

**From:** Vic O'Callaghan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 6/3/2020 7:26:13 PM  
**To:** Josiah Holland <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Re: Listening Circles

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Greetings Josiah

Great to hear from you. Sorry we did not get to talk following the our keynote at the conference in 2019. It was a privilege to be able to share our story of how Listening Circles evolved.

At this time, the world is muring through a dark forest of challenge, fear and uncertainty. Here in Australia, we have dodged a bullet, but your land is being hit hard. We watch the nightly news and suffer shock and deep waves of empathy. At the same time, we know that this is where the sprouts of hope begins their mysterious unfolding before our eyes.

We know that Listening Circles have the capacity to allow the 'elephant in the room' to be spoke about. As is racism, sexual abuse is a problem based in our DNA. It takes time to change it, it takes courage to lead and enable people to find their voice.

Personally I think that the video of George Floyd being murdered has change the dynamic, not only in your country, but around the world. We have all now sat in stunned silence as a human being is dying at the hands of another human. On the street. In bright daylight.

In my land, our most oppressed sector is our indigenous people. In the past few days, there have been mass protests in most capital cities. We now have a recent video of a policeman face planing a fifteen year old indigenous kid into the concrete.

What is, is being revealed.

Having said all this... There are two ways in which we can help. One is to offer assistance from here in Australia. The others is to suggest that you contact John Baillie ([REDACTED]) and/or Beth Smull ([REDACTED]) at the IIRP in Bethlehem.

We left all our resources with them and they are now conducting training in this process.

My wife Liz will also email you (she is presently off-line) and wants to communicate with you.

Know we are here to support during this very trying time.

Kind regards

Vic

**Vic O'Callaghan**

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On 3 Jun 2020, at 11:19 am, Josiah Holland <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good evening,

I was fortunate to catch your keynote this past year at the IIRP world conference on Listening Circles. I was so struck by it all and the power of the work. I was unable to attend the training but now am in a position where my school district and community is leaning on me to facilitate some of this work given the state of the world. Can you direct me to resources, articles, videos on how to conduct a listening circle where there are victimized people who need to be heard?

Thank you for all you do and the legacy of work you've created.

All my best,  
Josiah

**Josiah Holland**

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