



Multicultural Women's Book Group Participation Guidelines

- Make attending meetings a priority and strive to come on time with the book completed.
- Respect every participant as a valued contributor.
- Listen actively and contribute wholeheartedly without monopolizing the conversation.
- Respectfully challenge ideas (not people) by candidly sharing your personal experiences and perspective.
- Strive for deeper understanding and new insights, not "right" answers.
- Assume the best and cut one another some slack: if we say something tone deaf or insensitive, teach without reprimanding.
- Hold one another's personal stories within the group.
- Practice the pause. If things get tense or emotional, breathe and reset.
- Enjoy getting to know and learning from one another!

The Civil Conversations Project (just a few excerpts we especially like)

"...it is up to us, where we live, to start having the conversations we want to be hearing and creating the realities we want to inhabit."

GROUNDING VIRTUES:

Words that matter: The words we use shape how we understand ourselves, how we interpret the world, how we treat others. Words are one of our primary ways to reach across the mystery of each other.

Humility: Humility is a companion to curiosity, surprise, and delight. Spiritual humility is not about getting small. It is about encouraging others to be big.

Generous listening: Real listening is powered by curiosity. It involves vulnerability — a willingness to be surprised, to let go of assumptions and take in ambiguity.

Patience: Human transformation takes time — longer than we want it to — but it is what is necessary for social transformation. A long, patient view of time will replenish our sense of our capacities and our hope for the world.

Adventurous civility: Civility, in our world of change, is about creating new possibilities for living forward while being different and even continuing to hold profound disagreement.

Hospitality: New social realities are brought into being over time by a quality of relationship between unlikely combinations of people.

**Check out "Better Conversations: A Starter Guide" and other resources at
www.civilconversationsprojects.org.**