

Welcome to this episode of timely topics and educational program of Lotus network. Lotus network believes it's never too late to rediscover your potential and make the next chapter of your life the very best. And now here's your host.

Lisa Cook

Good morning can you hear me Okay, Okay, my name's Lisa cook, and I would like to welcome you to today's timely topic. Featuring Regina Jackson and Saira Rao. Today's timely topic. it's. never too late to Do dismantle your own white supremacy will be a stimulating informational program, delving into racial equality.

Our speakers, Regina and Saira, are committed to having radically honest conversations about racism and white supremacy. Today you will learn more about these co-founders of race to dinner, and how they collaborated to form a brave space for all, to have healthy discussions that allow for mistakes growth and reconciliation.

Before we begin their presentation. I want to tell you about our exciting schedule of events coming up.

Lotus network is hosting another connector event we are so excited to announce that we have teamed up with rose Women's hospital to produce a series of events centered on women's, health care for all stages, of life part one of this hybrid connector series is Thursday, September the twenty ninth from noon at Rose Women's Hospital, and it's going to be a wonderful opportunity to connect in-person. Our goal is to increase breast cancer, awareness by educating attendees on breast health, screening, and intervention. Attendees will have a chance to hear from a leading panel of experts and learn about the latest cutting edge. Whole health approaches to breast cancer, diagnosis to treatment and recovery. This includes the critical mental health aspect. No one is alone in this journey.

So please join us for this free event, and save your seat in the hospital, where it happens, the link to register will be in the chat (<https://lotusnetwork.org/event/connector-series-breast-health>)

In November. We are excited to welcome back Steph Wagner Steph's expertise is in in empowering women to become effective stewards of their own finances. She will address the financial impact of widowhood, share suggestions to help secure equitable settlements in marriage dissolutions and establish a solid foundation for women in their next chapter.

Be sure to check out our updated website, to see all the events on the schedule for the rest of the year at www.lotusnetwork.org. I promise there are so many opportunities to connect.

Speaking of connecting, we are thrilled that many of you have been involved with lotus network and have enjoyed one or many of our programs and events over the past years. We have grown, we have thrived we have made connections, we have learned from others. we have strengthened our communities, and we have had our voices heard. You've trusted us to bring you events and programming with empathetic engagement that inspire educate and help women of all ages rediscover their potential at no or a minimal cost.

Please consider the friends of lotus network levels of support. With your central help we can continue our mission, sustain the life enriching work. Lotus network has created to change lives for the better. The easiest way to support Lotus Network can become a part of our new vital circle of friends. Donor program is to use the link in the chat (www.lotusnetwork.org/friends-of-lotus)

just to clarify. We remain the same to offer free or a minimal cost for programming. What I am talking about is a donor program. Only, as always, everyone is welcome, and we mean everyone. We are so deeply appreciative of your desire to be a part of lotus network.

Now onto our presentation.

Born in Chicago in the fifties, Regina Jackson remembers an America where everything was in black and white burned into her memory. Are the beatings and horrific treatments of civil rights workers throughout the South. The goodman Cheney Schwerner murders the murder of Viola Lazio. The murder of Martin Luther, King, Jr. and the murders of President John Kennedy and his brother Robert. Violence perpetrated on innocent people going about their lives by white people. It is these memories that drive Regina to push for real change in America. That's why she co-founded race to dinner.

Saira Rao grew up in Richmond Virginia, the daughter of Indian immigrants.

For forty years she wasted her precious time, aspiring to be white and accepted by the dominant white society a futile task for anyone not born with wide skin.

Several years ago, Saira began the painful process of dismantling her own internalized oppression. Saira is a lawyer by training a former Congressional candidate, a published novelist, and an entrepreneur.

Saira and Regina are the co-authors of the forthcoming book, *White Women: Everything you already know about your own racism, and how to do better*. They are also the subjects of the documentary *Deconstructing Karen*.

So please now join me in giving Regina and Saira a warm, warm welcome.

Regina Jackson

Well, as you heard I am seventy-one years old, and for seventy one years I have lived in America in a black box. Okay. What that means to me is my experience is probably very unique and different from most of you. and what I know. Having raised two children and working on four grandchildren. Is that our history is horrendous I don't know how many of you are in my age Group.

But One thing we know is, America does not tell the truth about his history, neither does Britain. For all you Queen worshipers there, and you know for black and Indian people to be not sharing the sorrow around the crate. Queen's death is directly related to colonial is stealing treasures that still are in the hands of the monarchy, and just not being truthful. So our whole. our number one value behind race to dinner is radical honesty.

Let's just all start telling the truth.

Saira Rao

yeah thank you Regina. I'm Saira, and I am South Asian American and I'm critical to all of the nonsense in America. I am the model minority right so it's white here. it's black below me, and I'm I've been brought to this country to hate myself hate black people and aspire to whiteness that's the That's the ecosystem I wanna say this you know Joe Biden who is not my hero, but I'm sure a lot of people here really like him. He finally used the word fascism recently I don't know if you'll notice that. But he called MAGA republicans, not even all republicans semi-fascist, I'm not really sure what turns someone into a whole fascist. Right? Like, How do you go from a semi fascist to a whole fascist, unclear to me?

