

Mini Episode - Why the Fuck are Activists so Judgmental

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SPEAKERS

Amira



Amira 00:04

Why the fuck are activists so judgmental? That's what we're going to talk about today in my mini episode of Advocate Activism. I'm Amira. Welcome back. So I decided to talk about this topic because I've realized in the last several months that man, people on our own side of activism are super fucking judgmental. And the biggest thing for me is I want to call attention to perfection is white supremacy, y'all ain't no such thing as perfection. And also, it's okay to fuck up. And it's okay to also own when you do. I think that there's so much unaccountability out there within this community that people are on steroids when it comes to people fucking up. You can't do this, you're not allowed to do that. You shouldn't do this, oh, I can't do that. Oh, my gosh, you did that? Oh, Jesus, you did that. It is out of this world, the judgment of activism. So I remember last year, when I witnessed the murder of George Floyd and my life completely imploded. I remember that feeling of people telling me I was making them feel judgmental. And for me, I did not understand why these people that I knew for like 20 plus years, or 10 years, whatever, I did not understand why they were not moved and affected by watching this man be murdered. To the point that I chose to walk away from many, many people, friends, family members, you name it, if they don't recognize homophobia, transphobia, all those things. I don't really want to fuck with you. And I realized I was okay with that. So with that being said, I understand people telling you, you know, hey, you're making me feel judged, I get it. Because I had many people telling me that. What makes it really wild for me is that we

are all supposed to be on the same side activists, activism. We're all in the same circle, we're all just doing it differently. But we're all trying to change the world. We're all trying to bring awareness to fucked up systems that are in place, right? So why are we so fucking judgmental to each other? Why are we so hard on each other? You know, I, I offer these free meditation classes. And I started doing this and offering my services for free to my community members, because one of the things I realized is, no matter what level of activism these folks are doing, whether they're behind the scenes, doing more technical stuff, going to school boards, meetings to make change, whatever the case is, I noticed the heart is not being taken care of. And there's a lot of fucking anxiety and trauma that people have been through in their life. And doing activism work is more trauma, right? And I realized, if we don't learn how to sit and discomfort in a way that is loving, we are not going to be able to sustain this important work. With that being said, damn, why are we so judgmental with each other? It's wild. You know, last episode, Rayah and I talked about standing face to face with Proud Boys and being clergy and all the things and a small group of community members that I consider myself really close to. They all had a different array of emotions, and none of them were necessarily bad. They all stem from love, love and fear of people being hurt. But the amount of judgment the amount of judgment was over whelming to my soul. It broke me in a way that I wasn't anticipating. And it reminded me of the last few months of all the different ways in which people in our own community that are doing the same work I'm doing in different ways have been so judgmental. I talked about several months ago, having a mentor and anti racism gentleman who I really was looking forward to working with in the future and collabing together because I want to educate people about people and businesses about anti racism work and there was something that that came up and we were talking about a different entity. And they were so judgmental at the way these other people were doing it and mind you. I ended up leaving this other entity later as well. Because it didn't feel right to my soul. However, judgment that I got just for, just for being a part of this group to get to know what they're doing. The the amount of judgment was very, very heavy. And so when I was faced again this week, with a lot of judgment from my own side, it really made me ponder. And it stood out a few weeks ago how, two days before Sander's event, he just had a trans visibility, suicide awareness and anti racism event in Salem. I was I had a message from someone who was trying to friend request me, and this was August 4, I said, Hi, your page is private. May I help you? And this person proceeded to say, and there's going to be some words that I leave out and names that I leave out. This person replied and said "Comrade is so and so actually going to be at your event on Saturday, question mark. And then in all capital letters, are you allowing her to table at your event there? Because she's closeted anti gay, and has attacked me online and made me feel unsafe in public, as a Two Spirit, two spirited, Latinx individual from the Portland anti fascist scene. And then they sent a screenshot of something, again, doesn't make sense to me. And then another screenshot of this person's face with a big red marker that says anti gay, false

