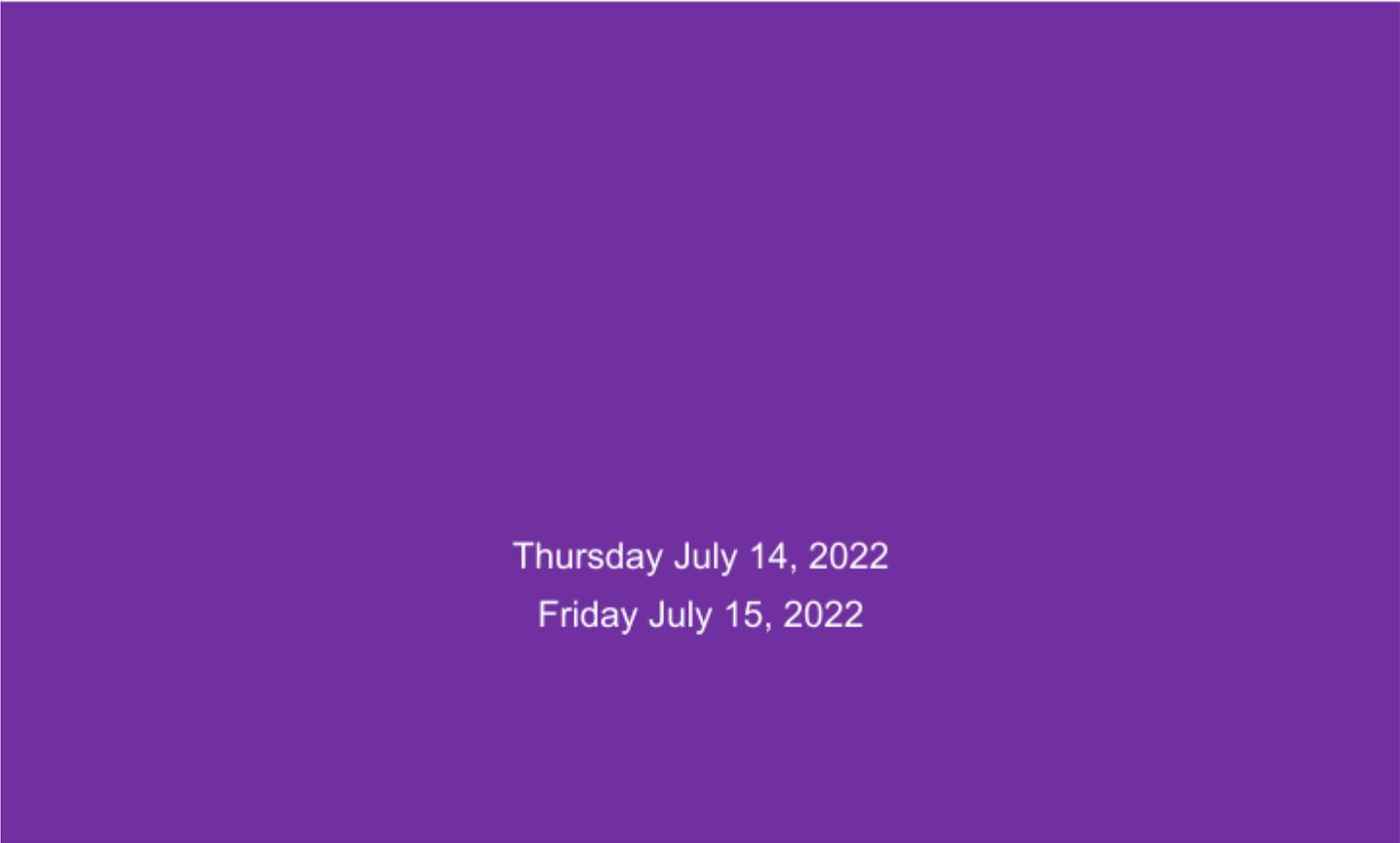




# **THE AWAKENING PROJECT ORIENTATION 2022 REPORT**

Thursday July 14, 2022

Friday July 15, 2022



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## **Land Acknowledgement**

Members of the Awakening Project reside and contribute to this interfaith initiative from many locations throughout the province of Ontario. No matter where we are working from, we are mindful of the land on which we reside. We respectfully acknowledge and humbly recognize that we are living and working on Turtle Island in T'karonto, the traditional, current, unceded Anishinaabeg territories of the Haudenosaunee, Wendat, Seneca, and Ojibwe. We acknowledge this as Treaty 13 territories in the care of the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nations among many other Indigenous peoples who live here. As members of the Awakening Project and settlers on this land, we are committed to learning about the historic and current relations with Indigenous peoples. We are committed to making ourselves aware of the harms done to Indigenous people and promise to go forward to walk with our Indigenous brothers and sisters in a spirit of Truth and Reconciliation. Through the work of the Awakening Project, we hope to restore harmony, peace and justice for present and future generations of young people.



