

# Jury Selection, part 1

- Welcome
  - *As people enter the space, welcome them. Invite them to do what they need in order to be fully present for the next hour to ninety minutes that they will be together.*
- Body Centering
  - *Have folks close their eyes if they feel comfortable and take four deep breaths together, breathing in through the nose and exhaling out through the mouth. Invite participants to do a silent scan of their bodies, starting with their feet and working their way up to their heads. As they observe points of tension, encourage them to use their breath to release the points of tightness.*
- Introductions/Check-In - *Invite participants to introduce themselves. The circle keeper may decide to call on each person individually, choose to start with one person and ask them to pick the person who goes next, or provide a speaking order in the chat or on the screen.*
  - *Each person share your name, pronouns, a value that you're bringing today, and something you don't put your trust in.*
- Quote - *Read the following quote as grounding:*
  - *"Juries scare me. I don't want to put my faith in 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty." Monica Piper [comedian]*
- Circle Purpose – *This is an opportunity to engage in community while reflecting on our relationship with others while taking into account the act and process of judging someone else. Additionally, the purpose for this circle is to wrestle with concepts like truth, fairness, accountability, and justice.*
- Group Agreements – *Re-share the image of the Common Circle Guidelines from [Living Justice Press](#) (see p. 16 of this toolkit). Take notes during the responses to these questions. Ask participants:*
  - *Do we feel good about continuing to use these guidelines? Do we want to add or change any?*

# Jury Selection part 2

- Sharing Perspectives - On Jury Selection. *Ask participants to answer:*
  - Round 1: What is a peer? What is an acquaintance? What is a friend? What is a neighbor? These are all related, similar, yet very distinct. How do you feel about that?
  - Round 2: Reflecting on a time when you committed a mistake/harmed someone else, would you rather have your friends or strangers pass judgement on you for that incident?
  - Round 3: The jury selection process in a trial weeds out people with ties to the participants of the process. How is justice better served, or not, with the elimination of relationships from the process?
  - Round 4: Given the significant impact that race/ethnicity/gender has on juries, do you think they should be colorblind? Why or why not?
- Closing - *Ask participants to answer:*
  - What are three words that describe how you're feeling leaving this circle?
- Closing Quote - *Read the following quote:*
  - "The challenge of social justice is to evoke a sense of community that we need to make our nation a better place, just as we make it a safer place." -Marian Wright Edelman
- Closing Breaths - *Invite participants to take three breaths together to close.*