**Background and summary of Intersectionality:**

In 1989, Kimberlé Crenshaw (now a Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law School) was thinking about the multiple forces of discrimination Black women experience in America. She noticed that there were college classes and social justice organizations that addressed racial discrimination but they often focused on the experiences of Black men. Similarly, women's rights resources looked at feminism from the perspective of White women. In both circumstances, Black women's complex stories and experiences were silenced or missing. Ms. Crenshaw coined the term **Intersectionality** to describe the multiple, intersecting systems of oppression that black women experience.

Since then, the term Intersectionality has expanded. According to OxfordDictionaries.com, Intersectionality is "the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage."

*Adapted from:*
"Intersectionality: What happens when forms of discrimination combine, overlap, and intersect," *Words We're Watching*, Mirriam-Webster Online: https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/intersectionality-meaning
OxfordDictionaries.com:
https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/intersectionality

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