But it's true we are in a time of fascism, and you know, guns we no longer have autonomy over our bodies, which is a foundational piece of full fascism by the way, the end of roe versus Wade, and even the way that went down I was you all to pay attention. Since we're overweight in the seventies decades there have been decades, you know, with Democratic Presidents both Houses of Congress being Democrats Why, was it never codified. Why was Roe versus Wade never codified? for good reason. Because Democrats were raising Money off of it frankly, then, we hear from Sam Alita. We This, This opinion is leaked months before it comes out. What did anyone do? Nothing, little. The opinion was issued, and the whole party was shocked, shocked.

So a foundational piece of white supremacy. Culture is feigned Ignorance. Number one pretending to not know and shock You're always shocked. Oh, my God you're all constantly shocked I don't know how people get anything done in this country, because there's so much shock all the time over things that are happening so we don't have a lot of time here to mess around frankly like the world. it's really getting bad very fast and very violent, very fast. There's a mass exodus out of this country for the like People who can afford to leave or leaving our kids are in trouble.

Our teachers are in trouble, or the health care system is in trouble. We are all in deep trouble, and nothing is going to change until the status quo. The power majority starts acknowledging their role in all of this.

Why is it so hard? So, I you know why is it so hard to say "I'm White and I have white privilege," which, by the way, is white supremacy? We even couch language right privilege fragility all of that stuff. So we're here.

This is We're not doing this for our health we're not doing this to get rich contrary to all the media reports. Regina and I are not buying yachts with this race to dinner money. We're doing this for free today. you know so we're here because we love ourselves. We're here because we love ourselves and we want to be part of the solution, and a whole lot of people want to be on the right side of history without considering what it means in the present, and all that is required at this tiny like the bar is so low for white people's underground just be honest.

What Regina just said. so we're just going to get started here. We are not sages, we are not Gurus. we are just two random Indian and black women who actually really believe in telling the truth so we're not going to be talking a whole lot right like this is kind of it, you know.

We'll pipe in but this is about you all talking about yourselves. And so, Regina, if you want to take it from here.

Regina

I have to tell you that my husband likes to say to me, "Regina. People think you're crazy," and I go I don't care. And he goes "that's why they think you're crazy" don't care, you know, when you are in the habit of telling the truth, and being living in authentic life, who you are people think you're nuts because we're all supposed to be concerned about what everybody else thinks I could care less.

I really don't. So I would say I also I'm also delighted to have been disinvited from all of the white women parties that I used to be invited to kicked off all the white boards including one at the University of Virginia, my Alma mater, my life is freed up. I don't have any of these small talk cocktail parties or happy hour, and I just get to hang out with Regina and like a handful of other things friends who are honest. Yeah, So what we would like to know is we're gonna need some volunteers here, so we can just kind of have a conversation like we do at one of our race to dinners.

So our dinners were designed, did Leslie. All the back background was printed. Is that correct, Leslie or Lisa? Everybody knows how we started and everything?

Leslie Heins

All of your information is on our website, and so everything that you gave us. But everything that you gave us is now on our website, Regina.

Saira Rao

You can give the quick little. Okay. So we started with Saira running for office against one of you.

All favorites, Diana, to get and that happened to get started because one of Gary's my husband is a retired attorney and judge. One of his partners was an Indian woman who was volunteering her time after Trump got elected to go out to the airport and help these Muslim Americans who are not

being allowed back in the country because they were Muslims.

So, in doing that work, Diana, to get had a town hall meeting at the polls department. Who does that automatically leave out just wanna if you know who that leaves out. I'd like to see a show of hands okay so Nancy went to that meeting and she asked what Diana to get was doing on these people's civil rights.

And she was told that civil rights was not one of Diana de Gett's issues. Okay, So in a country that has murdered indigenous people enslaved black people, others Anybody who isn't white. She's not concerned about civil rights. Okay, so I flipped a gasket to work on Saira's campaign. So what happened after that is because some's whole campaign platform was anti racism.

Whenever she would speak, white women would line up around the corner to talk to her, and what they all wanted to say was not me. I'm not racist i'll let you take it from there. Saira.

Saira Rao

After telling me that I was very articulate but it's not my time or whatever right I wasn't qualified. I'm Only saying this because, let's this is White People's qualifications. I went to the University of Virginia. I went to NYU Law, which is where also Diana went. I clerked on the third Circuit Court of Appeals, next door to Samuelito. I worked at the most prestigious law firm in the world. Clery Gottleb stand in Hamilton. I'm a published author. I had my own business.

I lacked one qualification. the Diana had, and you all, some of whom I'm sure like, you know.

Remember my campaign were horrible, horrible! the liberal white women of Denver, Colorado.

