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**Notes**

1. Keep it simple
2. Skim the column with excuses and identify the ones that you encounter
3. Consider who uses the excuses and the context and identify actions you can take to counter the excuses and help people get to action

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Countering Excuses for Not Acting** | |
| **Excuses** | **Where I Hear or See Them & How I Can Counter Them** |
| **Being Colorblind** |  |
| ***“I don’t see race”*** |  |
| ***“People are just people – we are all just human”*** |  |
| ***“I don’t think of you as Black”*** |  |
| ***“We all bleed red when we are cut”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Competing Victimizations** |  |
| ***“All lives matter”*** |  |
| **“People of color actually have it easier than White people now”** |  |
| **“White people are under attack”** |  |
| **“Affirmative action is outdated and is now reverse racism”** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Making Race an Illegitimate Topic** |  |
| ***“You’re playing the “race card”*** |  |
| ***“Anti-Racist is a code word for Anti-White”*** |  |
| **“Not all White people…”** |  |
| **“Confederate flags and monuments are about heritage”** |  |
| **“I’m not political”** |  |
| **“Everyone has a right to their opinion”** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Tone Policing** |  |
| ***“You’re too angry”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Putting it in the Past** |  |
| ***“Slavery was over a long time ago”*** |  |
| **“We’ve made tremendous progress”** |  |
| ***“Racism was fixed in the 60s with civil rights legislation”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Black Exceptionalism** |  |
| ***“If Obama and Oprah can succeed…”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Innocence by Association** |  |
| ***“I’m not racist, I have Black friends, voted for Obama, etc.”*** |  |
| ***“I don’t own slaves (nor did my ancestors) or vote for David Duke (KKK)*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Focus on being Positive** |  |
| ***“Love conquers all”*** |  |
| ***“Why focus on the negative?”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Blaming the Victims** |  |
| ***“They should have followed police commands”*** |  |
| ***“If people worked harder, they would do better”*** |  |
| ***“What about Black on Black crime?”*** |  |
| Other: |  |
| **Intentions vs. Impact** |  |
| ***“I didn’t mean that”*** |  |
| ***“It’s only a joke”*** |  |
| Other: |  |

A picture containing text, sign, pointing

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