Who We Are

WAAPC is comprised of Domestic Violence advocates and community members across the State of NJ who recognize that oppression in our society serves to perpetuate family violence. Members are individuals who identify as ‘White’, and recognize that, to serve effectively in the field of social justice, they must be accountable to communities of color.

Join us!
The WAAPC meets regularly on the second Thursday of the month at the New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women (NJCBW).

Contact us at 609.584.8107

NJCBW

White Aspiring Allies to People of Color

1670 Whitehorse-Hamilton Square Road
Trenton, NJ 08690-3541

Phone: 609-584-8107
Fax: 609-584-9750
E-mail: khoisington@cctrenton.org
Why are you called the White Aspiring Allies to People of Color?

Our group has chosen to be very intentional about our name because one of the group’s primary focus is on white privilege, and it is important to recognize that privilege in our name.

We use the words aspiring allies based largely on a principal from the Women of Color Network’s Call to Action National Ally Statement, 2008. The statement reads, “It is best to name the process one is engaged in as opposed to assigning titles that give the impression of having already reached the role of ally.”

Our group views ally-ship as a journey, not a destination.

We use the term people of color for two important reasons. First the term people of color refers to Black/African Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Latinos/Hispanics and Indigenous/Native Americans and is a fluid term that is commonly used in the anti-racism movement and accepted by the NJCBW Women of Color Task Force.

Secondly, we feel it is important to name who we are aspiring allies to. Although the group members are concerned about all forms of oppression including sexism, homophobia and ableism, our focus is on racism and we feel it is important to remind ourselves and others why we need to address racism and privilege within the anti-violence movement.

The spiral is a symbol of reflection and contemplation. Much of the work of the WAAPC requires holding oneself accountable, and this begins with looking inward.

What is the history of this group?

The White Aspiring Allies to People of Color began in 2010 following training and technical assistance that NJCBW and its member programs received from the Race Equity Institute (REI). The technical assistance included a curriculum entitled Dismantling Racism which includes a historical perspective on oppression and anti-racist organizational development.

Our group was created based on strategies introduced at that training regarding white privilege, white resistance and caucusing. Given that the anti-violence movement is one of social justice, it is crucial that white anti-violence advocates have a space to gain information and take action regarding racism and white privilege separate from discussions regarding other oppressions.