I've moved back to Richmond by the way I've never experienced the kind of racism in my life than I experienced in Denver at the behest of liberal white women democrats in Denver Colorado the absolute worst. And so anyway, I lost this race. Regina worked on my campaign, and I became a target of Breitbart.

You know, Fox news all that I had to leave the state for a couple of months, because people were threatening to kill my kids constantly. None of y'all came to my aid the Liberal press of Denver. I was, I was the subject of a op-ed after op-ed, against me in Denver, the Denver Post, Colorado politics.

Not a single, you know, except for the black, the black magazines, the root, you know, Griot, the black magazines came to my aid. Anyway, I come back, and I post something that was unfathomable to white women at that time that I said Beto O'Rourke was a white savior that's the straw that broke the camel backs of Regina's friend. We'll call her Karen who calls Regina and says I'm done with Saira.

"She hates all white people because she said Beto O'Rourke was a white Savior, and I gave Beto money."

By the way, I said, if I lived in Texas I would vote for Beto, and he's a white saver. but she says to Regina, "I'm done with Saira, but can you set up a lunch, for me and Saira" and I said, You know what I have. How many lunches and dinners. did I have with you people when I was running for Congress, because I had to and I said, I'm not gonna do that.

But if you I've got a laundry list of white women who've asked if you come with me, we can put together a dinner, and we'll do it. And that first dinner we had at in park Hill at a woman's house and Park Hill, full white woman Broadway musical like crying, you know, storming around the table, remember?

She was like storming around like this storming around eyes rolling we're so mean. We're so all of it and we left posted about it on Facebook just posted a bell on Facebook, and it went viral.

And We just said to each other, you know, as black and brown women. We do this for free all the time. this is painful work. This is not fun for me. I could be go right now, I could go for a walk. I'm sitting here with you all right this is not fun and we put it up on Facebook and yeah, it went crazy.

And we said, let's get actually let's get paid for it, and Regina very cleverly came up with the name race to dinner, and that was in February two years ago so it hasn't even been that long, and the amount of attention and success frankly that we've had goes to show you how it's so simple.

But how radical it is because white women have never had these conversations especially not in their safe space, that they're pretty level dining rooms with their China. It's, you know that's saved for talking about kids and bad husbands and bad bosses, and whatever else nonsense it's not talking about your own racism and anyway.

Regina Jackson

That's where we are right now. and we know that white women. When you think of racist, you think of KKK pointed hats. You think of you know, some of these both keepers and those well, because we all come out of the sausage factory, the same sausage factory, as a cyber calls it. We all have this in our souls, in our spirits, in what we believe.

We all think that white is the epitome okay and I'm gonna tell you my truth, I am seventy-one years old. I'm a black woman I took the Harvard Bias test. I am moderately biased towards white children's does that surprise anybody. No cause. I came out of the same sausage factory myself.

Okay, so we're going to kind of do a little game so we need five or six volunteers. Everybody know how to go over to reactions and raise your hands. If you want to be a part, it's on the bottom of your screen, and it's a little happy face with a plus if you click on that, you'll get a raise your hand and Jeff, is going to unmute you so you can be part of this conversation if you raise your hand

Look at that alright great. I think that's good fantastic.

Saira Rao

Okay, So the question for you all and i'll happily go first.

So nobody has to be terrified, is we want to discuss one instance of your racism recently, like a recent instance of something you've done, not done, thought said racist xenophobic.

And I will go first to tell you. Regina just told you She came out as moderately pro white kid.

We were on a plane to Toronto, not like what, in July month and a half ago, to go or documentary deconstructing.

Karen was showing there, and we had two race to dinners back to back.

So I was on a flight, going to somewhere to watch this movie and participate in race to dinners.

I'm sitting next to an Indian woman who could have been my deceased mother, I mean an Indian woman wearing a sari and her kids.

You know we're sitting over here with her grandkids and she didn't speak any English, so she kept her kids kept talking over me to ask her question, and she just wasn't responding, Do you know what I thought to

myself. Why can't you speak English what is wrong with her?

Why can't she just talk some English and Why, she dressed like that?

Why she dressed like that. Talking about my own people that is self loathing that is, that is self

loathing based in anti-blackness.

Because that's everything right. but also xenophobia of my own people.

And that's why I was not raised wearing sorry I was not raised.

To speak. I was, I knew, my native tongue but it went away, and it was not beaten back into my brain.

So that's pretty. horrible. to you know it feels is it horrible to admit, because I'm sure you all have done or said similar things.

So That's my truth and I've got a thousand others involving black people.

Muslim people, Mexican people. So if I do, I suspect all of you have even more so.

This is like, and, by the way, nobody is judged like Regina said.

When you go into the sausage factor you come out of sausage.

So we are already know you all are racist we already know what you think of us.

We've heard it all we have heard it all nothing is shocking, and nothing is you know, Novel, you know.

Regina Jackson

Again. we've heard it all and nothing is gonna change until you do this and get comfortable doing this, and have these conversations with yourselves, and have these conversations with each other, because this is going to be over in min and you all go back into your

regular life have to start having these conversations with your peers and your family.

