

Woman-to-Woman

A Community Dialogue on Social Justice

What is Woman-to-Woman?

Woman-to-Woman is an AAUW initiative to reach out to other women in our communities, to meet and talk to women who share the same streets and watch the same local news, but who may not share the same views. It's an opportunity for AAUW members to identify issues of common concern, form new alliances, gain exposure to new ideas and continue their lifelong education.

The goal of Woman-to-Woman is to stimulate conversations among women at the community level. These discussions can help bridge racial and cultural differences. They can generate new ideas and enthusiasm for projects that benefit women and girls. They can unify a community.

Getting Started

Woman-to-Woman begins by locating other women in the community with whom your branch would like to share an eventful evening. Reach out to women not represented – or underrepresented – in your AAUW branch. Look to other organizations in your community to partner with for the dialogue. Keep in mind, though, that many women are not affiliated with any group or organization. So be resourceful: post signs and notices on community bulletin boards and in libraries, place a notice in the community section of your local newspaper. Don't hesitate to invite women without a group affiliation.

Potential partner could include:

- AARP
- Girl Scouts
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Junior League
- MANA
- NAACP
- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- National Urban League

Next Steps

- Form a planning committee comprised equally of AAUW members and women from partnering organizations.
- Select Discussion Topics – these can be decided in advance or chosen by participants at the start of the dialogue. Some possible topic areas include:
 - Community issues
 - Global issues
 - Women's issues
 - Employment issues
 - Family issues
- Set the date and location. Make sure the date does not conflict with any religious or cultural holidays and that the location is accessible and comfortable for all.
- Establish ground rules for your dialogue, such as
 - Respect others' opinions.
 - Be willing to disagree.
 - Give everyone a chance to speak.
 - Let others finish what they have to say before you speak.
 - Ask questions if you don't understand.
 - Avoid "you" phrases; use "I" phrases.
 - Be honest.
 - Be heard.
 - Have fun.

What next?

Woman-to-Woman can be more than a one-time event; it can be an ongoing program with the potential to stimulate positive societal change. Women-to-Woman participants can develop ideas and initiatives to share with neighborhood activists, school officials and parents, and city or community leaders.

For more information about Woman-to-Woman, contact AAAUW Program and State Support Office at 202/785-7712.