militant informant and fake activist. And then the person says, allowing abusers enter our spaces as not only inappropriate, but it is the anti fascist circle, she has been out for working with law enforcement, which is a no no, and still owes Indigenous women money for the work that they did." So then I proceeded to leave a voice clip, saying, "Hey, if you feel unsafe, I please ask you not to come. Please don't come to my event. And then I typed out, I'm new to Oregon. However, Salem is my new city. We are a tight group of community members. And we do not want folks there who intend to bring this energy. It's my man's first event and we do not want it. If this person is not in support of LGBTQIA. I will deal with it on my own. I do not need you or anyone else coming to cause drama. Like I said, if you want to speak over the phone, or zoom today, that is fine. However, if you feel unsafe, I would appreciate you keeping yourself safe and not attending." Okay. Then they said, "I don't think you quite understand. It's not me, you need to worry about, Sis. And we don't come to cause drama, nor would we, you most definitely sound like you're not from here. Try again, comrade. Our gay, trans, something, something protect its own. You're new here. But you're not asleep, are you? You have seen our work at the Capitol against the enemy. It's sad that now someone we thought was an ally is an enemy. And she has proved it time and time again. How will you prove yourself to our community they're so and so would host something something to my community and not show up. They would hire blah, blah, blah, and then not pay them. more stuff. There's some tax information in here. Some things that made them think that the person is a cop. We have revolutionary business to do in Salem, and she's not welcome around our communities. Again, you're new here, your words. We are not and my man my partner and I are literally fighting white supremacy to stay alive. Both in Salem, where he's from, and then Portland, where I'm from, be part of the revolution and not part of the problem. Tell your man he should have done his homework on her and we have receipts. My man and I both do as gay trans men. We are just as oppressed and let everyone know when they have a problem around. You have a problem and it's not us But hey, you were warned. Don't take my word for it. We don't show up nor will we at your event. But best believe we will publish this chat and any and all intel on her and this warning we are giving you blah blah blah. You're cis, stay in your lane, girl. And she will she will do or say something foul. When she says or does something that will make you and your man or your or look foolish, I'll be sure to save this chat and let everyone know a true anti fascist tankie tried to warn you, peace, Sis. And remember, Black Lives Matter isn't a term, it's a revolutionary commitment, be part of the revolution and not part of the problem. You wanting to speak to us via zoom or phone also sounds and comes across like cop shit, just FYI, have a good day Sis." And then they did a screenshot of my backdrop picture, 'we must dismantle white supremacy.' And then you know me, I tried to call them twice in a row. And they blocked me. So with all that said, number one, Amira knows how to take accountability. So if something out there happens, and I'm planning an event, I love hosting events, it's a thing, I'm going to be continuing to do it. If I have an event, and I find out someone that is a vendor ends up

being an abuser, something negative, that's harmful. Guess what? I will make a public statement that this has happened, I will own it. And I will apologize. And if people aren't willing to forgive me, then they could fuck off. That's how I'll deal with it. And that's how I will move. And I find it very sad that those of us who are who are supposedly on the same side, are extremely fucking judgmental of one another. And this is why I believe in the power of mindfulness, and I believe in the power of getting to know yourself, and your trauma and doing your work. So that when you are doing activism in whatever form you're doing it, you're doing it in a way that is loving to yourself, that is non reactive, that you are taking care of your anxieties and your pressures and your judgments. This work is not easy. And it's not to say that you'll have you'll never have difficulties because you will. But what I'm saying as we need to give each other fucking grace. And we need to be doing this work from a place of love and self compassion. I understand that. It is traumatizing seeing policies in place that really fuck marginalized people. I understand that. I understand that people use and abuse and there's been lots of things within the community that have been shady and done wrong and all the things. But Miss Amira here? My heart is pure. I'm a valley girl from Petaluma, California. I don't code switch, this is me 24 hours a day. I do have a little bit of Check-a-bitch Queen in my pocket. But I'm mindful as fuck, and I love my community. And I love educating people. And even if I fuck up and make a mistake, I know how to own it. And if a marginalized person tells me that I hurt them, you best believe I will look them in the eye. And I will tell them that I'm sorry. And I will continue to educate myself. And I will continue to call myself a student. I am an anti racist student. I will never peek at the very top. And I'm okay with that. Understand this you guys, perfection, and judging and blaming and acting like you're better than the next is white supremacy. And we're trying to get away from that. Right? I hope you've enjoyed this episode of Advocate Activism. I'm Amira. Take care y'all.