

AIR: Accessibility, Inclusion, and Responsibility

Co-presented by The Burlington County Minority and Equality Rights Task Force, Burlington County Women's Advisory Council, and Alice Paul Institute.

This series of community conversations examines the legacy of the women's movement and issues of belonging with the goal of creating a community-driven policy recommendation to be presented to Burlington County stakeholders at the end of 2024.

THE CONVERSATION SO FAR

Session 1: March 4, 2023

-Community members discussed three questions related to inclusion in the women's movement.

Key takeaways:

- In addition to gender, there is a persistent racial opportunity gap
- We aren't having honest cultural conversations about the ongoing legacy of racism in our society
- Paying lip service to diversity doesn't create actual inclusion or belonging
- Representation and education are reciprocal and equally necessary
- We think about our issues as separate but they are all intertwined

Session 2: September 9, 2023

-Based on the takeaways from session 1 five themes were identified. Each group identified a specific problem impacting belonging within each theme.

- **Education-** problem: people making decisions about education need to hear about the needs of their diverse students and teachers.
- **Health equity-** problem: there are persistent racial disparities in maternal health outcomes.
- **Workplace culture-** problem: workplaces use DEI as a checkbox for funding, instead of supporting honest employee participation in workplace culture.
- **Public policy-** problem: many people lack the information and support they need to engage in local politics.
- **Accessing community resources-** problem: local organizations are too siloed, and we do not have an infrastructure that helps people easily understand all the local resources that exist.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Join us for session 3 on April 27 to help pick one of the five themes as our legislative priority for 2024.