

Susan Graham, Comments-NAC Meeting-October 2015

Members of my organization, Project RACE have asked OMB and the Census Bureau for 25 years to use the term “Multiracial” instead of Two or More Races,” or the current favorite “Combination People.” This has been done primarily by *this* committee. We have not been successful.

For example, my children have a white heritage, a black heritage, and a multiracial heritage. They are whole people, not halves, quarters, etc. When they get the inevitable question, “What are you?” They don’t answer, “I check two or more races on my Census form” or, “I’m a combination person.” What they *do* say is “I’m multiracial.” But the Census Bureau and OMB can’t seem to hear to what our community is saying.

We are not even asking for a stand-alone multiracial category on forms. We are asking that MULTIRACIAL be used for tabulation. Instead of aggregating as combination numbers, use MULTIRACIAL NUMBERS.

Pew Research released a report this year called *Multiracial in America* because they *do* understand the needs of our population.

We work very successfully with schools and companies to bring the word MULTIRACIAL into their territory, particularly with diversity and inclusion reports and forms. We have most recently worked with organizations like Apple, Estee Lauder Company, and Microsoft.

School districts around the country are calling *us* to help them with appropriate nomenclature for their students and staffs. From medical entities, to technology giants, to retail international companies and state agencies, *they* are not waiting for *you*.

It’s 2015. How long is the federal government going to ignore the multiracial community? My hope is that it won’t take another 25 years.