

Resources on Racial Justice: Learn – Reflect – Act

A compendium of League and non-League materials assembled by LWV Massachusetts Racial Justice Sub-Committee of Legislative Action Committee, designed to be used after examination of LWV DEI materials (see I.D)

Purpose: To assist LWVMA members and local Leagues as we individually and collectively grapple to understand, call out, and act to alleviate racial injustice

January 2021

Suggestions on how to use the Racial Justice (RJ) Resource List

The Resource List on Racial Justice is designed for League members seeking a greater understanding of racial justice issues, with the hope that League groups will emerge to educate, discuss, reflect and act.

The resource list begins with state and national positions and statements that relate to racial justice (RJ), that explain why RJ is a League issue. These are the sources that empower local Leagues to take action, since the League engages in advocacy only when that position is supported by statements in the state and national position documents. Extracts of such statements are often used as a preface for League programs. (Note: shortened versions of the statements are included in Section I with the complete statements in Appendix A).

1. The recommended first step is to review the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Resources from LWVMA and LWVUS (see links in Section I D).
2. Next, make use of listed resources in this document; here are some of our favorite places to begin:
 - [How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion: Peggy McIntosh TED Talk](#)
 - [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#) by Peggy McIntosh
 - Book: **How to Be an Antiracist** (2019) Ibram X. Kendi
 - Book: **The Color of Law** (2018) Richard Rothstein
 - Book: **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** (2020) Isabel Wilkerson
 - Book: **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir** by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele (2020)
 - [Ally, Accomplice, Co-conspirator with Brittany Packnett \(6 minute video clip\)](#)
3. Continue your exploration with other items on the Resource List.
4. To review news and media articles related to racial justice see Appendix B as another source of information organized by topic and arranged by date.
5. You may wish to connect with or join racial justice groups. Many are listed in Section II.
6. Perhaps you want to see what racial justice issues exist in your community. See Section III for ideas to explore and lists of local groups for partnership/allyship.

The resources available on racial justice are extensive —this document is one avenue into the topic.

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Resources on Racial Justice: Learn- Reflect -Act

I. League of Women Voters and Racial Justice

A. Statements about Racial Justice -Complete statements included in Appendix A

- [LWVUS Responds to Police Killing of George Floyd May 29, 2020](#)
- [LWVMA Statement on George Floyd Killing June 1, 2020](#)
"We commit as individuals and as a League to hold ourselves accountable: to listen to Black voices in our communities and the Commonwealth, to educate ourselves better and stand against the racism prevalent in our society, and to advocate for policies and practices to eliminate systemic racism in Massachusetts."
- [LWVUS: Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Letter to House and Senate, June 1, 2020](#)
- [LWVUS: League Joins Partners Calling for Congressional Action on Police Violence June 2, 2020](#)
- [LWVUS: Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community from Virginia Kase blog, June 3, 2020](#) "As a democracy and voting rights organization, we must be part of the progress that is catalyzed at this moment. In the coming weeks and months, we will be supporting our partners in the civil rights community who are working on legislation and policy reforms focused on creating systemic change in our government institutions, starting with unjust policing." Additionally she stated, "Now, more than ever, it's clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies."
- LWVUS and LWVMA ["Urgent Resolution: Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color"](#) June 2020 National Convention June 27, 2020
- **Statement of Dr. Deborah Turner, LWVUS President, August 27, 2020 in League Update** "The League stands with Jacob Blake and we stand with Kenosha, Wisconsin. We strongly oppose the systemic racism that allows violence like this to occur repeatedly. The League remains an ally to those leading the work for social justice, and we encourage all Leagues to advocate for Black lives and nonviolent protest."

B. LWV Statements and Positions about Police Reform (complete statements in Appendix A)

1. LWVUS and LWVMA ["Urgent Resolution: Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color"](#) June 2020 National Convention June 27, 2020
2. [LWVUS coalition letter \(the most specific list of reforms\)](#)
3. [From LWVUS Statement 5/29/2020 on death of George Floyd](#)
4. From Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO, [Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community, blog 6/3/2020](#)

5. [From Impact on Issues 2018-2020 \(LWVUS\)](#) p.31, p.68
6. **LWVUS Calls on Congress to Act on Institutional Violence Against Black Communities 8/4/2020** LWVUS joined 189 organizations addressing Congressional leadership and standing in solidarity with Black Women’s Reproductive Justice advocates to protect the bodily autonomy and reproductive rights of all people.