## **The Awakening Project**

is a youth-led initiative that bridges interfaith dialogue and social justice activism.

The goal of the project is to encourage a community of individuals who are aware of how we are all interconnected with each other and with the earth, and how our faiths motivate us to have compassion for the most vulnerable.

## **Our Mission**

To listen to prophetic voices as a way to awaken ourselves to the radical call of our faith in our actions for social justice and transformative change.

## **Our Vision**

To find ways for people of different faiths and backgrounds to 'pull together' for a more just society.

## **Our Focus**

Our focus is on compassion for the most vulnerable, including systemic and structural causes of injustice. We do this by sharing and reflecting on a diversity of voices and actions for social justice.

# I. Purpose and Goals of the Awakening Project Orientation

## *Purpose of Orientation*

- **Understanding** – Increase engagement, familiarity, and understanding with the content of The Awakening Project.
- **Discussion** – Empower students to host Zoom call discussions of their own, emulating the structure of dialogue that students witness and participate in at orientation.
- **Meet the Team** – Meet other members of the project and engage in meaningful conversation as a way to facilitate positive and collaborative team bonding.

## *Hopes of the Coordinator*

This year's orientation is the result of the dedication, and commitment of many different students. As project coordinator, I am very excited to see our labour come to fruition in these coming days. I am grateful for all the help and support students put into crafting this Orientation, and hope that participants are able to derive meaningful skills for engaging in dialogue. I hope that in the two days, students were inspired, empowered, and reminded of the wonderful leaders who came before us, the injustices that are taking place currently, and what our call to action is, in awakening ourselves and others to transformative change. I hope that participants have taken this Orientation as an experience to renew one's sense of hope for collective action and partake in discussion that are conducive to one's own critical thinking and understanding.

It is the organizers' hope that attendees do not only speak, but also listen wholeheartedly and build upon the ideas of others to come to inclusive conclusions. We hope that everyone would be able to appreciate the viewpoints and experiences of others as a way of expanding their own worldview.

One of the main keys of the orientation, at least with this year, is a re-centering of ourselves on the Mission, Vision and Focus of the Awakening Project. I think this is vital in the work that we do is centred around these three 'pillars', because any project or organization that fails to work towards its 'pillars' will find itself unfocused, and the work will yield little fruit. Therefore, it is my deepest hope that the Awakening Project's orientation had shed some light on what it means to have conversations grounded in our Mission, Vision and Focus.

- Vincent Pham  
Summer 2022 Project Coordinator

## II. Student Leaders and Attendees

### *Student Leaders*

#### Orientation Coordinator

- Deborah Nwabor (lead)  
and members of the Website Content Team

#### Day 1 discussion facilitators

- Saesha Kukreja
- Temi Wogar
- Ivy Pham
- Michelle Ally

#### Day 2 discussion facilitators

- Amiran Sultana
- Mike Stouparenko
- Sana Mahmood
- Winnie Luu

### *Orientation Attendees*

- Amiran Sultana
- Deborah Nwabor
- Hinna Ahmed
- Ivy Pham
- Jayita Thanigaimail
- Jessica Asotie
- Michelle Ally
- Mike Stouparenko
- Saesha Kukreja
- Stefano Marchesano
- Temi Wogar
- Vincent Pham
- Winnie Luu

*Special thanks to Hinna Ahmed for providing the notes that have helped provide a basis for this report. Thanks also to Ivy Pham for assisting in the compilation of some of these materials. A thank you also goes out to Saesha Kukreja for providing the graphics that have subsequently been used in the MailChimp Newsletter.*

### III. Day 1 of Orientation



#### *a. Introduction*

Slides for Day 1 can be found here:

■ [TAP ORIENTATION 2022 \(PROPHETIC VOICES\).pdf](#)

- Most of the students came on time.
- Unlike last year, the atmosphere was quite different, because the orientation was more of a moment of “retreat,” from the regular tasks of the Awakening Project, to re-focus

ourselves on the Mission, Vision and Focus of the Project by “Connecting faith and social justice - listening to prophetic voices that inspire us.”

