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# Ownership, Community, and Hospitality in a Climate-Changed World

## Facilitator's Guide

This resource is designed for groups, but an individual can complete it on their own.

You can facilitate this as a single three hour workshop or lead three separate one hour long sessions. The resources include two podcast episodes and a video from The BTS Center's 2021 Summer Arts Series. If you want to facilitate shorter sessions, you can invite participants to listen/watch prior to your meeting time. Should you choose this option, we encourage you to include a time in your program to recap the themes and topics covered in the podcasts and video.

## Learning Goals and Objectives

- To explore how the themes of ownership, community, and hospitality are threatened in a climate-changed world.
- To imagine new understandings of ownership and occupancy
- To consider community building and hospitality as tools to build resiliency and to respond to the impacts of climate change
- To deepen empathy for "the stranger," the immigrant community, and temporary or long-term climate migrants

## Workshop Outline

**Note to Facilitator:** This Leadership Commons resource contains prompts and questions for reflection and discussion. You will find some participants will need quiet time to think or write about their answers. Discussion groups work best with 3 to 4 participants in each.

**Resource #1** Podcast: [Citizens' Climate Radio Ep. 60](#) (30 min) Climate change and land rights with Jacques Kenjio, Bunyui John Njabi (Cameroon) and Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee Nation)

**1. Pre-Listening Activity**

- a. Ask participants to make a list of all the places they have called home in their lives.
- b. Prompt: In what ways has your identity been connected or defined by the places where you have lived?

**2. Listen to Citizens Climate Radio Ep 60**

- a. As you listen, take note of the emotions you feel and any memories that arise from your own experiences.

**3. Discussion questions.** You may wish to give participants time to reflect on these questions before discussing. You might even encourage them to write down their answers during a reflection time. (three to four people in a discussion group is ideal.)

- a. What are some thoughts, feelings, and insights you gained from hearing the segments featuring Jacques Kenjio, Bunyui John Njabi, and Mary Kathryn Nagle?
- b. In a climate-changed world people are already relocating voluntarily or are forced to leave because governments insist relocation is necessary. If the local or regional government where you live began a process to relocate people, what would you ask government officials to consider? How can your community address the social, emotional, and financial impacts that come with relocation of a portion of the population?
- c. Jacques says many Cameroonians have more immediate basic needs to consider, and they do not have the time or luxury to think about climate change. What are the top five issues you think about and what is your relationship to climate change?
- d. As a lawyer, Mary Kathryn Nagle wants to change laws so that native sovereignty and native women's rights are protected, but she says changing the law is not enough. She seeks to change hearts and minds as well, and she uses theatre to do that. Tell the story about a piece of art (film, novel, performance, etc) that changed the way you felt about a social issue.
- e. While marginalized people often lack political power and social capital, Mary Kathryn Nagle points to the power of storytelling to speak truth to powerful people of influence. What are platforms, resources, and contacts in your own sphere of influence? What stories from your own life would

you like to share? How can you use your influence to elevate other stories?

**Resource #2 Summer Arts Series (video)**

Note to facilitator: Aminatta Forna and Glen Retief address topics that for many may not seem directly connected to climate change and extreme weather. In the pieces they read they explore immigration, land rights and ownership, racial identity, and community identity. In a climate-changed world with more and more people displaced, we recognize the challenges that come with migrating, and becoming part of new communities.

As facilitator, you can help participants make these connections by pointing out how temporary and permanent displacement are features of the climate crisis. We have included additional resources below that highlight these connections.

**1. Pre-viewing activity:**

- a. Invite participants to list five different identities they embrace. (Example: parent, Italian-American, United Methodist, New Yorker, person with a disability, student, etc.)
- b. How have these identities changed over time and even change depending on the setting? (Example: I am a parent, but when I spend time with my own parents, my identity as their child eclipses my identity as a parent.)

**2. Watch The BTS Center's 2021 Summer Arts Series video featuring Glen Retief and Aminatta Forna.**

- a. Reading by Glen Retief (14 min 16 sec)  
About Glen Retief: Glen Retief grew up in South Africa during the apartheid era, where he was involved in national as well as LGBT liberation movements. His book *The Jack Bank: A Memoir of a South African Childhood* (St. Martin's Press, April 2011) won a Lambda Literary Award and was selected as an Africa Book Club Book of 2011. He has published short stories and memoirs in journals including *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Hotel Amerika*. He writes an occasional column of personal essays for the South African newspaper, *The Daily Maverick*; teaches Creative Nonfiction at Susquehanna University; and was a 2021-22 Fulbright US Scholar in Mamelodi, South Africa.
- b. Reading by Aminatta Forna (12 min 40 sec)  
About Aminatta Forna: OBE (born 1964) is a Scottish and Sierra Leonean writer. She is the author of a memoir, *The Devil That Danced on the Water*, and four novels: *Ancestor Stones* (2006), *The Memory of Love*

(2010), *The Hired Man* (2013) and *Happiness* (2018). Her novel *The Memory of Love* was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for "Best Book" in 2011, and was also shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction. Forna is Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University and was, until recently, Sterling Brown Distinguished Visiting Professor at Williams College in Massachusetts. She is currently Lannan Visiting Chair of Poetics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

