



Anti-racism Organization Evaluates One Year of Impact

A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth uses the power of conversation to dismantle systemic racism

May 27, 2021 — One year since its founding, <u>A Long Talk About The</u>

<u>Uncomfortable Truth</u> (A Long Talk), a powerful anti-racism activation experience, will host an anniversary session on Tuesday, June 1, to reflect on twelve months of tumultuous events and meaningful impact. The goal of A Long Talk is "to place an anti-racist at every dinner table in America" through engaging talk sessions around race and our shared — but often ignored — history. The group hosted 37 public and private sessions in its first year, giving more than 1,500 participants the tools that non-racists need to get off the sidelines and be effective *anti*-racists.

Kyle Williams and Kamal Carter - two Black fathers and innovative educators – became engaged in conversations about how to create safer spaces for their children in the wake of George Floyd's murder. They began to see first-hand how open dialogue with their children's coaches and teachers about how to address the urgent and overdue need to dismantle white supremacy could make an impact and designed A Long Talk to pull coaches and other sports leaders off the sidelines to become active anti-racists.

"I heard my sons struggling to explain and reckon with their lived experience in conversations with their classmates and coaches and identified the need to help prepare leaders in the spaces they operate in to become more well-versed and active in anti-racism work," said Kyle Williams, Chief Empowerment Officer of A Long Talk. "We immediately started to think through how we could be most effective in this space and identified university athletic teams as our starting point."

In June and July 2020, the <u>top 25 American</u> universities publicly responded to the Black Lives Matter protests and many committed to taking action. But as organizations and academic institutions began to commit to serious steps to foster racial justice in their communities, many struggled to figure out where to start.

Schools like Louisiana State University, West Virginia University, University of Florida, and University of Pennsylvania embraced A Long Talk, which tackles the colossal task of eradicating racism and dismantling white supremacy through a series of hosted conversations that facilitate deep listening, provide tools for productive introspection, and ultimately empower, energize, and activate participants to become more effective allies in the pursuit of this shared purpose.



"A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth revolutionized the way our team approaches equity," said Coach B.J. Dunne of the Gettysburg College men's basketball team, one of the first groups to go through the experience. "A Long Talk allowed the team to talk through the impact of George Floyd's murder and the treatment of Black Americans and emphasized the urgent need to be more effective allies and activists in this movement – and it made us a stronger team."

Open to the public and for private groups, the 3-day (4.5-hour) A Long Talk experience fosters brave spaces that eradicate ignorance and anti-racism can be vocalized and practiced for real-time feedback. Each of the three 90-minute sessions are led by a team of accomplished educators, and are followed up by post-session experiences, such as movie mixers, community conversations, and more.

Over the past year, A Long Talk has branched out to conduct private and public sessions for school districts, non-profits, government groups, and corporations across the nation. The public anniversary session will include Coach Dunne and other supporters for an in-depth discussion on **June 1, 2021 @ 12:00PM EST**. The recorded conversation can be seen <u>here</u>.

About A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth

A Long Talk About The Uncomfortable Truth is a transformational experience which produces active anti-racists through the power of conversation. The experiential approach hosts inclusive and constructive talk sessions that give participants the opportunity to become educated, inspired, and empowered to take concrete actions to combat racism. Once activated, participants are supported by an active learning community who has firmly planted their flag on the right side of history. To request the services of A Long Talk, <u>visit</u> <u>alongtalk.com</u>.

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