

## Resisting dominant narratives

We might remain silent or passive in the face of a dominant narrative, perhaps because we have internalised the narrative's values. But silence can also be strategic: the moment may not be right or the risks too great to speak out or resist. We may choose to express resistance less directly.

Why do we sometimes remain silent or passive when faced with a dominant narrative? Think of specific examples.

- Is compliance automatic or unconscious?
- Do we sometimes consciously comply with a narrative, even if we don't agree with it?
- When, and why, would we choose to comply with narratives we don't like? (for example: for safety, for fear of being shamed or excluded by those around us.)
- When might it be strategic to remain silent or comply with a dominant narrative?
- If we notice others complying, is it always okay to 'call out' or shame them? Give examples.

*Calling out* or shaming people publicly for going along with a dominant narrative can be strategic, particularly if powerful people are advancing the narrative. But in everyday life, this can alienate people. We may not understand the reasons for their compliance. Black feminist activist Loretta Ross advocates dialogue with those we disagree with, *or calling in, rather than calling out*.