

When “Anti-Racism” Is Racist: White Liberalism in Action

by Paul C. Gorski <gorski@edchange.org>
for EdChange <<http://www.edchange.org>>
Revised February 27, 2011

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councilor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Anti-racism as harmony: Prioritizing peace (or conflict resolution or racial harmony) over justice
2. Anti-racism as Taco Night: Responding to racism with cultural activities or festivals
3. Anti-racism as uninformed pragmatism: Seeking practical solutions for *Symptoms of Racism* without addressing (or while ignoring) underlying conditions
4. Anti-racism as wanting People of Color to like me: Expending energy competing over who's the more anti-racist white person
5. Anti-racism as power-grabbing: Participating in anti-racism action, but only when situated in a leadership position
6. Anti-racism as vacationing: Reverting to cultural tourism
7. Anti-racism as civil discourse: Confusing dialogue as anti-racism rather than as what prepares or organizes us for anti-racism