

## A STATEMENT ABOUT

# BRAVE SPACES

As members of communities that are deeply polarized around race and other measures of identity, the goal of MidWest Mixed is not to divide, but to create brave spaces in which we show up as our authentic selves, and learn together by taking risks.

MWM's working definition of "mixed" includes individuals who identify as mixed race, multiracial, and/or as a transracially adopted person of color. We do not believe mixed race individuals and transracial adoptees inhabit one "new" category of race, but rather encompass all of the races that they possess and may identify with all of them, one of them, none of them, or fluidly move between them.

By bringing our whole selves to these courageous conversations, we are agreeing to respect one another's stories and opinions, even if our own perspective is different. We make room for tension which can be a path to healing and learning. Through these dialogues we hope to find new and creative language that serves to destabilize the legacy of colonization and white supremacy that exists in much of our current discourse about racial identity and in turn permeate the identities of people of color.

By finding language that fits with our shared and unique lived experiences, we seek to claim the identities that have often been defined for us. We believe that shared language and clear vision for a world where the power to define ourselves is in our hands. With this in place we hope to create the conditions for critical action relating to the healing of individual and collective wounds around racial identity.

Self-care spaces are marked and available throughout the conference. We have counselors & healers offering support which can take place in any of the self-care areas. We encourage you to take self-care breaks whenever needed.

Our staff and volunteers will be supporting us in upholding these brave spaces. A few ways they will do this are by directing people to self-care spaces or support staff, offering respectful and inclusive language and ensuring that dedicated spaces are held for those the workshop facilitator intended.

