

# HOW to HOST a TURN *the* TABLES DISCUSSION

So you want to host a Turn the Tables discussion? Wonderful! Here are some questions and tips for getting started...

REPAIR  
THE WORLD

## GETTING STARTED

### Choose a guide.

Your passion is infectious. So choose a guide focused on an issue you're excited to discuss.

### If choosing just one guide is a challenge, try adapting our guides to fit your needs.

The guides are meant to be flexible and meet your community's needs. Pick an "appetizer" (introduction) and "dessert" (reflection) from the guides that resonate with you. Then choose one to three racial justice texts (articles, traditional Jewish prayers, historic speeches, podcasts, etc.) that you'd like to discuss further.

### Invite guests.

Whom do you want to have this conversation with? A small group of friends? Your family? Do you want to partner with a larger Jewish institution, like a synagogue or Hillel? Should it be an opportunity to build relationships with local community organizations whose members hold different racial, religious, and class identities from your own?

Be thoughtful about your guests' identities and familiarities with racial justice and Judaism.

Be transparent about the topic, guests, and goals of the program.



### Decide if you want to use this guide for a discussion together with a meal or as a facilitated conversation without food.

#### IF THE LATTER, CHOOSE YOUR MENU.

#### Do you want to cook, order in, or make it a potluck?

How can you use this as an opportunity to support local restaurants and farms owned and operated by People of Color?

#### Do you want to literally eat appetizers, main course, and desserts with each part of the discussion, or eat the meal as the whole before or after the discussion?

People can get mean when they are hungry, so get them food sooner rather than later during these often personal and intense discussions.

## ONCE YOU HAVE THE GUIDE, GUESTS, & GOODIES...

1

### Re-read through the guide in its entirety.

Read through before choosing which portions you wish to use for your dinner. As you read through the guide, be mindful of the space and environment in which you will host your dinner. Think about how you want to set up the seating so that it is conducive to respectful conversation and dialogue.

2

### Collect and print any of the necessary materials & supplies.

This includes discussion texts, pens, notecards, portable speakers, etc.

3

### Print copies of the Guide to Respectful Conversations, Glossary of Racial Justice Terms, & Next Steps.

Print sheets for everyone at the table. If possible, send them to your guests to review in advance. These supplemental guides offer tips for creating a brave space to discuss issues that cut to the core of our identities and communities, shared language for your conversations and, well, next steps for after the dinner.



## WHILE YOU ARE HOSTING...

### Productive discomfort is encouraged.

Feeling slightly uncomfortable and stretching a bit out of your comfort zone can generate learning and growth. Before starting the program, take a few minutes for your guests to understand your intention in maintaining a brave space that allows each of you to experience some productive discomfort during the evening. Stretching oneself or experiencing discomfort is hard. Period. It takes emotional labor to step outside of one's comfort zone and listen to experiences that challenge one's perspective. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to spend at least 5-10 minutes discussing the Guide to Respectful Conversations sheet with everyone present.

In many conversations about racial justice, a Person of Color is all too often asked to represent the position of ALL People of Color. There can be an enormous emotional toll involved in sharing (and being expected to share no matter the toll) one's experience with racism with someone who has not experienced it and who might well be a complete stranger. This dynamic can especially occur if there are only one or two People of Color in a racial justice conversation. Asking everyone to speak from their personal experience and be thoughtful about the content and framing of their questions can be an (imperfect) counterweight to tokenization.

### Begin with introductions.

Ask your guests to start by saying their names, gender pronouns (ex. they/them/theirs, she/her/hers, he/him/his, ze/zir/zirs). Also provide the space for your guests to share any visible or invisible identities (race, gender, class, religion, ethnicity, ability, etc.) that might be relevant in the upcoming conversation. State that people should only share if they are comfortable and in order to support their participation in the conversation.

### Need support?

Have a question, need clarification, or want to get more involved with Repair the World's campaigns? Reach out to us at [rebecca.katz@werepair.org](mailto:rebecca.katz@werepair.org).

### Take action!

Repair the World focuses on inspiring the Jewish community to volunteer and to engage in conversation about issues of racial and food justice. We hope that after tonight's conversation you and your guests feel inspired to TAKE ACTION and volunteer around issues of food and racial injustice. Visit [weRepair.org](http://weRepair.org), where you will find opportunities happening in your area!