- It seemed that most, if not all students were happy to be part of the Orientation, simply because outside of the Core Meetings, I think many had yet to have the opportunity to really sit back and discuss a prophetic voice, or needed a refresher of who they are
- Words of welcome from Deborah
- Icebreaker and intro to Orientation (12pm - 12:20pm)
  - What is the meaning of your name?
- Purpose of the Orientation
  - Increase engagement, familiarity and understanding with the content of the Awakening Project
  - To discuss and promote dialogue
  - Meet the team and engage in good conversation with the members of the project
- Use of camera is encouraged
- Please engage in dialogue and participate!

#### *b. Review of Prophetic Voices*

- Dr. Cindy Blackstock
  - Executive Director of FNCFCS (First Nations Child and Family Caring Society)
  - Professor at McGill University’s school of social work
  - Published more than 75 articles on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, and First Nations child welfare
  - Has won over 50 awards
- Leymah Gbowee
  - Nobel Peace Prize winner
  - Led a women’s nonviolent peace movement which helped end the Second Liberian Civil War
  - Protested by stripping her clothes to show desperation
  - Gbowee emphasizes the importance of anger and how it can be a catalyst for change
- Gregory Boyle
  - American Roman Catholic Priest and Jesuit
  - Founder and direction of Homeboy Industries (most successful gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world)
  - Has won many awards
- Emma Orbach
  - Left her job and marriage to live in a mud hut
  - She has been living off the grid for 20 years
  - She enjoys her connection to nature and living with non-violence with the Earth
  - She chooses not to be stressed and step away from sources of stress.
  - Be in the present moment

### c. General Session

In the general session, we discussed the Prophetic Voice of *Pope Francis*. The questions and discussion was based on the following video:

[His Holiness Pope Francis | Why the only future worth building includes everyone | TED Talks](#)

The Discussion Questions for this group discussion are here:

[Pope Francis \(Group discussion; Deborah\)](#)

A variety of answers to some of the questions are here (notes courtesy of Hinna, some from Ivy):

*The Pope states that “One cannot love, unless it is at their own expense”. Reflect on these words. What do you think he means by this? Do you have any personal examples?*

A few responses:

- Reminds me of a parents love; how they give up a lot of time for their children
- I can relate to what the Pope is saying because I sacrifice my time for family and friends too.
- Love as a sacrifice
- You cannot truly love someone without being brave and putting others first
- Compare to the good samaritan mentioned by the Pope
- Definition of love: to will the good of the other. To achieve this good, it requires us to give a part of ourselves.
- We need to step out of our own selves to love someone
- Relates to the Project and work we do for the Awakening Project as well

The Pope stresses the importance of forgiveness, hope, lacking judgment, solidarity, inclusivity, tenderness and selflessness. Why are these important traits as we mission towards transformative change?

A few responses:

- These are qualities that accompany love and can combat the negative qualities that are central to our targets for change. We cannot hope to elicit change in others if we approach them with judgment, contempt or hate.
- I think these traits are extremely important in our society because many people refuse to be open minded and stay stuck in an older generation in order to maintain progressiveness.
- Traits such as inclusivity and selflessness are incredibly important
- All of these traits are very important. Also relates to the second question that you can't love without having these traits
- Can't change without love
- Our will to strive for transformative change will be short-lived if it is fueled by selfish intentions

*Tenderness is described by the Pope as being on the same level as the other. Think of the nuances in this description. What conflicts may arise with seeing everyone as their equal and treating everyone the same?*

A few responses:

- While this statement may be interpreted as treating everyone equally, the students found this to not necessarily be fair; not everyone will require the same kind of aid. What will help one person may not be enough for another. Some people may not require the help, which takes resources from those who truly need it.
- Very chaotic and disastrous. If we treated a blind person the same way we treated someone who is not blind, chaos will ensue
- Equity is needed
- If we treat everyone the same, we cannot see the privileges of others
- Treating everyone the same can be seen as ignorant
- People of different groups have different privileges and disadvantages
- Financial levels. Can't give a rich person much more money as they don't need it as much as a poorer person does
- The goal is not to treat everyone in the same way, but to bring everyone to the same level by providing each person with what they need.

The Pope mentions how life flows through our interactions and the general significance of our interactions with one another; what interaction(s) have impacted you and made you who you are today? How do you think you have/can impact others through your interactions with them?

