

## Some Dialogue Definitions

One of the ways to begin true dialogue is to develop a common language. There are many unhealthy ways in which we continue to separate ourselves from each other. The following terms and definitions are five of those ways.

**PREJUDICE** is a pre-judgment on insufficient grounds; it can be positive or negative.

**BIGOTRY** is a more intensive form of prejudice and carries the negative side of pre-judgment. The bigot is usually conscious of his/her feelings, nurtures them, and is often defined by them.

**DISCRIMINATION** is the act or practice of according negative differential treatment to individuals or groups on the basis of group, class, or affiliation such as race, religion, and gender.

**SCAPEGOATING** is the act or practice of assigning blame or failure to persons or groups instead of placing it directly on the person(s) to whom the blame or failure actually belongs.

**STEREOTYPING** is attributing characteristics to a group simplistically and uncritically. Often, there is the assumption that those characteristics are rooted in significant biological differences.