Otherwise we're all going to die in the earth is going to kick us out, as it probably should.

And I want you guys to know. I just read this the other day, and I could not believe it.

The billionaires are building bunkers. okay in the desert that they wanna go live in when they destroy the fucking earth.

Saira Rao

You hear it. So we are allowing, okay, rich white men to destroy the earth.

And they actually believe They're going to survive I'm sorry, but I find that kind of funny and your behavior and your is directly tied to that.

That's why Regina makes that statement so anyway. who wants to go first.

Volunteer One

Okay, My, my! I noticed I was in New York City recently, and a woman had a burka on, and I thought,

Why are you still wearing that? and it just frustrates me?

Because what's going on critically and so an anger came up.

I don't even know this woman It was completely unfair so that was one like two weekends ago, I

noticed. and then I was ashamed that I thought I know her, and I don't typically feel like I have a bias

toward African Americans, or people from India or I have great love and respect because I've known those I've known people as friends all these years, and they have respect for me as a Jewish white woman, But the woman.

In the braco is up sunny. So, by the way, sorry, go ahead.

Saira Rao

Black and Indians wear burkas like. There are lots of African Muslims and a lot of South Asian Muslims.

Volunteer One

So There's my experience right there because right away I'm, assuming that men are making decisions for these women, and that makes me angry. so.

But I'm angry at our end our own country of what's going on.

I'm serious with what's happening with roe v wade and many other areas, and I'm upset that I'm upset for a lot of reasons that women in particular of all races and religions are not

treated well. so that's something that bothers me.

Regina Jackson

Thank you. And you know what the basis did you talk to about that to anybody other than this group?

I no, I mean just now I know something I just noticed because I was in midtown, and I and I just saw that, and it was just right away when I made that judgment.

I was ashamed because I don't go I mean that's good, because you are at least aware of it.

Most of the things we aren't aware of that's waiting, and one of the big ones I see is So you see, a young black man coming towards you and sagging pants.

I bet you ninety nine percent of you would cross the street in my road.

you would know in our society are the boogie man?

Saira Rao

Yeah, I mean I would. I would interrogate.

I would push that but there's no there's no need to get into it.

I think what Regina is saying is it's intersectionality right?

So South Asian who looks like me. UVA talks like this, not wearing a bark of fine right South Asian, who's wearing a full robe, and, by the way, I was at the world trade center so on

September eleventh I left my apartment as a model minority, and I came back as a terrorist.

So I'm very near and dear to this islamophobia, language matters too so white for fragility, white supremacy, antisemitism, hatred of Jews.

But we call antisemitism, islamophobia.

What you're describing is hatred of Muslims and we have to start being honest about this.

I. people are calling the cops on me in New York City.

I went I would live there forever. when I was wearing a backpack right because they thought I was.

I was a terrorist, I would want to call the cops on people who looked like me, though so here's what I would really sincerely suggest to you, and anyone else who, if you're being absolutely honest would have the same reaction to

you to a woman in Hijab burka, whatever is, start educating yourself on this like this.

By the way, white feminism is very much about Google white feminism, if you don't know what white feminism is, get really up to speed on white feminism, because what you just said is dictionary definition is

I'm concerned that she's letting men make decisions for her.

When we are, we are literally having this conversation right now right now in America in ,, and we have no control over our bodies Right?

Like that is so. we're fine but it's a Muslim woman, and if in if you know Muslim women who wear a job. they that's their choice that that's their freedom So we

decide we decide what's free and not and it's always It's always white Western white westerners are free.

Everybody else is subjected, and we need to go around and free everyone.

So number one: Educate yourself on Islam and number two:

I would recommend this book. *White Tears Brown Scars* by Ruby Hamad. she it's fantastic.

She just wrote it recently. She lives in Australia she's Arab She that's how she identifies and I and she has a lot of historical context around how white people will went to African countries and the way Africans were

dressed, you know, South Asian countries we are all animals we don't.

We are not free to be a civilized as you walking through midtown, dressed the way you are.

That woman doesn't have any choices but you are super free.

None of us are free. none of us are free. You happen to have power to change.

You had you happen to have more power to change it. and I have more power than Regina, because I have non-black privilege. right?

So we all have to know where we are in this ecosystem, and if I were we're a job I would have less.

I would have less power because of the perceptions that you just said.

And I appreciate you telling us that, Thank you.

Who wants to go next?

Volunteer Two

Yes, it hit me this morning. I was walking the dog! and I was almost home, and there was a gentleman that was laying on the sidewalk, and my first reaction was, Oh, my gosh!

What's happened to him there's a lot of construction within our around.

Our neighborhood, and so I kind of assume that maybe he was a construction worker.

But I didn't really know, and I walked up I as I said I had my dog, and I walked up to him, and my first thing was well, first, was he hurt or was something wrong.

But then the second thing I said to him, Are you okay?

And he just kind of like looked at me and turned away as if he was afraid of the dog is what I thought initially, and then

He kind of rolled onto his side, but he did speak English.

