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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Joining the struggle for collective liberation |  |  | | --- | | [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/whiteawake/defecting-2022-announcement-15021067?e=0759b3e33b) | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people in a room  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Defecting from Supremacy**  ***Joining the Struggle for Collective Liberation*  An Online Course for White Men from White Awake  Facilitators: Chris Crass and Topher Stephens**      *"When enough of us relinquish injustice that only pretends to benefit us, we tip society toward justice."* **– adrienne maree brown**  *“We must call on masculinity to become whole and nurturing of self and others.”***– Nora Samaran**    **~✵~**  ***Dear friends, we want this workshop series to impact as many white men as possible and are asking for the support of the entire White Awake community in making this happen. Please share***[*the course information*](https://whiteawake.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8543cc22241d43e4b8db0515b&id=fc6e6a76ad&e=0759b3e33b)***on social media and directly with a group of white men in your life who you think would benefit from the work of this course. A more beautiful and just society is possible only when we build a multi-racial and multi-gender movement based in solidarity and collective liberation. Thank you for helping us bring more white men into this movement.***    For centuries, white men have been told lies—lies created to manipulate our most intimate sense of self and mold us into foot-soldiers of empire. Capitalism, white supremacy and patriarchy fracture our sense of wholeness and keep us disconnected from one another.   Standing on the shoulders of a long line of feminist and anti-racist leaders, we believe that personal and collective healing are essential practices to resist these disembodying and divisive forces. We also know that inner work must be accompanied by deep engagement in social movements striving to create a truly egalitarian democracy. These tasks will require tools different from those we have been given by the oppressive systems around us.  This course is designed to support men who are socially categorized as white in defecting from the roles we have been groomed to play while constructing renewed identities grounded in a commitment to collective liberation.\* Incorporating mindfulness, political analysis, emotional awareness, and expressive practices, we will begin to heal and "whole" ourselves while building a resilient community committed to creating meaningful change in the world.   This course is designed to help you:   * **Develop basic understanding** of patriarchy, white supremacy and the role these forces have played in a centuries-long project of the ruling class to divide and control. * **Build resilience** as we face the vast harm caused by these systems of oppression; **deepen personal awareness** of how our racial and gender socialization has created suffering and disconnection in our own lives. * **Cultivate a positive identity**connected to a legacy of resistors, radicals, and allies. * **Practice** non-hierarchical and healing ways of relating through vulnerability and storytelling. * **Connect** to our authentic selves through mindful, embodied and creative practices. * **Learn about opportunities to engage** in coalition-based movements for anti-racism, feminism, reproductive rights, economic justice, and collective liberation.   *\**Live sessions are being held as a caucus for white men and/or anyone exploring both masculinity and whiteness as parts of their identity. For more information about this, and to determine if this course is a good fit for you, please see our [ground rules for group participation](https://whiteawake.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8543cc22241d43e4b8db0515b&id=6415145cde&e=0759b3e33b). Supplemental, identity-based caucus calls will be held forgender non-conforming and/or non-cisgendered men, and for gay/bi/queer/non-hetero men.  **Aug 14, 21, 28 & Sept 11, 25  4-6:30pm ET (1-3:30pm PT)**  ***Sliding scale $100 - $300 fee for course***  ***No one turned away for lack of funds***    **Click**[here](https://whiteawake.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8543cc22241d43e4b8db0515b&id=3999578802&e=0759b3e33b)**to register on our site**    ***Sessions will be recorded. Live attendance is not mandatory.***    ***Meet the facilitators ...*** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person with a beard  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | **Topher Stephens**  Topher Stephens is an experiential educator creating culturally relevant and collaborative learning environments for youth and adults. Trained in mindfulness, nature connection, non-violent communication, and embodied and expressive arts-based facilitation, he brings a multimodal and holistic approach to social justice education and collective liberation praxis.  Topher is committed to the processes of personal and collective healing and has spent years studying, practicing, and receiving guidance from leaders in feminist and anti-racist organizing. Aside from facilitating anti-oppression workshops for white men, he leads immersive environmental education and cultural exchange programs for diverse groups of young people through India, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the rural US. He spends his free time watching birds, studying natural history, and writing folk music. | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A person wearing glasses  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | | **Chris Crass**  Chris Crass is one of the leading voices in the country calling for and supporting white people to work for racial justice. He’s a social justice educator who writes and speaks widely on courage for racial justice, feminism for men, lessons from past movements, and creating healthy culture for progressive activism. He works with community groups, schools and faith communities to develop leadership and momentum for collective liberation praxis.   He was a founder of the anti-racist movement building center, the Catalyst Project, and helped launch the national white anti-racist network, SURJ. Rooted in his Unitarian Universalist faith, he works with congregations, seminaries, and religious activists to build the Spiritual Left, and he is a leader in the national network, Organizing White Men for Collective Liberation. He is also the author of *Towards Collective Liberation: anti-racist organizing, feminist praxis, and movement building strategy* and *Towards the “Other America”: Anti-Racist Resources for White People Taking Action for Black Lives Matter*. He is a Dad who loves his two young Padawans, helping them be the Jedis of their dreams. Learn more about him at [chriscrass.org](https://whiteawake.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8543cc22241d43e4b8db0515b&id=b16160aefb&e=0759b3e33b). | | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *“When we understand that working to eradicate patriarchal domination is a struggle rooted in the longing to make a world where everyone can live fully and freely, then we know our work to be a gesture of love. Let us draw upon that love to heighten our awareness, deepen our compassion, intensify our courage, and strengthen our commitment.”*  **– bell hooks** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***This course is actively supported by***[*White Awake Advisory Council Members:*](https://whiteawake.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8543cc22241d43e4b8db0515b&id=4107f8b6d2&e=0759b3e33b) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |