

**WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**



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DATE: December 12, 1991

TO: World Service Board of Trustees
World Service Office Board of Directors
World Service Conference Administrative Committee
Past Trustees

FROM: Hollie Arnold, WSO Staff

RE: Panel Presentation Topic

During the Steering Committee conference call last week, Kim and Bob McK. both saw a need to include some information on the topic of prejudice in our fellowship. Kim and Bob spoke last week, and Kim has since developed a rough draft of issues she would like to see included in the January *Conference Report* to advise the fellowship that this may be a topic during one of the panel presentations during the conference. She wanted me to advise you that the information is rough but she wanted each of you to see it prior to the conference call next week.

Thanks for your understanding!

FREEDOM FROM PREJUDICE
(Notes for Panel Discussion at WSC '92)

While we may not have adequate time at this year's conference to do more than open discussion on this and other issues, the board of trustees hopes these points will stimulate dialogue and that discussions will continue throughout the year at fellowship forums. We as a board are committed to furthering these discussions.

Following are the proposed discussion points:

- * How can the conference and its participants effectively address the issue of prejudice within our fellowship and set a course towards freedom from prejudice?
- * Discuss the challenges facing a spiritual fellowship that exists within cultures and societies heavily weighted with prejudice.
- * As NA members, as sponsors, as members of home groups, as leaders in the conference, what can each of us do to contribute towards the realization of the words from our preamble--"Anyone may join us, regardless of age, race, sexual identify, creed, religion or lack of religion."
- * Unity, not uniformity is vital to the growth of NA. As we recover, we emerge as distinctly beautiful, unique children of God. As a conference, how can we set the example and encourage unity while merging our vast and magnificent diversity within Narcotics Anonymous worldwide?
- * How do we greet newcomers who may not meet "the image" we have of an addict in our particular NA community?
- * What about PI and H&I efforts? Are our communities working to reach all kinds of addicts from all walks of life? Who isn't here?
- * How do we as a fellowship and we as individuals deal with these inherent prejudices within our fellowship and within our own hearts?

Specifically we need to encourage discussion of prejudice within NA as it has affected and is affecting the following:

- * Gay Lesbian Addicts
- * Hispanic Addicts
- * Asian Addicts
- * Non-English Speaking Addicts
- * "Older" Addicts
- * Women Addicts
- * Handicap Addicts
- * "Anyone-Different-From-Us" Addicts

This is only a beginning, but it all starts with a first step, doesn't it?