He was Hispanic, and I just I but now we're in the right mind.

Would lay on a sidewalk, and it just it just I don't know it just was very

I felt uncomfortable with it, because I felt like if He's Hispanic.

Maybe he learned from someplace else. I don't know and especially since he didn't seem to speak English.

Why, you know he seemed afraid of me and my dog, and I was kind of surprised at that.

But I also thought he shouldn't he shouldn't be laying on the sidewalk, and I just I felt very uncomfortable because I did read the articles.

And listen to your interviews prior to this discussion today.

And I thought, is this being racist, for how am I?

You know my response to thinking that he was wrong in laying on the sidewalk.

It looked like he was looking at his phone when he was laying on the sidewalk.

But it, that just was a very I felt like he was not doing something right, and it just made me uncomfortable in that way.

So I don't know if that's truly racism.

But it just it because it made me feel uncomfortable and think that he was doing something wrong.

Saira Rao

That's the way it made it came across to me you know one thing that you said.

One thing that you said that was very interesting to me is he seemed afraid to me, and I didn't understand.

Why, why do you think brown or black person, man or woman, would be afraid of you?

Volunteer Two

Well, I was thinking who was afraid of the dog more than he was afraid of me.

Well, because I could call or attack him, or have my dog attack him, or something?

And just all the things that you hear and read about of white women, especially calling about some other person that is doing something that is, this is suspicious.

Regina Jackson

Well, most of the times they're just living their lives You're in the park little girls selling water people barbecuing in the part majority of the time.

They're living. They're trying to live their lives and one of the things that we talk about all the time, and you know we have called them Karen, and our documentary is named de constructing Karen because

we look at you, get an opportunity to actually see why women in their happy place, which is at the dinner table, not acknowledging what we know, and part of it is every system in this country educational.

They had a call community government political. Every system in this country has been developed.

Okay. to make white people appear to be smarter, better.

Everything than everybody else, and on the bottom of that, as Saira said, is black and indigenous.

Saira Rao

People, so I don't know if you're up to speed on the number of indigenous women that are disappear every year, and black women disappear every year.

And nobody seems to care that's systemic and it's actually done the way it was designed.

It's working the way it was designed to work and your example actually, is that in motion.

So let's just take a let's take yourself out of It right.

It's a random white woman with a random dog and a random brown man who doesn't speak English laying on the ground.

Just if you just took a picture of that. What does it tell you?

What does it tell you about power, and status privilege you don't see a whole bunch of white women who speak perfect English, laying on grounds, you know, laying on the sidewalks with so

There's a photographer who recently, did if I can find it.

I'll share it with you guys post-actor who did a flip of what it would look like if we just flip the roles if it's all Asian women lined up on you know let's call

it cherry creek one, of the fancy salons and Cherry Creek, and it's all white women do it scrubbing their feet right.

If It's all white people cutting down trees and Latinos driving by, or with their dogs having their Cappuccino from Starbucks being like, what the why can't they speak English what's wrong

with them? Why are they lying in the ground? so on, and so forth?

So if you just flip that what would happen today? Yes, it tells you all you need to know, and how much power you have, and how much power and your role in it right that you didn't understand why he was scared of you He was probably scared of

both you and your dog right? and you think what's wrong with him.

What's wrong with him is America is white supremacy America that's what's wrong with him.

But if you start paying attention, thank you for that because if you start paying attention, there's going to be dozens of these examples that happen every day.

Look at your surroundings, I mean. I just left Denver, my son.

We went to Cherry, Greek Mall. When he was six he saw an Indian boy.

This is in the middle of the city of Denver and he said to me un ironically.

He didn't have irony at that point he said "is that me?"

He pointed to the Indian boy goes "mommy is that me?" so you're surrounded by white people all the time.

How could I be racist if you look around, and you see where you live, and who surrounds you every day?

That really tells you a lot, too. But thank you for sharing that because you just said I'm not really sure if that's racist.

Yes, what you described was racism. a % in your involvement in it, and it might seem small.

But it's not small. it's big and if you start paying attention to these things.

You can stop. you can undo them, you will have a different reaction the next time, you know I can tell you he probably wouldn't be scared, or mere of me, or Regina, if we came over because we'd have a different you

know way about that. You know the way about us, and so, trust me, it works. I mean, just once you start doing the little things the big things happen in your life.

The truly changes. Okay, who's next?

Volunteer Three

Yes, So I went to get like I'm visiting I'm from Chicago.

So I went to get my and closest place I could get.

It went online and registered it and I had to get it at the Walgreens next to the red line on Roosevelt road, which is very mixed, and I was terrified even though

I told myself, not as well, and I also, when I went into the pharmacy I was the minority, and so I knew.

I knew that my reaction was a global reaction. But it's still overload my conscious thing.

No right but so no it's a work in progress.

Obviously, and the other thing I've learned is my time out about in Chicago, and I get the elevator.

It's not be me, and people caller i'll start a conversation, and I realized that I was assuming and bestowing my conversation instead of I don't know how to start an authentication.