C. LWVMA Actions on Racial Justice

1. Working with coalitions and allies, find areas and legislation we can support based on our positions and statements.
2. Continue to expand our understanding of issues facing BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities
3. LWVMA
 - a. Work on legislation on police reform in Massachusetts, supporting in principle 5 bills;
 - b. Send Action Alerts on racial justice legislation (5 so far)
 - c. Signed onto support for BeaconBLOC, as ally
 - d. Provide webinars with legislators and experts for League members on policing bills
 - e. Join over 100 organizations to promote week of action on police reform bills
 - f. Using a racial justice lens, promote legislation and change in a wide variety of fields including environmental policy, healthcare, women’s health, nutrition, education, housing.
4. Established a Racial Justice subcommittee of the Legislative Action Committee to monitor major legislation, and develop Racial Justice Resources.

D. LWV Racial Justice materials

1. [LWVMA: Diversity Equity and Inclusion Resources](#)
2. [LWVMA: From 100th Anniversary Toolkit](#)
3. LWVMA See the blog [“Facing Hard Truths About the League’s Origin”](#) The blog is responding to a [New York Times article](#).
4. LWVMA [Watch the LWVUS Webinar](#) “Acknowledging the Past, Reimagining the Future”, August 29, 2019 – Past LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins presented this webinar speaking about the courageous and often overlooked women of color, and how we can move forward to actualize our values as individuals and as an organization.
5. LWVMA [Read this article originally published in The Hill: “This Women’s Equality Day, Stop Romanticizing the 19th Amendment”](#) by Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters, 8/26/2019.
6. LWVMA and Suffrage 100 African American Suffragists, Suffrage History, and Voting Rights (in LWVMA 100th anniversary toolkit)
 - a) [National Museum of African America History and Culture](#)
 - b) [The Sojourner Truth Project](#)
 - c) [Votes for Women means Votes for Black Women](#)
 - d) [These Are the Women of Color Who Fought Both Sexism and the Racism of White Feminists](#)
 - e) [Struggling to Connect: White and Black Feminism in the Movement Years](#)
 - f) [African American Women Leaders in the Suffrage Movement](#)
 - g) [5 You Should Know: African American Suffragists](#)
 - h) [How the Daughters and Granddaughters of Former Slaves Secured Voting Rights for All](#)

7. [LWVMA Criminal Justice Reform Reading List](#)
[LWVUS Resources to support your League's effort to educate yourself on diversity, equity, and inclusion \(DEI\)](#)
8. [LWVUS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy](#)
9. LWVUS [Definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
10. LWVUS [DEI Continued Learning Materials](#), including Articles, Books and Audio materials
11. [LWVUS DEI Webinars](#)
12. LWVUS [2018 LWVUS Convention Presentation Archive](#)
13. [LWVUS Diversity Equity and Inclusion Guide](#)
14. LWVUS [DEI Basics](#): overview of DEI, common DEI terms, and why DEI is so important to our League work.
15. LWVUS [Individual Learning/Internal Evaluation](#): DEI education resources at an individual level.
16. LWVUS [DEI Lens and League Work](#): how Leagues can apply a DEI Lens to all of their League work
17. LWVUS [Beyond the Basics](#): supplemental resources

II. Resources for Action

A. Organizations to Follow on Social Media

- Antiracism Center: [Twitter](#)
- Audre Lorde Project: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Black Lives Matter [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)
- Black Women's Blueprint: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Color Of Change: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Colorlines: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Community Change, Inc. <https://communitychangeinc.org/>
- The Conscious Kid: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Equal Justice Initiative (EJI): [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Families Belong Together: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Justice League NYC: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) + Gathering For Justice: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)
- The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Louis D. Brown Peace Institute <http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org/>
- Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign <https://www.facebook.com/emappc/>
- The Movement For Black Lives (M4BL): [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- MPowerChange: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Muslim Girl: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Mothers for Justice and Equality <https://www.facebook.com/wesayitsnotokay/>
- NAACP: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- National Domestic Workers Alliance: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- The New Democracy Coalition <https://www.thenewdemocracycoalition.org/>
- Race Forward <https://www.raceforward.org/>
- RAICES: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- SisterSong: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- United We Dream: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

B. Individual Actions: Where to Donate or Volunteer

- **Participate** in local actions, which develop in real time, and are often found through social media and organizing agencies ([See ACLU guide to protests](#))
- **Attend online events**
- [Support Black owned businesses in Boston and beyond](#)
- [Support Black-owned restaurants in Boston](#)
- [Local Boston Grassroots Racial Justice Organizations](#)
- [26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#) written in 2014, very general
- [Resources for Accountability and Actions for Black Lives](#)
- [Carry Our Weight](#) Visit this site if you're looking for resources to ask better questions, do the inner work, and contribute to anti-racism battles all around the country.
- [Racial Equity Tools](#)
- [103 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#)
- [Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#)
- [How the Non-Black Latinx Community Can Demand Racial Justice](#)
- [Showing Up for Racial Justice](#)
- **Support Prison Abolition Work Here in Massachusetts** by [Black Lives Matter Boston](#), [Sisters Unchained](#), Families for Justice as Healing, [The MA Bail Fund](#), [Mass Action Against Police Brutality](#), [Boston Police Camera Action Team](#), and [Muslim Justice League](#)
- [Opportunities for White People in the Fight for Racial Justice](#)