A few responses:

- Paying kindness forward
- You don't know what is going on in someone else's life so interactions are very important
- Small acts of kindness are very important: Smiling at a stranger, holding the door open, etc. We don't know how these little things can maybe brighten someone's day
- Interactions help you understand life through someone else's shoes
- Holding discussions and having good dialogue with other students is a great way to build interactions

#### *d. Small discussions groups*

**Students then moved off to breakout sessions** with their respective student leaders who discussed the readings that were pre-assigned well before Orientation.

When we regrouped, we had brief **group presentations**, given by the group leaders

The presentations and discussion were based on the following Multimedia materials:

#### **Dr. Cindy Blackstock**

*Multimedia materials:*

- [A conversation about equity with Dr. Cindy Blackstock and Dr. Barbara Fallon](#)
- <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/sunday/the-sunday-edition-for-june-28-2020-1.5624927>

#### **Leymah Gbowe**

*Multimedia materials:*

- [Leymah Gbowee on her faith, resilience, and channeling anger for good](#)
- [Leymah Gbowee: The Dream | Peace Films by Errol Morris | The New York Times](#)

#### **Gregory Boyle**

*Multimedia materials:*

- [Gregory Boyle on Kinship](#)

#### **Emma Orbach**

*Multimedia materials:*

- [Woman Builds £1000 Tiny Earthen Home To Live Close To Nature In Welsh Woods](#)
- [Living Off Grid for 20 Years - Emma Orbach | AP#120](#)

The **discussion questions** used the breakout room can be accessed using the following links:

- Dr. Cindy Blackstock
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Leymah Gbowe
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Gregory Boyle
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Emma Orbach
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)

### *c. ConceptBoards*

All groups created a ConceptBoard to recap the main points of their group's notes and discussions as a basis for presentations. The ConceptBoards can be located here:

- Dr. Cindy Blackstock
  - 📄 Dr. Cindy Blackstock.pdf
- Leymah Gbowee
  - 📄 Leymah Gbowee.pdf
- Gregory Boyle
  - 📄 Gregory Boyle.pdf
- Emma Orbach
  - 📄 Emma Orbach.pdf

### *d. Group Presentations/Sharing*

Notes courtesy of Hinna Ahmed.

#### **Dr. Cindy Blackstock**

- Known for her work in the Indigenous Community
- Equality does not equal equity - in equality we just provide the same resources to everyone, but with equity, we consider each individual's circumstance to even out the playing field
- "Governments don't create change, they respond to change". What can we do on an individual basis to promote equity? Every single person has some sort of power to work towards change that they want to see
  - One of the biggest ways is having conversations
    - Discuss things that are important to you
    - It is very important to listen to those who share their feelings and thoughts
  - Be open minded and willing to change your perspective
  - Signing petitions - might not seem significant, but it is!
  - Attending events
  - Support others and promote awareness so the government takes action
- Looking at technology as a solution or making things worse?
  - Social media has its advantages and disadvantages
  - Mainstream media - how different people are represented in the media
  - Stereotypes can be a disadvantage

### **Leymah Gbowee**

- How Gbowee landed her protest and if women were not the front runners of the protest then the violence and war would not have ended.
- Non-violent protests showed how they were against violence
- Many families were promised funds and salaries if they put their kids in the war, but it was just a form of child labour
- The possible impacts on children from the war (PTSD, etc.)
- There is a lot of stigma around receiving mental health help, but there should be resources available to help those with PTSD and other illnesses. It is one way to help them find relief
- Gbowee's act to strip is looked upon as very brave and she showed she has control over her own body
- She is a very strong woman, showed how desperate she was when she stripped
- She was able to protest without being scared what was going to happen to her
- She tried very hard not to hurt anyone

### **Gregory Boyle**

- Fr. Boyle holds many views that differ greatly from the views held by many today. What are some of those views, and in what ways do they differ from currently held views?
  - "If you think there are evil people that is where you will go" - we think if we see or sense evil, most will turn the other way
  - "There's no bad people" - it is hard to say people like the Texas shooter is a good person
  - "Bad people are people who have not been shown the goodness in them" - this is one of the first bridges we need to get over before we can help people and spread tenderness and kinship
- Fr. Boyle says that God's will is what we deeply want, and discernment is finding out what your deepest desires are. Do you think this view aligns with how people view God's will today, and why? What do you think Fr. Boyle means by this?
  - People today don't align with this
  - People use "God's Will" in selfish ways, e.g. to justify discriminatory behaviour
- According to Fr. Boyle, the traditional approaches to helping those in need, such as those experiencing homelessness or gang members, are ineffective and we need to foster kinship and healing instead. The examples of this he provides apply to larger organizations; in what ways can we do so as individuals (i.e. in our daily lives)?
  - Getting involved in the community and taking the time to search for these organizations and opportunities
  - Kinship and tenderness is the goal we should be striving to achieve
  - When going to volunteer or help, bring your talents with you (nail art, henna tattoos)

