

# BOOK CIRCLE

## CALLING IN

### *HOW TO START MAKING CHANGE WITH THOSE YOU'D RATHER CANCEL*

*WE DON'T CHANGE ANYONE THROUGH SHAME,  
WE CHANGE THROUGH EMPATHY, PATIENCE, AND EDUCATION.*

LORETTA J. ROSS

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND THE BOOK

Loretta J. Ross is an American activist, feminist, and academic. She was one of the people who coined the term *reproductive justice* in 1994 together with other Black feminists in the United States. This is how Ross described the concept during a visit to RFSU's abortion conference last autumn:

"Reproductive justice is not only about the right to say yes or no to having children. It is about the right to live a life free from violence, racism, poverty, and discrimination – because without that, there is no real freedom."

Ross also argued that the future struggle for reproductive justice must be both global and inclusive.

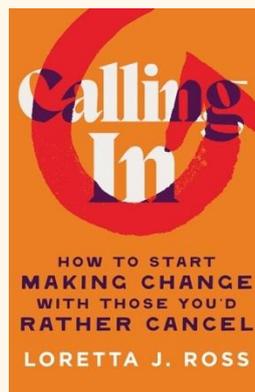
"In 2025, we must understand that the struggle cannot be isolated to an issue of health or choice. It is connected to climate, migration, the economy, and technological development. It is a fight for human rights."

Her book *Calling In – How to Start Making Change with Those You'd Rather Cancel* has been described as a mix of memoir, manifesto, and handbook. In the book, she criticizes cancel culture and proposes other ways of creating change, such as through dialogue and by highlighting what we as human beings have in common. The book questions shame as a political strategy and presents more constructive paths forward.

**Number of pages:** 288

**Language:** English

**Good to know before you start reading:** Sexual violence and incest are discussed in the book.



## HOW TO START A BOOK CIRCLE

- Find at least two people who want to read and discuss the book with you. In total, you need to be at least three people. Everyone must be, or become, a member of RFSU ([rfsu.se/medlem](https://www.rfsu.se/medlem))
- Appoint a contact person who collects the names, email addresses, and postal addresses of those who will participate in your book circle. The information is entered in the form available at [www.rfsu.se/bokcirkel](https://www.rfsu.se/bokcirkel)
- You will then receive a confirmation email that you have registered, together with a link to a short evaluation that all participants must complete after the book circle has been carried out. After that, the books will be sent free of charge to all participants.
- Everyone who participates in the book circle may keep their book, but we encourage you to pass the books on so that more people can read them!

## PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR ORGANIZING A BOOK CIRCLE

### LET THE GROUP DECIDE

An important part of arranging a book circle is ensuring that all participants have the opportunity to help shape the format and content. The group decides whether you want to meet several times or just once. You can choose discussion questions in advance or have a completely open discussion.

### STAY IN TOUCH

It is always a good idea to email and remind participants before a meeting so that no one forgets the date or time. You can also take the opportunity to share practical information – for example, which meeting link you will use or whether you will meet in person.

### DIGITAL TOOLS

There are many good tools for connecting people digitally. One suggestion is to use the free tool Google Meet. Go to <https://meet.google.com/> in your browser. Click “New meeting” → “Create a meeting for later” and then send the meeting link that appears to those who want to participate digitally.

### SPEAKING ORDER, BREAKS, AND ENDING

Remember to have a clear speaking order or speakers’ list when you meet and talk, so that one person does not take over the entire conversation. Breaks are also important so that everyone has the energy to continue the discussion. It can also be nice to end with a final round where everyone shares their impressions of the discussions you just had.

### WE HELP EACH OTHER CREATE A SAFER SPACE WHEN WE DISCUSS TOGETHER

We assume good intentions and that we are all working toward the same goal: a more inclusive world for everyone, free from oppression and discrimination. We assume that all experiences are present in the room, for example by avoiding “us and them” language. “Those of us” can be a good alternative to use instead.

## DIGITAL SEPARATIST BOOK CIRCLE THIS SPRING

During the spring, we offer a separatist book circle for those who risk being subjected to racism. More information and an interest registration form are available at [www.rfsu.se/bokcirkel](http://www.rfsu.se/bokcirkel).

# READING GUIDE AND SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## SUGGESTIONS WHILE READING

### Reflections at the end of each chapter

Pause and summarize what the chapter you just read included and what you are taking away from it, in 1-2 sentences.

### Preparation for discussion

Mark or flag passages that you think could become good discussion points or group questions.

## SUGGESTED THEMES AND QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

### 1. Main Arguments and Themes

What is the author's central point or purpose?

What are the most important ideas or messages she wants you to take with you?

### 2. Personal Reactions

What surprised you, moved you, or challenged your way of thinking?

Where do you agree or disagree with the author?

### 3. Big Questions

What questions does the book raise about yourself, your context, or society at large?

What would you like to ask the author?

### 4. Connections

How does the book relate to your own life, work, or context?

Does the book connect to other current events, phenomena, or conversations you have had?

### 5. Uncertainties

What was difficult to understand or felt unclear? (This often works well as a discussion starter!)

## QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions about organizing a book circle, you can contact RFSU's association development officer at [aktiv@rfsu.se](mailto:aktiv@rfsu.se).

**GOOD LUCK!**