So I kind of lead it to the person of color now, because I just assume well they would want to talk

because I like they might not what it's a constant monitoring of thinking your you know doing the right thing and everything. But and again I agree with you with so hard wire deeply.

Yeah, someone who's really working on it is still always needed to we educate and touch base, and you know, and so I'm learning to take to not assume, and which is hard one and to take my direction from people and to

be open, and the here on this Yes, just something nine times out ten, and some reasonable, and i'll give you an example.

I was out at a diner with a friend and Nonetheless, men came in, and sat at the table next to us, and my friend and I were getting ready to go.

And this one of these, when you have to pay, count or not the waitress.

So I wanted to leave a cash and thank go page!

And had a conversation with my son, and I was like you know.

“Leave the cash. Trust these people get over yourself.”

But I still went to the next one that I'd like to think I wouldn't.

So I left it like these guys and here just the see There's so many there's, so many it goes on.

Regina Jackson

I have to tell you, though. my family was from South sang Amen and Roosevelt Road.

That's where my family grew up in Chicago So yeah, number one, how would he?

If you want to work on getting over these fears, these irrational fears, how would you go about doing that?

What comes to mind for anybody?

Volunteer One

getting to know people of all races. That's the only that that takes care of fear

Regina Jackson

that's right? so. And I think you know in this country, % of public school teachers are white women.

Okay, So you have white women to teaching kids that they're afraid of and it's so sad and it's so detrimental to these kids spiritual emotional and physical health, because you know when you're as

afraid of a child, my son I tell a story in the book about my son misbehaving, and his teacher would call me all the time, and she'd say Michael's doing this that, and the other.

So I set him down, And I said, “Michael, why do you do this?” “Because she wants me to.”

So these white teachers have expectations of these little and brown kids.

If nobody expects anything of you, What do you live up to?

Saira Rao

I want to add two things So number one.

Yes, get to know people, you know, across the spectrum.

However, be careful like we're respectable right when you when you see us we open our mouths, and suddenly we become, I'm sure like a lot of white people suddenly see me in a full hijab.

Now, like you, I become a terrorist. when I start talking

And Regina becomes a scary black woman sometimes as well.

Right. So that's not going to do I mean I can if getting If getting to know, people was gonna fix everything like, we would have no more misogyny, because men would suddenly not be misogynistic because they got married to a

woman and had daughters right like black there are plenty of white people married to black and brown people, and they don't suddenly become not racist.

You can't marry your way out of racism right you can't do that.

And so I think it's deconstructing your whiteness.

It's this it's actually having these conversations over and over and over again with everybody you know all the time, and have it been a part of your practice. because you could have a whole host of Asian friends or black friends and still

be you know a dangerous I'm India and I was I was hating on this Indian woman sitting next to me on the plane.

You know that's number one number two, I wanted to ask you, what are you afraid of? like if you can check back in with yourself in the pharmacy.

What if exactly do you think is gonna happen if you're if you're even the only what God forbid you're the only white person in a space we've never Regina and I've never experienced being the only

black you know I was curious and I'm legit scared if I'm in a room just with white people. Now I'm legit scared of getting killed. but there's good reason we were actually threatened

without with that multiple times a day I'm just curious what for you

What were you scared of in that moment

Volunteer Three

it's not being the majority and being afraid of zoom overwhelmed. and I hate to say that I'm ashamed to say that so.

I get mad at people who say, Oh, you know, people are gonna riot.

And when they say people in the riot I mean and I'm like, you know.

No you. but anyway, so it was bad and just it like you said that a long time, through our culture and background, and everything that

They're dangerous somehow. they're gonna take something and you Know I'm being on That's kind of what I fear and the other thing I said was well this hot chat Now, you know how

It's like personal comfort, you log into a normal space.

Saira Rao

Right Now you know what that discomfort in being but you don't, don't know it the power is different. Right? like you feel uncomfortable, because you're Not the difference is

white people literally kill black and brown people like they're actually so I would say that start educating yourselves on facts.

What's the biggest riot it's ever happened in this country.

Do you guys know who raise your hand if you know What's the biggest riot that's ever happened? January sixth.

We weren't there. white people were there white people were there, and they didn't know nothing happened right So September the eleventh happened.

And people who look like me became criminals overnight.

The entire department of Homeland Security is meant to criminalize people who look like me and Regina right?

How many felt hundreds or thousands of white people in January. The Sixth did all white people get painted as terrorists that day.

The terrorists who were there were not even painted as terrorists.

Most of them went back to their regular lives, you know. so I would say truly, Regina talks about fear all the time, like What are you afraid of?

What are you afraid of? What are you afraid of start reading facts?

The people who are responsible for mass gun violence in this country are your brothers, your sons, your husbands.

Those are the people, not our people. we're just trying to like We're just trying to get by and live our lives.

You all the whites of this country. The world, you know, are the ones who are committing this mass violence.

So you could get over that's why the truth facts.

