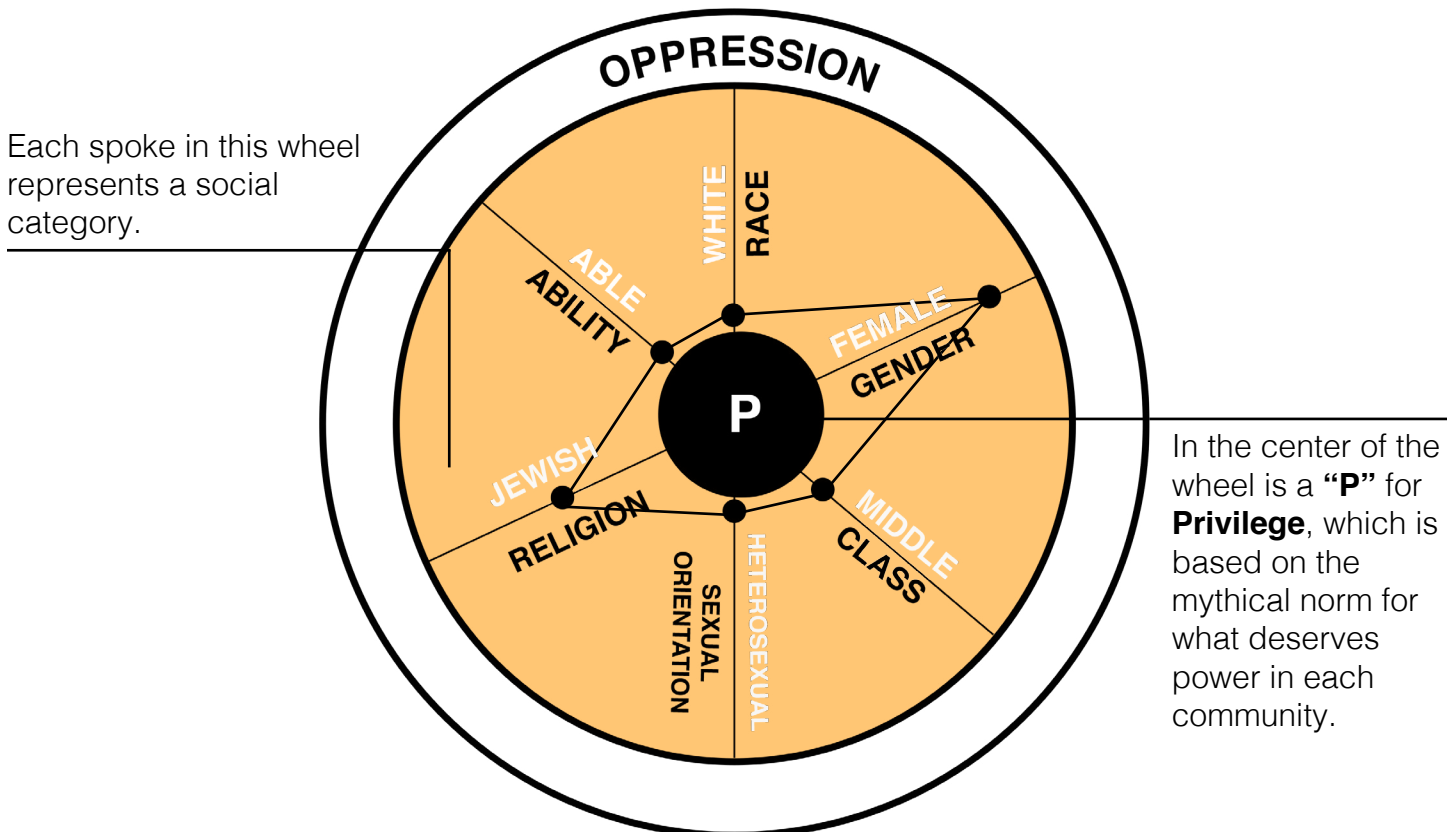


Acknowledging Privilege: Background

See **Figure 1** as an example for some North American communities. For an in-depth personal perspective, follow the steps to complete the activity on the back of this page.

Figure 1



In some communities being a male holds more status financially, socially, spatially etc.

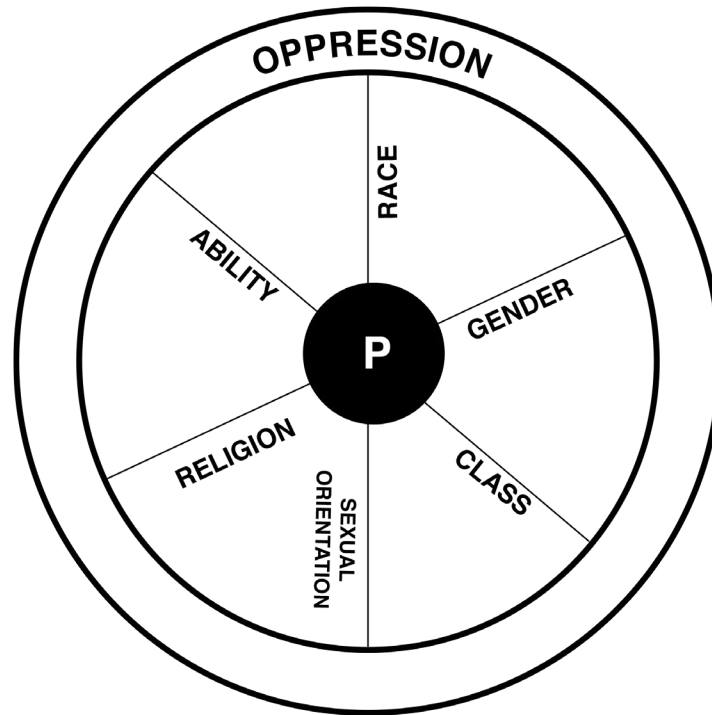


In other communities, females hold more status financially, socially, spatially etc.

However, other gender identities may not be very visible at all. The closer you are to the centre norms, the more unearned benefits and power you possess in each area. Alternatively, oppression is experienced the farther your placement from the centre preferred norms. In summary, it is not about whether you “feel” privileged, but whether society would view you as so.

Acknowledging Privilege: Wheel of Oppression Activity

Privilege is a special right/advantage, that is granted or available only to a particular person or group of people. Using this **'Wheel of Oppression'** will visually help you understand your privilege in society and understand oppression - the unjust exercise of power over another.



Activity:

1. Draw a wheel (or use the above image).
2. Fill in your status above the line for each social category.
3. Mark a dot on each line in regards to how much privilege you have in your society.
4. Connect the dots on the wheel. The wheel now shows a model of how your status intersects and together can privilege or oppress.
5. Write down what you are feeling and/or thinking. You may have never heard of or thought of these ideas before, and have never acknowledged your own privilege in society.
6. Make a list of ways you can make a difference and become part of the solution to support people of all backgrounds.

Resource: Samuels, D. R. (2004). Connecting with oppression and privilege:
A pedagogy for social justice.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.conestogac.on.ca/respect/>