

Verdicts & Justice Redux, 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. Have the group imagine the image of a pendulum swinging. As they inhale, picture the pendulum swinging up to the left, as they exhale, imagine it swinging up to the right. Take 10 breaths like this.*
- 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 and one value you'd like to bring into circle this week.
- Group Agreements - Share the image of the Common Circle Guidelines from [Living Justice Press](#) (see p. 18 of this toolkit). Ask participants:
 - Do we feel good about using these guidelines? Any that we want to add or change?
 - Review the discussion of handling harm, bringing joy, and taking care of one another, developed during the Community Building circle.
- Circle Purpose - *Share that the community is gathered today to discuss the verdict in the Chauvin trial and how we move forward as a community.*
- Quote - *Read the following quote as grounding:*
 - In order to rise from its own ashes, a phoenix must first burn." - Octavia Butler

Verdicts & Justice Redux, Part 2

- Sharing Perspectives - On Verdicts/Justice. Ask participants to answer:
 - **Round 1:** This week the verdict was decided in the Chauvin Trial. He was found guilty on all three charges. Where were you when you heard what the verdict was? How did you feel?
 - **Round 2:** What have you thought since the verdict was announced? What are your thoughts on the way the community has reacted?
 - **Round 3:** After having experienced this long trial, what does justice mean to you? Have your thoughts on justice or the legal system changed since the beginning of the trial?
 - **Round 4:** If you were in control, what system would you create to hold Derek Chauvin or the entire MPD accountable?
 - **Round 5:** Do you think the outcome of the Chauvin trial helps or hurts the work of creating the vision you just named?
 - **Round 6:** What should our next steps be as a community to get closer to that vision of justice?
- Closing Quote - *Read the following quote:*
 - “Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are those who want crops without plowing up the ground.” - Frederick Douglass
- Closing Breaths - *Invite participants to take 3 breaths to close out circle.*
 - Ask participants to share one contribution they can make to creating a more just world.