

CASTE—by Isabel Wilkerson
Ten KEY Action Plans Adapted from WORKBOOK FOR CASTE

Part One—Toxins in the Permafrost and Heat Rising All Around

- Take the time to see how assumptions about race have affected the physical and social landscape here in Southwest Michigan.

Part Two—The Arbitrary Construction of Human Divisions

- Question your own preconceived notions of race and what you expect of people of that race and what you expect of people of a certain background.

Part Three—The Eight Pillars of Caste

- Learn more about how the caste system historically impacted and continues to impact the Native Americans, Irish, Germans, French, Italians, Chinese and most recently those from Mexico and Latin America. Are the LGBTQ and disabled impacted by caste?
- Learn more about how women have been impacted by the caste system based on gender.
- Avoid making assumptions about groups of people and look instead at individuals.

Part Four—The Tentacles of Caste

- Beware of times where you are in danger of scapegoating someone or a group of people.

Part Five—The Consequences of Caste

- If you suspect that someone is being mistreated due to their caste determine what you can do to safely intervene and challenge it.

Part Six--Backlash

- Considering how extreme some reactions have been to the subversion of the caste system, how would you explain the need for the removal of symbols to those who would seek to defend them?

Part Seven—Awakening

- Embrace difficult situations which will offer you learning moments about caste.
- Find ways of approaching those with whom you disagree or those of a dominate caste that will end in mutual understanding.