- Make small donations
- Help people without making them feel stigmatized
- Respect human dignity

### **Emma Orbach**

- Emma has rejected all technology in her lifestyle
- Rogers outage: impacted so many people, is this lifestyle possible in our current world?
  - Emma travels two fields to get to her phone
- There was life before technology, how did people survive without a phone in their pocket?
- How does Emma's lifestyle compare to uncontacted tribes? It is a choice for her to live the way she does, not a choice for others
  - She says true happiness comes from living with the elements (fire, water, Earth)
  - Some people who live in cities have never seen the green
  - You feel more connection to nature when you see the green
- What faith backgrounds align with Emma's lifestyle and ideology? Buddhism and Hinduism. Emma was very influenced by Gandhi and non-violence
  - Non-violence is towards the Earth as well not just with other humans

After the group discussion, Deborah led everyone through a Kahoot (1:50pm - 2pm) which contained 10 questions about the history, mission, vision, focus and work of the Awakening Project.

#### *d. Listening and Journeying with the Disabled*

Hinna's presentation (2pm - 2:15pm)

Slides:

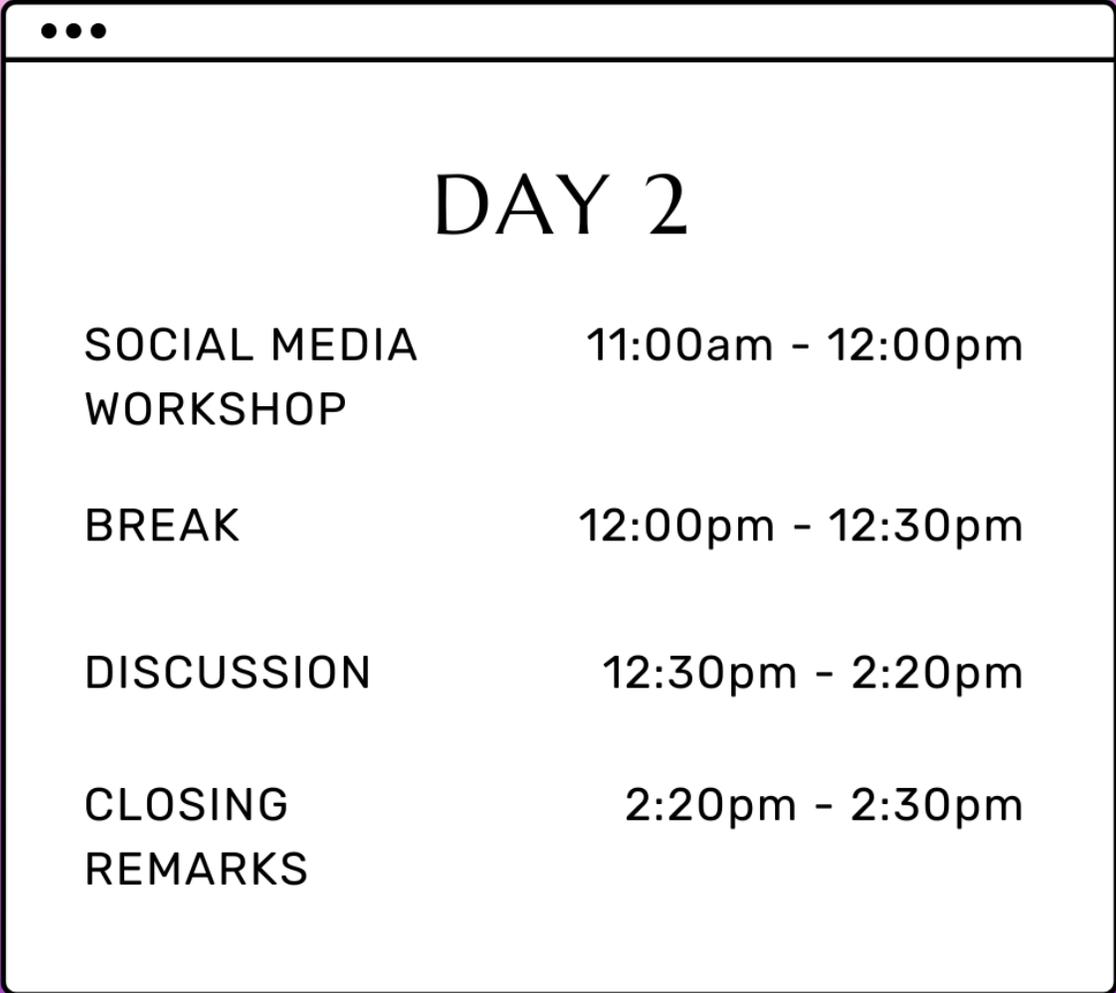
[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFFxSq5bvA/FdpmYrALXyAVJ5DB2Emymg/edit?utm\\_content=DAFFxSq5bvA&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFFxSq5bvA/FdpmYrALXyAVJ5DB2Emymg/edit?utm_content=DAFFxSq5bvA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

