

## **“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”**

### **Racial Inventory Tool**

*Adapted from Peggy McIntosh’s article, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” this exercise helps reveal the disparate (and often hidden) ways that race impacts our daily lives. It can be a helpful tool for people to think more deeply about their own lives and the privileges that might come with it. Allow 20-30 minutes for the activity and discussion.*

#### **Instructions to take the Racial Inventory:**

Distribute copies of the questionnaire to participants. Allow approximately 5-10 minutes for everyone to fill in their answers (instructions should be on the handout). When everyone is finished, tally all the scores on the blackboard by race (allow people to self-identify) and then come up with an average score for each racial group represented. Afterwards, ask people for their reactions – what surprised them, what didn’t, what they think the scores mean or reflect, how they feel about the activity and/or results, and what would have to change to bring the scores closer together (i.e., impact of individual actions vs. societal/structural changes).

### **Check yourself: the White Privilege Test**

**Please answer YES or NO to the following questions:**

1. If I wish to, I can arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
2. I can be sure that no matter where I move to, my neighbours in that location will be pleasant or neutral to me.
3. I can go shopping alone and be sure that I won’t be followed or harassed.
4. I can turn on the television, open a newspaper and see people of my race widely represented.
5. I can go to a museum or art gallery and will see people of my race widely represented in the objects and artworks.
6. I can be sure that when told about our national heritage or about ‘civilisation’, I am shown that people of my colour made it what it is.
7. I can be sure that my children will be taught a curriculum which testifies to the existence of their race.
8. I can go into a shop and easily find the food, music or clothes which represent my race or fit with my cultural traditions.
9. I can go to a hairdresser and be sure that they can cut my hair.
10. I can count on my skin colour not to work against the appearance of my financial reliability.
11. I can swear, dress scruffily or not answer letters without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, poverty or illiteracy of my race.

