

SURJ FAMILIES

WINTER HOLIDAY GUIDE

TALK ABOUT IT!

Don't avoid talking about race, racism, and current events. The holidays are a great time to connect on important issues.

- Read "Shanté Keys and the New Year's Peas" or watch the first episode of the new "Snowy Day" (on Amazon video) with your children's classroom. Talk about race, culture and find ways to respect many cultural and religious traditions throughout the year.
- For Christians, talk together about what it means for Jesus to have been born poor, brown, and soon a refugee fleeing being targeted by the government of his day.
- Talk to family about racism, Trump, Black Lives Matter, #NoDAPL, and more. If you get stuck, SURJ will be offering a holiday hotline. Just text SOS 82623, and our hotline volunteers will be happy to help



GIFTS

- Buy gifts from businesses owned by people of color
- Donate instead of gifts, especially for adults. Look for organizing groups led by people of color.
- Give your presence instead of presents. Commit to spending time with the kids in your life learning and growing together



TRADITIONS

- This Hanukkah, put a sign for Black Lives Matter, the Water Protectors at Standing Rock, or a Not 1 More Deportation sign above your menorah in your window. Each night, as you light your Menorah candles, say one way you'll dedicate yourself for justice or use the "8 nights, 8 actions" ritual put together by www.ritualwell.org. Connect the Hanukkah story and Maccabean resistance to the modern fight for civil rights.
- For Christians, light the Christ candle on your Advent wreath on Christmas Eve and state ways you will dedicate yourself to justice in the coming year.
- Winter Solstice is a time for creating a vision and celebrating the "return of the light." At your celebration, share the vision by the Movement for Black Lives and ask people to commit to actions in 2017
- Make an altar, memorial, or empty space to honor lives lost because of white supremacy



NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

Make New Year's Resolutions for justice. Commit to a specific amount of money, hours, and actions you will give to the movement in 2017. Include the whole family, and make a plan together.



TAKE ACTION

Pass a hat or Tzedakah Box (in Jewish traditions) to encourage all of the people at your table to donate to people of color led organizing, like Black Lives Matter or Standing Rock

