



Dr Gail Parker: Restorative Yoga for Race-Based Traumatic Stress



Gail Parker, Ph.D., C-IAYT, E-RYT 500, ACEP is a psychologist, certified yoga therapist, and the author of Restorative Yoga for Ethnic and Race-Based Stress and Trauma. In 2020, she graciously accepted the position as President of the Black Yoga Teachers Alliance. This session addresses race-based traumatic stress (RBTS) vs. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how restorative yoga assists in a more embodied journey.

Pandemics: World-wide phenomenon no matter which race or ethnicity

- Awakening to the pandemic of racial injustice and violence along with the global pandemic
- Potential to change for the better with self-care and self-resilience

Race-based trauma stress: It's similar to an injury except it occurs daily

- External race related event that is emotional, sudden, unexpected and uncontrollable
- Ongoing, recurrent, cumulative, but responses are adaptive
- Race-based Exclusion: avoidance (unacknowledged), harassment (bullying), discrimination (both)
- Emotional pain share the same neural pathways as physical pain (ie heartbreak)
- Tune out of the body (ie sticks and stones will break my bones... boys don't cry)
- Symptoms: Agitation, hyper-vigilance, avoidant behaviour, rumination, numbing out

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Psychiatric

- Life threatening event, psychiatric medical condition, occurred in the past, unable to process/recover

Subtle Body Awareness: 5 Koshas

 Anandamaya / Joy (beauty in me and the universe), Vijanamaya / Wisdom (deep sense of knowing), Manomaya / Intelligence (Thoughts are the state of my nervous system), Pranamaya / Breath, Anamaya / Physical body (easiest to access, challenge to change)

Interoceptive Awareness: Emotional Regulation

- Identify signals in the body and interpret choices for the need to express the body
- Example: Knowing when "I am thirsty and I need something to drink"
- Example: Eyelids are heavy means "I need to rest"
- Example: My stomach is hungry translates to "I need to eat something and establish my energy"

<u>Resources</u> (Any that are mentioned; Remove the headings for what aren't)

- Solution 2018 Content and Stress and Trauma
- Website: <u>www.drgailparker.com</u>





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