

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in hosting our program, “Witness To Injustice/The KAIROS Blanket Exercise” (WTI/KBE) . Our goals in doing this interactive program are to help participants:

- Understand more about the Original (Indigenous) Peoples of this continent, especially the Haudenosaunee people of this region,
- Learn about the European *Doctrine of Discovery* and its continuing connection to the founding and ongoing government of the USA since 1492,
- Provide a starting place & ongoing resources to help people become effective allies for Original Peoples.

Our hope is that the program will open up new ways of learning about the history of this part of the world. Not just ‘book learning’ the history, but learning experientially... what happened and is still happening to all of us, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike because of The Doctrine. We hope this program will stimulate deep discussions and reflections, and will point the way toward ongoing steps toward righting wrongs which have been done.

Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON), a committee of the Syracuse Peace Council, collaborates with friends from the Onondaga Nation and KAIROS of Canada, to organize and facilitate the WTI/KBE Program.

NOON offers 3 components of the WTI/KBE program at this time. They are:

- 1.** The Blanket Exercise itself, a 3 hour interactive, experiential program for groups of 15+ participants, using both Indigenous and non-Indigenous facilitators. These are for people aged 13-14 years and older and can be done with community groups, universities, places of worship, schools, etc.
- 2.** The Blanket Exercise for 9-13 year olds using a 1 ½- 2 hour format with Indigenous and non-Indigenous facilitators. These would be appropriate for youth program in any settings.
- 3.** A 1-2 hour program called, “How to be an Ally to Native People”, geared toward teens and adults wanting to know more about their own misconceptions or beliefs about native people, where they might have learned these misconceptions, where to get resources to help them learn more, and how to be involved in issues regarding Indigenous rights in their communities and in the wider world.

In order to help fund the largely volunteer work of NOON, we request a donation/honorarium to organize and facilitate any of these programs. These donations

help cover the costs of WTI and other NOON educational programs. Please contact the WTI Coordinator, Cindy Squillace, to discuss this further.
Thank you for your interest and we hope to be in touch soon.

In peace and with gratitude,

Cindy Squillace, Coordinator of WTI
Steering Committee of Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation
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How To Host a Witness To Injustice/KAIROS Blanket Exercise Program

A minimum of 15 participants is needed. The ideal number is 20-40 people. The venue needs to have enough flat space for the number of participants and 5 facilitators to have chairs in a circle. Although it has been done in open spaces where others can see; it is preferred to have a space that is not open to others who are not participating.

We need to know the number of participants ahead of time as the exercise is designed with that number in mind. Please have people RSVP ahead of time so we can have a count the day before the workshop.

We ask that you have 2-3 long tables available off to the side of the circle and that you provide 3 boxes of tissues to distribute around the room, and water for participants. Water pitchers and paper cups are preferable to water bottles.

Academic or other organizations hosting WTI may want to give assignments or reading material ahead of time to those who will be participants.

If it is a group who will be together in days after WTI, please schedule some time for follow up. We can help with how to do that if you would like suggestions.

Everyone who is present at a WTI program is expected to be a participant, not an observer. This helps with the groups' ability to build trust and all of us should experience WTI anyway!!

Specific things to think about:

1. Think about who you are trying to reach with this program. Think about days and times that would work well, not so well... Academics should keep in mind holidays, exam times, school events such as Homecoming, etc. Faith

communities, community organizations, think about who might not be able to attend because of public school breaks, regents exams, etc.

2. Come up with a couple of possible dates/times to suggest or request to the WTI Coordinator. We will do our best to think with you about best options.
3. Talk with the WTI Coordinator about expenses and what it will cost for you to host WTI. Decide how the workshop expenses will be covered. By your organization or school? Through a fee for those who are coming? Do you need to write a grant?
4. Reimbursement of travel expenses can be discussed when needed.
5. Reserve an appropriate venue as soon as you are able, reserve it for 1 hour before the program and 1 hour after the program. Check it out yourself to see that it will work for WTI.
6. Draft flyers, PSA's announcements, whatever you need to do well ahead of time and have someone proofread to make sure there is a description of the program, date and time, place, cost if any (or clearly state there is no cost) and a contact person/registrar with easy registration information. Make sure it is clear that they need to RSVP and set that date at least 2 days before the WTI program. This allows time for you to call people on a waiting list, etc.
7. Identify someone from your organization or group who will be the Welcomer/check in person before the program and someone who will stay for any clean up at the site.