Educate yourself because you're not going to be afraid of that once you actually start internalizing the truth

So why don't you go

Volunteer Four

Okay, yeah sure this one

It was just yesterday I went to Hmart I don't know if you guys have Hmart in Denver.

And I was sitting in my car. after I had done grocery shopping, and two Latino men walk by, and instinctively, without even thinking about it, my eyes went to the Car lock, to check if I locked the door.

Instantly, and I think, looking back on it was really striking.

Is that my thought process right after that was, I know myself doing it, and I had to reassure myself.

No, the reason I felt unsafe is because they were men, not because they were Latino.

It was just I'm scared of men and as a woman like That's okay, that's normal, you know.

Looking back on that, I immediately, had to reassure myself that I didn't do that because I was racist, even though that was probably part of it, right, you know. So it was not just that I did.

It, Immediately I had to reassure myself like Oh, I'm not one of the bad ones. Oh, I didn't do that because I was racist when you know, looking back on it, it was.

Regina Jackson

This was one of the things that I like to talk about.

We don't have much time here. but I want to know you know that these mass murders in schools are the actually perpetrated by white men.

Young white men. These are your brothers, your uncles, your cousins.

You know. what? What have you all done about anything? These are little white kids being murdered in schools for profit.

Okay for profit. Every time we have a mass shooting, our white dudes go out and stock up with more guns and more perpetrators.

Come out of the woodwork. These are little white kids. If you guys are not concerned about that, what do you?

How can we even help you be concerned about black and brown lives?

Do you understand what I'm saying is it idiot home for you?

What have you done? Okay, as a human being, as a mother, as a group, as a wife, as a sister, as an aunt, as a niece, as a cousin to protect little children from gun? violence.

What have you personally done?

Volunteer One

Well, I think what we need to do is to vote people in that are actually going to protect these kids.

And there's two groups there's one that is all for guns, and there's the other group that is, is once a lot of gloss that involve guns and so supporting those people that make those decisions

giving them checks So that those that there they can be advertising. what they what their policies are. so that we can get more of those in

Saira Rao

that's one step yeah, I can just say as someone who literally just ran for Congress and white women Democrats in Denver. Colorado did everything to not just keep me out. Try to kill me.

Isn't get me killed like electoral politics we have both Houses of Congress right now, and we have the White House, and we, our President, wouldn't you know, fight to eliminate the filibuster and protect voting rights

act. So let you. have to that is a necessary We have and I will still continue to vote for Democrats, even though I think that they're a poor. They're the Semi-fascist Frankly, The Republicans.

Are full fascist, but that's an and I mean I

I was just ten miles when sandy Hook. happened so we lived in Connecticut after left New York City, and I remember thinking to myself, Okay, it's finished right like it. This is the end.

It's blonde, blue eyed babies they're kindergarteners and first grades in the or something right, and a very wealthy enclave Connecticut I met with Chris Murphy he

was a new dude. And you know, Congress, he assured all of us.

Oh, this is gonna happen. This is gonna happen didn't happen because there's tacit agreement by the way.

Just so, you know, like how this works, and if you start reading more and paying attention, the Democrats get the pharmaceutical money, and so they wink and nod and let the Republicans get the NRA money.

They you think that they're not all in this together it's silly.

It's radical. The people who are actually trying to change this actually trying to change this, or black and brown radical progressives, who you all are afraid of, who you all are afraid of, you, want diet that it gets you want Nancy.

Pelosi. and so, until unless you stop doing that that's not electoral, is not going to help all.

Are you having these conversations with your sons? Are you having these conversations with your daughters?

Are you explaining white privilege, white male privilege to them every day?

Are you showing them pictures of the people who are actually committing, you know, Committing these.

They look like them like that's the stuff that really has to happen in that you can do every single day You know.

I talk about toxic masculinity with my son every day he's twelve.

He understands not that complicated how he has more power than a sister, and they both have less power than white people, I mean, and they both have more power than black people.

How is that complicated like, it's not and so I mean, I think Regina's question is a very good one.

I would interrogate that every day in your practice of life is, what are you all personally doing to get your people behind and end this nonsense?

And it's sending checks to all the democrats sure do that.

Vote for all the democrats sure you have to do that but That's just the tip of the Iceberg.

So to get back to what you were saying.

I don't want to discount rape culture and misogyny at all.

So any woman can and should be afraid of any man but I do think it's important to understand in that case.

If the two guys were wearing, you know, Harvard business school caps and they were white, you know.

I suspect you would have had a different you know and I think that's why you're spidey sense went off, as you probably know that as well .

Let's see. we only have a few minutes left.

Terry Rubin

I think we have time for maybe one more thing I am really hard press to want to stop this.

Well, I can tell you I'm feeling a little raw right now, and I'm not sure how to gracefully end this conversation, and that's because this conversation shouldn't be ended and I think that

I wanna thank the two of you, Saira and Regina for you know, bringing to us today for free what we need to be doing as a part of our lives, to get educated and to be become aware and to have another tool to figure out

what to have the kind of conversations that you have talk to us about today.

