

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS

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Underrepresented Groups

Xenophobia

As fears and frustrations increase during a global pandemic, such as with the novel corona virus COVID-19, so too do the reported incidents of xenophobic behavior. Xenophobia is fear and hatred of strangers or foreigners, or fear and hatred of anything that is strange or foreign (Merriam-Webster). As a form of racism, xenophobic behaviors range from subtle (e.g., physically distancing oneself from another) to overt (e.g., hate speech, slurs, physical harm), and further marginalize a group of people.

Group Discussion:

Discuss times when people in the group have witnessed or experienced racism and or xenophobia. *We strongly recommend anonymity and confidentiality when sharing stories.*

Group Questions:

What practical steps can you take to intervene for a marginalized individual and/or community and effectively respond to racist remarks or behaviors?

How might xenophobic behaviors and your response look differently in a digital environment?

References:

Xenophobia. Merriam-Webster Dictionary. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/xenophobia>.

Serhan, Y. and McLaughlin, T. (March 13, 2020). *The Other Problematic Outbreak*. The Atlantic. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/coronavirus-covid19-xenophobia-racism/607816/>.