Perspective and privilege

Elizabeth Wynn
She/her
24/9/2020
W. E. B. DuBois

It must be remembered that the white group of laborers, while they received a low wage, were compensated in part by a sort of public and psychological wage. They were given public deference and titles of courtesy because they were white.
History

Peggy McIntosh

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack

I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group... that racism is something that puts others at a disadvantage, but I had been taught not to see one of its corollary aspects, white privilege, which puts me at an advantage.
Definition

Privilege: unearned benefits or advantages based on membership in a social group

A person can experience hardship or work hard and still benefit from privilege.
"What's the matter? It's the same distance!"
If you don’t have to think about it, it’s a privilege.
Examples

College was an expectation for me growing up

I can hold my partner’s hand in public without fear of being harassed

I can do well in a challenging situation without being called a credit to my race

If I get a promotion no one will think it’s because of my gender

People in positions of authority are likely to look like me
Becoming aware of **privilege** should not be viewed as a burden or source of guilt, but rather, an **opportunity** to learn and be responsible so that we may work toward a more just and inclusive world."
What you can do

Change your mind set
Educate yourself and others
Use your privilege to help others
Any questions?
Further reading

- White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack
- The Origins of “Privilege”
- What Is White Privilege, Really?
- The Pencilsword: On a plate
- This is hard to hear, but if you are a white UK resident “shocked” by what happened to George Floyd you are part of the problem
- Use Your Everyday Privilege to Help Others