I'm kind of I feel like I'm a little bit emotional, and I think probably everybody hears feeling I can feel myself a little bit on the edge, and that's because I feel like I wanna love I wanna find that spot where

I can love everyone, and I wanna dig deep into my inside my soul level and find that so that I don't have a place where my prejudice is just bubbling up and the change can be made and I think that

Maybe Lotus network has done a good thing by bringing this here, and maybe we need to just keep doing this, having conversations, and I guess Regina and Saira would.

I? I would ask, because enough people have said to me, What can we ask them? What can we do?

And I think, can we keep doing this, you know.

Saira Rao

Yeah, I mean a couple of things.

So the first thing I would say is, people you all hate more than us is yourselves and each other. So we go into great detail about this in our book, but the hate that you have for each other is astounding you. You compete. I used to be I thought I was one of you right. but the constant is she's gained £. she's she looks horrible like blah blah blah it's this obsession with weight. Someone famous famously said, if white women spent as much time fighting white supremacy than they did as they did lose weight. We would have been done with the shit centuries ago.

Right you're mean and nasty to each other there's absolutely no way this to end for white supremacy to end until unless you all start loving yourselves. And this is not going to get manipulated for like self-care. You know this is loving yourselves and loving each other. And that requires radical, honesty all of it requires radical honesty. So that's you can start there in terms of the work.

We? Our book comes out on November one and we're having our national book launch. I think Alex Lewis is still on here I don't see her. But Alex Lewis is generously offered to moderate the discussion. It's November first at the side film center. Please get tickets if you can share the link to that it's already halfway sold out and it's only been out for like a week.

So please get tickets for that. We have cancelled all other national events. New York, Dc. everything due to security concerns. So this is it. This is going to be It and there's a lot less. Don't be afraid,

Alex. no one will have read the book by November. one you know a week weeks out That's when all the crazies are gonna come. so that's why we cancelled those please come to that, please.

But again, you know we did do this for free. Please buy our book.

I promise you would not regret it, it's got Chelsea handler just blurbed it. we just got a starred review from Kirkus, which is like the holy grail of publishing it just made this very prestigious list, as the most anticipated. One of the most anticipated books of the year. So it's fast people are reading it in one afternoon. Buy copies for your friends and have not who been not in the lotus network. Buy copies for your friends and have a book group with your friends and your family.

Regina and I put together a really cool book group toolkit that's in the back of the book.

We read the book, and then keep an eye out for the movie. It's going to premiere in Canada on the CBC.

Next Friday, so that, like hundreds of thousands, of people are going to finally see it, which is great, and it's doing the film festival circuit right now.

If any of you know anyone at Netflix or Hulu or Amazon who's not fragile and will carry it in the Us.

Send us Send them our way they've we've gotten the Heisman from the US Media. but it's blowing up in Canada, which is exciting thank you anything else.

Just thank you for having, and I do want to acknowledge

You know I grew up during the Civil Rights era, and I do want to acknowledge that Jewish people were our biggest, our biggest supporters, and I appreciate that.

And thank you. thank you. Well, you just prom first of all I signed up for the November first Saturday covered the CFAM belt, and it's easy to do you guys the link is in the

chat it's when you said that it was halfway sold out I'm.

Terry Rubin

I want to be a part of this, and I want to let you all know that first of all, the present, this recording this presentation is going to be up at the end of the week on a on a website, the website for Regina and Saira and

for this particular timely topic is phenomenal.

Helen shout out to you thank you so much so You'll be able to watch this again, or share this with someone, so that they can watch it and find out what this was like.

Monday on September the nineteenth we're having a Let's talk about it conversation, and Janis Pluss and Ellen Keckler will be will be leading this conversation to continue this conversation.

It's at noon you sign up there'll be something in your email about this.

But please sign up if you'd like to have more opportunity to do what we did today, and talk a little bit about it, and begin to dismantle our own white supremacy that's a great place to do this

don't forget to look for us a lotus network on Instagram on Facebook.

On Instagram. Our handle is lotus network org and it's at let Lotus network dot org on Facebook.

We are completely thrilled that so many have joined and participated today.

Thank you all for being a part of Lotus network and being in involved with us in this way.

I'm gonna just do reiterate what Lisa has said, we have made free programming, or at least for minimal money to come join events.

But we are doing a new donor program and it's called Friends of Lotus Network, and you can find out more about this.

If you feel like you value programming. This is just another way of supporting who we are and what we do, but what we, Lisa said.

We welcome you, one and all, and we mean it. We love having people be a part of this.

I think truly connecting heart to heart like really like Regina we've done, and I just it changes it changes things. It changes our inside, and I don't know any other way So thank you all for wanting to change and wanting to connect.

We really we really appreciate that. thank you for joining us today. We can create change in our community. You two amazing women are helping us to do this.

Lisa and Leslie, you've just started something unbelievable. And here we go, you guys, let's keep going stay well stay connected. And thank you guys a million. This was powerful. Thank you. Thank you.