

Welcome & Introductions **5 min.**

What Session is about? **2 min.**

- We will be using a couple of TED talks to lead us in our learning today, these women's voices illustrate the impact our dominant culture (*meaning: unquestioned standards of behavior and ways of functioning embodied by the vast majority of institutions in the United States – White & Male*) and how it deeply informs and organizes our thoughts/feelings about the world in which we live.

Our Learning Objectives **5 min.**

- To increase our awareness that 1.) we have biases and 2.) an openness to see how they are formed
  - Single Stories
- To increase awareness of our Blinders- unconscious and implicit (implied/ unspoken) biases and their effects
- To create common understandings of the terms “single story,” “Blinders or bias” and “dominant culture”
- Develop a capacity to identify and take actionable steps to remove “blinders”
  - Places within your spheres of influence where changes in your actions can make a profound difference
  - No one can do everything, but everyone can do something...especially to begin to improve outcomes we care about and as people who care/invested/willing we have many potential places and spaces to influence individuals and systems.

Video- The danger of a single story (End @ 9:37) <https://youtu.be/D9lhs241zeg> **10 min.**

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nigerian Author

name is pronounced as: Chim-muh-MAHN-duh en-GOH-zee ah-DEECH-ee-(ay)

Leaders share their single stories **5 min.**

**Neighbor Conversations:** Please turn to a neighbor and allow each person to answer both questions. As the person listening try not to engage, just listen. Then take turns, we will ask another question after both have finished sharing.

**5 min each.**

*Danger of a Single Story*

1. Think of an example of where you hold a single story.
2. How does it feel, for you, to realize that you carry a single story?

After both have shared ask: What are ways you can work to remove the blinder and change your single story? **5 min.**

—45 Min.—

*Overcoming Bias “Removing the Blinders” (Verna Myers) 18 min.* <https://youtu.be/uYyvbglNZkQ>

Group Questions: **2 min.**

1. *How many of you relate to the defaults (single stories) that were talked about?*
2. *How many of you see difference?*

*Neighbor Conversation 10 min.*

3. *In your group share – round robin style, “what differences do you see?”*
4. *How can you further expand your circles (people you know)?*

*Take Home – Closing Remarks 10 min.*

1. *What is an action that you can imagine taking in the next month?*
2. *Write down a hope you take forward from today.*
3. *Write down a commitment you will take forward from tonight.*

Verna Myers says, “You are not going to get comfortable until you get uncomfortable”

- ❖ Get out of denial
- ❖ Walk toward others
- ❖ Act- see something say something

Respectful communication guidelines & mutual invitation from Eric Law - further reading:

<http://www.kscopeinstitute.org/respectful-communication-guidelines> and <http://www.kscopeinstitute.org/mutual-invitation> (the invitation is to listen as well as speak)

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#### *Danger of a Single Story*

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After both have shared ask: What are ways you can work to remove the blinder and change your single story?

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### Group Questions:

3. How many of you relate to the defaults (single stories) that were talked about?
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#### *Neighbor Conversation*

5. In your group share – round robin style, “what differences do you see?”
6. How can you further expand your circles (people you know)?

#### *Take Home – Closing Remarks & Questions*

- What is an action that you can imagine taking in the next month?
- Write down a hope you take forward from today.
- Write down a commitment you will take forward from today.

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