

Learning activity

## Reading and discussion on Allyship

**TIME:** 45-90 mins

**LEARNING AIMS:**

- Reflect on our understanding of allyship

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:** 6-16

**PREPARATION AND MATERIALS:** Share the relevant texts

**FRAMING:**

This activity is just a case of sharing some reading material and opening up some discussion around the themes. As with all critical reading activities, participants should be encouraged to locate the texts in their context and consider how these contexts are reflected in the texts themselves. Discussion should begin with efforts to understand the authors intentions within their own settings and then move on to ask what relevance they have for the situations participants find themselves within.

**FACILITATION:**

**Step 1. Reflecting on Bernice Johnson Reagon's comments on Coalition Work**

Share the following quote and discuss: "Coalition work is not work done in your home. Coalition work has to be done in the streets. And it is some of the most dangerous work you can do. And you shouldn't look for comfort. Some people will come to a coalition and they rate the success of the coalition on whether or not they feel good when they get there. They're not looking for a coalition; they're looking for a home! They're looking for a bottle with some milk in it and a nipple, which does not happen in a coalition. You don't get a lot of food in a coalition. You don't get fed a lot in a coalition. In a coalition you have to give, and it is different from your home. You can't stay there all the time. You go to the coalition for a few hours and then you go back and take your bottle wherever it is, and then you back and coalesce some more." Bernice Johnson Reagon (1983). Coalition Politics: Turning the Century. In Smith, B. (Ed.), Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology. (pp. 343-355). New York: Kitchen Table Press. p. 346

To take this a bit further we suggest reading this short article by Syra Pinto, which also contains a couple of reflective exercises: <https://moonjaguarstrategies.com/theory/coalition-politics>

**Step 2. Accomplices not Allies**

Look at this article from Indigenous Action. Take some time to discuss what people make of the call for accomplices not allies? What could it mean in terms of inter-organisational practice and

movement building?

<https://www.indigenouaction.org/accomplices-not-allies-abolishing-the-ally-industrial-complex>

∟