplace.
15. I come from (place) where people are much more inclusive.
16. I marched with ... (Martin Luther King).
17. I don’t care if you’re pink, green, purple or whatever color...
18. I’m not racist, but ...
19. Other ...?