

Comments by Susan Graham for Project RACE (Reclassify All Children Equally)
Fall, 2019 National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other
Populations Meeting
November 8, 2019

I spoke to this this committee last year, as I have several times before.

The multiracial community has been invisible to this committee for far too long. You know it and we know it. Isn't it important to have an ACCURATE Census count that INCLUDES the multiracial population?

I called Nicholas Jones and explained that the multiracial community is the only one without collateral marketing materials provided by the National Partnership Program for the 2020 Census. He said he would be asking the same thing if he were me. He put me in contact with Cheryl Chambers, manager of the program.

Cheryl and I had several phone calls and email exchanges. She finally told me that the bureau could NOT advise a person on how they could be counted for the 2020 Census. I wrote her back after looking at this on the American Indian or Alaskan Native Snapshot handout:

Q. How do I fill out the race question correctly?

A. If you self-identify as American Indian or Alaskan Native you should check the American Indian or Alaskan Native box. You should then print the name of your enrolled or principle tribe in the write-in area.

Why is it alright to instruct the American Indians and Alaska Natives on how to fill out the race question, but not the multiracial group? By the way, I never heard from Ms. Chambers again.

Some of the other populations having similar collateral materials are the Islamic, Mission Indians, LGBTQ, Veterans, non-traditional families, etc.

It's taken many years to get absolutely nowhere with this committee or the Census Bureau. This is racism. This is unfair. This has to stop.