- Introduction
- Table of Contents
  - Claudia Gordon - A deaf Prophetic Voice
  - The Awakening Project working on being more accessible to the disabled
  - Deaf myths
  - Learn some sign language!
- Claudia Gordon
  - First deaf female African American lawyer
  - At the age of 8, she lost her hearing, and because of this, she faced a lot of discrimination in her hometown in Jamaica.
  - She attended Howard University
  - She attended law school at American University
  - She is one of former President Barack Obama's key advisors for disability issues
- Gallaudet University
  - Founded in 1817
  - Claudia Gordon did not attend Gallaudet University, even as a deaf person
  - Howard University is one of America's most famous Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
  - To this day it is the only University in the world that is designed for deaf people.
  - It has been 205 years since Gallaudet was founded and 205 years later it is still the only University for deaf people.
- TAP Accessibility
  - We are working to ensure all the videos on the Awakening project website have subtitles
  - We are also working towards making sure all podcasts on the website have a transcript or a link to the transcript of that podcast.
  - We have amazing members of the Awakening project team who are willing to accommodate everyone's needs!
- Deaf Myths
  - ASL is a "beautiful" language
    - ASL is a language just like every other language in the world.
    - You can say bad words, plan murders, say horrible things about other people in ASL just as you can do in English, Spanish, French, Hindi, every language.
  - Deaf people can't listen to music
    - They can feel the vibrations of the music, the beat of the song.
    - There are also many deaf musicians.

- Deaf people communicate through reading lips
  - Reading lips is not an easy thing to do at all, it is also not an effective way to communicate
- Deaf people can't drive
  - If they can pass their driving tests as hearing people pass their driving tests then why can't they drive?
  - They have to be more aware of their surroundings but as they say, the loss of one sense increases another.
- Deaf people don't talk
  - Although this is true in most cases, it is not smart to assume this for all deaf people.
  - There are deaf people who can talk and they can talk well.
- Sign Language Activity
  - Hi, Bye
  - Thank you
  - Good/Good morning
  - Yes
  - No
  - Please
  - Sorry
  - Numbers 1-10
- Closing Remarks, thank everyone for listening

Deborah gave some Closing Remarks to end Day 1 of Orientation, and Vincent expressed his gratitude to attendees.

## IV. Day 2 of Orientation



DAY 2	
SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP	11:00am - 12:00pm
BREAK	12:00pm - 12:30pm
DISCUSSION	12:30pm - 2:20pm
CLOSING REMARKS	2:20pm - 2:30pm

Day 2 began with some opening words by Saesha.

## a. Social Media Workshop

presented by Sana Mahmood (Social Media team lead)

Day 2 began with Sana giving a workshop on Social Media, and how it could be effectively used on the Awakening Project. The **slides** for that Workshop can be found here:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFFemriwNQ/11BKGRgl\\_vE17XHDgtzidQ/view?utm\\_content=DAFFemriwNQ&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=viewer](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFFemriwNQ/11BKGRgl_vE17XHDgtzidQ/view?utm_content=DAFFemriwNQ&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer)

- Icebreaker
  - Name, School, and favourite hobby
- Goals of the Awakening Project Social Media
  - Propagate the Awakening Project's message
  - Using social media as a megaphone to amplify the message of the project
  - Connect with others through our posts; builds an online community
  - Broadens our horizons and see others' perspectives that differ from our own
  - Various media to be up to date with the trends today
  - Trends are always changing so it is very important to stay connected with society. Social media is a great way to do that.
  - Learn new skills (Canva, communication, make your posts concise, etc.)
- Brief activity
  - Word Cloud - what do you think of when you hear "Graphic Design"
  - Some Responses:
    - Infographics
    - Images
    - Bright colours
    - Attention grabbing
    - Challenging
    - Beauty
    - Artistic
    - Adobe
    - Fonts
    - Visual
    - Canva
    - Aesthetic

