

Appendix 15I

Assumptions about Ageism and Adulthood

About the Nature of Old People and Young People

1. We believe that old people and young people are fully human and deserve to be treated with full dignity and respect.
2. We believe that young people and old people are entitled to the same access to resources as other humans.
3. We believe that old people and young people are entitled to participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

About How We Learn to Do This Work

1. We are each works in progress; as we learn more, we make deeper, more significant change at individual, institutional, and societal levels.
2. This work has both cognitive and emotional components, and both components are significant to the creation of lasting change.
3. We believe that the individual experiences of each of us provide the best data sources for the change that needs to happen.
4. We believe that the most significant transformation occurs when individuals are able to “lean into” their “learning edges.”

About the Nature of Society

1. We believe that ageism and adultism at the individual, institutional and cultural levels limits the experience of all humans.
2. We believe that, if not consciously interrupted, the traditional functioning of society is designed to reproduce the marginalization and dehumanization of old people and young people.
3. Inequalities in funding and other resources available to young people and old people are manifestations of systemic inequities designed to maintain and reproduce systems of inequality.