



The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

History

Founded in 1980 by Dr. Jim Dunn and Ronald Chisom, the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond is a collective of about 40 multicultural organizers and educators who are dedicated to the task of building a movement to dismantle racism. This work has taken the Institute throughout the United States and to locations overseas. The Institute has generated a network of partners in public health and other human service agencies, foundations, schools of social work and education, reservations housing indigenous people, religious bodies, social justice groups, governmental institutions, corporations and other places to which Institute training teams have been invited. Since its inception the People's Institute has trained almost a million people.

The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond is headquartered in New Orleans. It has regional offices in Seattle, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Duluth, Minnesota, New Jersey and New York and has organizing communities in other locales, as well.

Training Program

Typically, the Institute's training program lasts 2 ½ days, but it is modifiable. Guided by its principles for undoing racism and by a covenant for cooperative participation in the process, the Institute supplies a coherent, comprehensive and strategic analysis of the central problem of racism in U.S. society. This analysis, built on the economic underpinnings of racial oppression, concentrates both on the structural aspects of oppression in a race-constructed society and on the social outcomes of internalized racial oppression that are manifested in internalized racial superiority and internalized racial inferiority in individuals and groups. Racism's definition and history are examined and the levels and forms of racism are studied to promote an understanding of how racism permeates the entire culture of society. The training process helps participants to identify the presence of racism in their organizations, institutions and communities and in themselves and presents principles and strategies for organizing which can contribute to the movement for justice, equity and human development through undoing racism.

Ronald Chisom, Co-Founder & Executive Director