C. Supporter Calls to Action

- **Join groups** such as [Black Lives Matter](#) or [NAACP](#)
- **Urge Mass. Legislature to Take Action on Racial Justice Issues** by following LWVMA Action Alerts and Action Newsletter
- **Urge Congress to Take Action:** [Urge your Members of Congress](#) to support Reps. Ayanna Pressley, Ilhan Omar, Barbara Lee, and Karen Bass's resolution to condemn police brutality, racial profiling, and use of excessive force.
- **Join Color of Change:** [Take action with Color of Change](#).
- **Support Local Bail Funds:** [Support protesters in your city](#) by finding local bail funds or donate to have your donation divided between cities across the country.
- **Support Black Voters Matter:** [Support the voter registration efforts](#) of Black Voters Matter.

D. Miscellaneous

- [Protester's Rights](#)
- [How to Film Police Safely](#)

III. Racial Justice: the local level

A. Examples of Racial Justice Actions/Issues in Cities and Towns

- [Town of Needham Announces Launch of Unite Against Racism Initiative](#)
<https://www.needhamma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/21603/NUARI-Release-629?bidId=>
- July 12, 2020 [In Arlington, Black Voices Challenge a White Suburban School District to Do Better](#)
- July 12, 2020 [Taskforce Starts Review of Policing in Newton](#)
- [Swampscott Library program "One Topic One Town: A Journey Towards Dismantling Racism"](#)

- **Ideas for local action/investigation:**

- Does your town/city have its own official committee on diversity? Investigate, join, partner.
- Start with data; examine the census for your town to determine minority composition; look at Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for data on your local school student population composition, teacher diversity, student discipline by racial composition, etc.
- Meet with police chief and ask about use of force policies; how does the department handle calls about folks with mental health issues? Are other resources available? What is the average education of police recruits? Is there opportunity for independent civilian review boards? Who negotiates contracts for public safety officials? Do they provide for arbitration?
- Explore with School Committee how school resource officers or police are used in your schools.
- [Has your Board of Health declared racism a public health emergency?](#)
- [Is there a disparity in discipline for nonwhite students in your public schools? \(see October 1, 2020 'A Battle for the Souls of Black Girls'\)](#)
- Does your community have affordable housing stock? How are minorities impacted?
- If your district is part of METCO, can you meet with your METCO Director to determine student experience?
- By speaking with your town clerk, can you determine if resources for voting are equivalent among precincts? How can this be improved? Is information going out to all residents?
- Use the environmental justice lens to look at racial disparity in your community: lead paint, toxic soils, impure water, air quality, markets with fresh produce, maternal health, green space, playgrounds and parks, youth centers, education, health centers, community resources, etc.
- Organize a public program series around racism in partnership with local library/ librarian

B. Community and Regional Organizations for Partnership Work on Racial Justice

1. Municipal Diversity Groups, South Shore

- Barnstable No Place For Hate
- Barnstable County Human Rights Advisory Commission
- Brockton Diversity Commission (waiting for reinstatement by Mayor)
- Cohasset Diversity Committee
- Dennis Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Duxbury's Prejudice Free
- Falmouth No Place For Hate
- Falmouth Affirmative Action Committee
- Hingham Unity Council
- Hull No Place For Hate
- Martha's Vineyard Racial Justice Project
- Martha's Vineyard Diversity Coalition
- Mashpee Inclusion and Diversity Committee
- Norwell All Are Welcome Committee
- N.A.A.C.P (Boston, Brockton, Hyannis, New Bedford)
- Plymouth No Place For Hate
- South Shore Unity Council
- Woods Hole Diversity Advisory Committee

2. Human Rights Commissions Statewide:

- Amherst
- Arlington
- Barnstable
- Belmont
- Beverly Human Rights Committee
- Boston
- Cambridge
- Danvers Human Rights and Inclusion Committee
- Dedham
- Fitchburg
- Framingham
- Greenfield
- Lawrence
- Lexington
- Lynn
- Medford
- Melrose
- Needham
- Newton