### Canva breakdown ([www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com))

- Many key features:
  - Two ways to access your designs: go down, or access your projects on the left hand side
  - Using the search bar, you can search for one of your designs or a template
  - A help button at the bottom right - very useful
  - **Brand kits** - brand logos and brand colours are there for reference. Choose any font you want!
  - **TAP's Colour and font docs:** [Colour & Font Palette 2022](#)
  - There are a million different sizes for posts (Instagram posts, stories, reels, Facebook posts, flyers, cover letters, resumés, etc.)
    - For University students: You can get one year of Canva pro for free with your University email
  - Can import files and edit previous designs you may have
  - Canva auto-saves but always double check this!
  - Give your post a name

- You can share your design the same way as you do in Google
- You can comment on designs like how you can do in Word
- Can change view size
- You can connect third party apps to your design (QR Codes, bitmojis, free hand drawing, Google maps, etc.)
- There are so many templates to choose from!
- **Rule of thumb:** To improve your design skills, try and create your own template and your own design
- Mix and match templates
- A good place to start is the title page
- All campaigns for social media posts have predesigned colours and templates
- Icons or pictures?
  - Benefits for both, depends on the design being made
  - If it is a news article, then pictures are better
  - If it is something more artistic then use icons
  - Generally go for icons for most of the Awakening Project material, school, work, etc.
- **Colours** - look at the colour wheel when you are unsure. Complementary colours (orange and blue, red and green, yellow and purple) look good with each other
- Use warm tones (red, orange, yellow) and cool tones (green, blue, purple)
- Canva has premade palettes and fonts that match those colours
- Transparency setting in top right
- Position setting to move an icon/picture/text to the back or the front
- Canva aligns things for you; use this to your advantage
- Line and Letter spacing - under "Spacing" at the top
- Effects - shadow, lift, neon, curve (for circle icon, you can change the curvature to make the text more or less round)
- Organize your information! Will make it easier on the eyes and makes it look nicer
- Layering is very important, gives dimension and grabs your attention
- Keep consistent in font, theme, and text size
- Use minimal text to convey your point
- If you are making a post about a person or an event that happened, create a quick facts page
- **Sources** are applicable everywhere you go
  - Cite everything! Use APA format for all Awakening Project posts
  - Use citation machine; don't do it by hand
  - List sources in alphabetical order
  - Between each source make sure there is one space
  - Pasting sources on Canva is a bit difficult, you need to adjust it (indent, etc.) - manually press the spacebar 8 times and it should be ok
  - For APA, hanging indent: indent the second line
  - Purdue guide: [APA Style Introduction // Purdue Writing Lab](https://www.purdue.edu/writinglab/guides/apa/)
- **Canva Design School:** <https://www.canva.com/designschool/courses/>

## *b. Social Justice issues debrief*

After a lunch break, we proceeded to the discussion of social justice. Student leaders Mike and Stefano then lead everyone through the five issues to be discussed in the various breakout rooms, **(1) Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs); (2) Canada's Housing Crisis; (3) Heterosexism and Transphobia; and (4) Indigenous Water Crisis.**

Slides (contains summary of the issues):  Social Justice Issues - 2022 Orientation Day 2.pdf

The presentations and discussion were based on the following Multimedia materials:

### **Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs)**

- [We Must Not Stand By: On the Persecution of China's Uighur Muslims by Jonathan Sacks](#)
- [My life in Canada, just like many other Uyghur Canadians here](#)

### **Canada's Housing Crisis**

- [20 years ago Canada had a housing plan](#)
- [Canada's housing market is breaking records at an alarming rate](#)
- [Negligance of Human Rights | Housing Crisis in Canada | Habitat HM](#)

### **Heterosexism and Transphobia**

- [Mapping the Landscape of Faith-Based Heterosexism and Transphobia](#)

### **Indigenous Water Crisis**

- [Safe Water for First Nations – The Council of Canadians](#)
- [The Water Crisis in Canada's First Nations Communities](#)
- [Dozens of Canada's First Nations lack drinking water: 'Unacceptable in a country so rich'](#)

### *c. Discussion Questions*

The discussion questions used the breakout room can be accessed using the following links:

- Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs)
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Canada's Housing Crisis
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Heterosexism and Transphobia
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)
- Indigenous Water Crisis
  - [Discussion Questions TAP Orientation 2022](#)

### *d. Small Group Discussions presentations recap*

Notes courtesy of Hinna Ahmed.

