



## Inclusive Communities DIY Project

**Civic Circle Area:** Listen and Learn, Voice

*The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.*

Make a video to help people from different backgrounds discuss how they have faced discrimination, how it made them feel and what we can do to create a unified society. This project was created by former Points of Light Youth Advisory Council member Anika Bagaria to help tell the stories of how youth are taking action after September 11, 2001. You can watch Anika's [how-to video for the project here](#).

### Why Is It Important?

There are a many prominent issues regarding discrimination and intolerance in the United States. This project can help start a dialogue about the problem and how we can unite to work together towards a solution.

- According to a [2012 AP Poll](#), 51% of Americans harbor anti-Black feelings.
- The [CDC found](#) that 33% of LGBTQ youth had experienced bullying in school in 2017, compared to 17% of their heterosexual peers.
- According to a 2017 Pew Research Center survey, 48% of Muslims experienced at least one instance of religious discrimination in the past year.

Discrimination and intolerance can impact all areas of life. A [2017 study](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that 45% of African Americans experienced racial discrimination when trying to rent an apartment or buy a home and nearly 1 in 5 Latinos have avoided medical care due to concern of being discriminated against.

You can help by filming a video on making the world a more unified place.

### What You Need:

- Members of your community willing to discuss tough topics
- A camcorder/camera, tablet, smartphone
- Research on statistics of discrimination
- Access to a publishing site, such as YouTube, and social media to share the video
- Discussion questions for teachers to use in classrooms

### Steps:

1. Find people to interview for your video who are willing to talk about discrimination/a time they faced discrimination. Film their stories and reactions.



- Senior citizens, 1st or 2nd generation immigrants, African Americans, members of the LGBTQ community or people new to your community may be good candidates to talk to about discrimination.
2. Let the person you are interviewing lead and guide the discussion. Frame your questions carefully. The goal is to help people who do not face discrimination understand the specific struggles of the interviewee. Ask questions like “Can you remember a time you felt treated differently because of your looks/gender/religion?” and “How did it feel to be treated less than others?”
  3. Research statistics and facts about discrimination and include these in your video.
  4. Make the video:
    - Begin by introducing the issues you’ll be discussing and why they are important.
    - Edit the stories into the video to highlight existing problems in your community.
    - End the video with ways youth can make a difference or help solve the problem.
  5. Publish it to YouTube, Vimeo or another online video platform.
  6. Upload the video to social media. (Don’t forget to tag @generationOn!)
  7. Share the video with the people you have interviewed and thank them for their participation.
  8. Try to schedule a group showing.
    - Contact schools and encourage them to view the video and discuss how to improve on these issues in their community. Have discussion questions ready for teachers to use in class.
    - Set up a viewing at your local community center. Have the people you interviewed and community members attend and start a conversation about what they can do to help create a more inclusive community.
  9. Reflect on the creation of the video.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- How did the project affect the way you think and see other people?
- How did other people react to your project? Did it create the desired results?
- Have you gained a deeper understanding of others with different experiences than yours?
- Could you have made the project more meaningful in any way?