### 3. Suggested Discussion Questions and Activities

- a. Warm-up prompt: Tell a story about an important purchase you made or a meaningful gift you received as a child.
- b. Consider the land where you currently live or where you are gathered. Outline the history of occupancy and ownership as best as you know or can imagine.
- c. Write a list of all the various groups and communities to which you belong. Put a "+" sign by the ones in which you feel you are fully part of the community. Put an "x" sign next to the ones in which you are not fully part of the community.
- d. What does it look like for you to be part of a community and what roles do you typically take on?
- e. What do you expect from fellow community members?
- f. Aminatta Forna speaks about how people can be "Somewheres," with deep roots in a place or "Anywheres," without roots and no long term commitment to a place. Examples of "Anywheres" include a student attending university, seasonal workers, a person displaced by a storm or a fire, and political or climate refugees. When and where have you been a "Somewhere," an "Anywhere," or both?
- g. Aminatta tells stories about her experience as a woman of color from Sierra Leone and the UK in a mixed race marriage in the USA. Some Americans who encounter her and her family have been confused about how to view and identify her. What are other examples of how perceived identities alter when someone crosses a border?
- h. How do you describe your various identities, including race and ethnicity? How might or do any of these identities change when you are in a different place?
- i. In a climate-changed North America people have already been displaced because of big storms like Hurricane Katrina, which devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, and Hurricane Maria, which wreaked havoc and destruction in Puerto Rico in 2017. As a result, millions of people left home to resettle in a completely different part of the United States. If you were part of a community resettlement committee, what services and

community resources would you recommend to help these newcomers settle into your community and find the support and hospitality they need to thrive?

**Resource #3** Podcast: [Citizens' Climate Radio Ep. 66](#) (21 min 35 sec) *Hospitality in a Time of Climate Change* with Dr. Natasha DeJarnett & Jayme R. Reeves

### 1. Pre-Listening Activities and Prompts

- a. Tell a story about a time when you suddenly had to extend hospitality to family, friends, neighbors, or strangers.
- b. Interactive guide: [Every Place Has Its Own Climate Risk. What Is It Where You Live?](#) By Stuart A. Thompson and Yaryna Serkez. "Every single county has some sort of climate threat that's either emerged and is doing some damage right now or is going to emerge," said Nik Steinberg, the managing director of research at Four Twenty Seven and lead author of the climate risk report behind this interactive tool.
  - i. If you are in the USA, find your county and identify any high and very high risks. These risks include hurricanes, extreme rainfall, water stress, wildfires, extreme heat, and sea level rise. If outside the USA, see the Regional Impacts section of the [International Climate Impacts guide](#).
  - ii. How might these impacts dislocate people from their homes temporarily or long-term?
  - iii. How might these impacts affect people differently depending if they are
    1. Elderly and living alone
    2. Unhoused and living on the streets
    3. Parent(s) of small children
    4. Pet owners

### 2. Listen to Citizens Climate Radio Ep 66

- a. As you listen, take note of the emotions you feel and any memories that arise from your own experiences.

### 3. Discussion Questions

- a. What are some different types of hospitality we see practiced in society?
- b. Dr. Natasha DeJarnett lists multiple risks of extreme weather. Share a story about when you or someone you know experienced one of these risks? What were the short-term and long-term consequences?
- c. Dr. DeJarnett also talks about solutions and how churches and community centers can address some of these issues. What is a local hospitality-

based or education-based solution already in place in your community or one you can envision in the near future? What are the challenges and benefits of creating and maintaining spaces that offer hospitality to people displaced temporarily or long-term by extreme weather?

- d. Theologian Jayme R. Reaves believes conflicts arise over the belief that there is scarcity and a lack of resources. She stresses there are enough resources to meet everyone's needs if we share what we have. How do you feel about this theory, and how have you seen it either confirmed, challenged, or disproven?
- e. What are the risks and rewards you have experienced or witnessed when providing hospitality to neighbors and strangers?
- f. Reflect on a time when an interaction with someone very different from you changed you and your perspectives. How did this interaction open you up or close you down to future interactions?
- g. Dr. DeJarnett stresses the importance of understanding differences and marginalization when considering solutions to extreme weather risks. Considering how extreme weather might affect people who are elderly and living alone, unhoused and living on the streets, parent(s) of small children, or residents in low-income rental properties, brainstorm ways to provide solutions that take account of their circumstances.

**4. Possible Next Steps: Being aware of problems and solutions often leads us to want to do something tangible. Here are some suggestions for what participants can do next.**

- a. Do some research into local emergency shelters in your area and find out what they need in terms of supplies, donations, or volunteers. See how you can get involved alone or with a group of friends.
- b. Check out [The Climate Resilience Hubs](#) to see how your church or community center can learn how to respond to extreme weather.
- c. Read and share the article, [7 ways to welcome refugees into your community](#).
- d. Listen to Dr. Natasha DeJarnett and journalist Brentin Mock talk about Race, Pollution, and Justice in [Ep 25 of Citizens Climate Radio](#).

**Additional Resources**

- 1. [Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration](#) (October 2021) Source: White House, US Government
- 2. [The Great Migration Has Begun](#), New York Times Magazine article with photos and interactive guide.

3. [Human Rights, Climate Change, and Migration](#) United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner.
4. [How does climate change intersect with other community challenges?](#) Menonite World Conference.

**NOTE to facilitators:** We would love to get feedback from the participants and from you as workshop facilitator. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to contact us at [leadershipcommons@thebtscenter.org](mailto:leadershipcommons@thebtscenter.org).