#### **Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs)**

- The Chinese Uyghurs are facing dehumanization and discrimination solely based on their religion, Islam.
- Islamophobia is present in Canada and throughout the world
- China holds so much power and people fear trying to do anything against them
- Canada needs to step up and help the Muslims in China
- It is inhumane as they are being treated as less than and it is like Nazi Germany all over again
- People fear to speak up because China is too powerful and will get rid of and punish the Muslims in China more
- They are forced to work under horrible conditions
- Cannot see their families
- Don't buy from Shein!
- Learning and teaching about Islamophobia and how it desensitizes the public to issues affecting Muslim populations.
- Countries fear the loss of traded goods from China if they speak up against them

#### **Canada's Housing Crisis**

- Many different communities affected by homelessness: homeless seniors have doubled over the years, refugees experience homelessness
- In 2016, 2.2% of homeless people are veterans
- 25-40% of homeless people identify as LGBTQ+
- Youth live in unhealthy and unsafe environments
- Youth struggle with education access which mentally puts a strain on them
- It is difficult for homeless people to adhere to health and safety guidelines
- More people have become homeless because of COVID
- Shelters offer less beds than before due to social distancing

### **Heterosexism and Transphobia**

- Members of the LGBTQ+ community are more likely to be victims of sexual assault and experience mental health issues
- Higher degree of loneliness and isolation
- They suffer from substance abuse
- As youth, we did not have much knowledge about the LGBTQ+ community; have to do our own research
- The LGBTQ+ community faces being ignored a lot
- They feel excluded and leads to trust issues as they think they can't be loved if their families left them when they came out
- Causes problems loving themselves and others
- Higher levels of anxiety and depression
- More education in school would be good
- Recently in Canada, gay men are allowed to donate blood
- Doctors may not have enough knowledge to help them and won't be able to provide the care that they need

### **The Indigenous Water Crisis**

- Many Indigenous reserves do not have access to clean drinking water
- Justin Trudeau claimed during his election campaign that he would end the drinking crisis in 2021 but there are still 43 communities that still do not have access to clean drinking water
- They have to boil water before consuming it
- Due to the acts that were signed, they cannot create their own way of getting clean drinking water
- This issue is not being resolved fast enough
- The Canadian Government is not taking enough action
- It is also difficult to get resources to their communities
- Send a letter to Trudeau!

### *e. Infographics*

All groups created their own infographics to recap the main points of the issues discussed in their groups. The infographics could be located at the following links:

- Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs)
  -  Refugee Justice (Chinese Uyghurs).pdf
- Canada's Housing Crisis
  -  Canada's Housing Crisis Infographic.pdf
- Heterosexism and Transphobia
  -  Faith-Based Heterosexism and Transphobia Infographic.pdf
- Indigenous Water Crisis
  -  Water Crisis Infographic TAP.pdf

## *f. Art as Activism*

A presentation by Michelle Ally

Slides:  Art as Activism.pdf

Summary (Notes courtesy of Hinna Ahmed)

- Showed beautiful art pieces and recited a poem
  - Use art as a means of expressing certain ideas
  - Everyone looked at the images in silence
  - Maybe start putting up art works made by members of the Awakening Project on the website
- Discussion
  - The artwork was very powerful
  - A picture can say 1000 words
  - All the artwork was very moving and touching
  - You can look at a picture and interpret a lot from it
  - Sometimes you can't use words to explain your thoughts
  - Art conveys more emotion than words
  - Everyone can understand and interpret art

## V. Conclusions

The 2022 Orientation Days was built upon the lessons of 2021's Orientation, and experimenting with new workshops and new Orientation Leaders.

TAP began with humble beginnings in the Summer of 2020's Zoom conversations and with new recruits for this third summer, this Orientation allowed for greater participation of other young people across Ontario in these conversations among members old and new of the Project. No one can ever "graduate" from "listening to Prophetic Voices" or "Connecting Faith and Social Justice." This *must* be an ongoing process of dialogue, advocacy, and action. More importantly, students old and new must be able to identify and understand the Mission, Vision and Focus of the Project - students need to be constantly reminded of that and I hope these Orientation Days to some extent did that.

For future summers of TAP, I hope that the Orientation will continue with other Student Leaders, both old and new. Based on our experiences this year, we can work towards continuing to improve the various aspects of the Project.

For now, we can only strive for the best, and ask the Spirit to lead us.

*- Vincent Pham  
Summer 2022 Project Coordinator  
August 16, 2022*