3. Other groups and ways to find local partner organizations

- Arlington Town Diversity Taskforce
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Massachusetts
- Amplify POC Cape Cod
- [Allies for Racial Justice](#)
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL) New England
- AROS – Anti-Racism Organizing in the Suburbs
- Black Boston is a community organization
- Black Lives Matter — Boston Chapter
- Bridge/Multicultural Bridge (Berkshire Resource for Integration of Diverse Groups through Education)
- Coalition for Social Justice is a grassroots organization founded committed to providing outreach and information to those affected by poverty.
- Community Change, Inc.
- Communities for Restorative Justice
- Community Racial Justice Committee
- Community Taskforce Against Discrimination
- Contact local government offices to ask about racial justice organizations, committees, etc.
- Essex County Community Organization (ECCO)
- Families Organized for Racial Justice (Newton)
- [Faneuil Hall Race + Reconciliation Project](#)
- High School Clubs (Note: check with high school principal or district superintendent)
- Historical organizations
- Individual Local Religious Organizations, may have Racial Justice efforts
- Lawyers for Civil Rights is a Boston-based organization
- Local Colleges: contact to seek organizations, departments, student groups associated with racial justice

- Local Community Counseling Centers
- Local Government (Fair Housing, taskforces, etc)
- Local Libraries
- Museums
- Local Ministerial Association
- Local news organizations
- Local Rotary Groups and other service groups
- [Local Progress](#)
- Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Massachusetts Community Action Network (MCAN)
- Massachusetts Poor People's Campaign
- Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition (MAWOCC)
- METCO, METCO Director in school district
- MLK Taskforce (Cape)
- N.A.A.C.P. (regional organizations, e.g. North Shore, South Shore)
- National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls is a Boston-based membership.
- No Place For Hate local groups (e.g. Barnstable, Marblehead)
- Regional Juneteenth Association
- SURJ Boston, local chapter of [Showing Up For Racial Justice](#)
- Scouting organizations
- S.U.R.E. Swampscott Unites, Respects, Embraces
- Taskforce Against Discrimination (Marblehead)
- Team Harmony program at High School (Note: check with high school principal or district superintendent)
- The Massachusetts Bail Fund
- [UJIMA - Boston Democratic Community Investment Group](#)
- Urban League
- YWCA

C. Resources/Research about Inequality in Massachusetts

- [Articles from MassInc](#)
- [Articles from Mass Budget and Policy Center](#)
- **Massachusetts Health Equity Taskforce, [Oct 14, 2020, Interim Report](#)**
- **Transportation, Equity, Climate and Health (TRECH) [Project Research Update on Health Benefits of TCI Policy Scenarios](#)**
- **[AMA: Racism is a threat to public health](#)**
- **[Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal System Sept 2020](#)**
- **[Building Toward Racial Justice and Equity in Health: A Call to Action \(2020 from MA Atty. General Healey\)](#)**
- See colleges for racial justice initiatives (examples)
 - [Boston University Center for Antiracist Research](#)
 - [Northeastern Institute on Race and Justice](#)
 - [Salem State University Working Group on Racial Justice](#)
 - [The Sankofa Conversation Series on Structural Racism University of Massachusetts Boston](#)
 - [The Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Shorenstein Center](#)

- [Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice Harvard Law School](#)

IV. Individual Exploration

A. Read: Articles, Essays, Websites

- [The Lens of Systemic Oppression - National Equity Project](#)
- [Report Updates Landmark 1968 Racism Study - NPR](#)
- [1619 Project - The New York Times](#) Reframing the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative.
- [Why Does the U.S. Military Celebrate White Supremacy? - The New York Times](#)
- [Who Gets to be Afraid in America? - The Atlantic](#)
- [America's Racial Contract Is Killing Us - The Atlantic](#)
- [My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant - The New York Times](#)
- [The Case for Reparations - The Atlantic](#) Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years of racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.
- [I am Black. This Is What I Need \(& What I Don't\) from White Allies. - Nicole Cameron](#)
- [When Black People Are in Pain, White People Just Join Book Clubs - Tre Johnson](#)
- [The Invention of Police, Jill Lepore The New Yorker July 2020](#)
- [11 Things to Do Besides Say 'This Has to Stop' in the Wake of Police Brutality- Brittany Wong](#)
- [The American Nightmare in The Atlantic, Ibram X. Kendi](#)
- [I Don't Know What to Do with Good White People - Brit Bennett](#)
- [No More Allies by Mia Mckenzie](#)
- [Ally Up! Practice Effective Allyship](#)
- [Recent History of Police Violence article - Derecka Purnell](#)
- [Teen Vogue: Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-Racist Action in Your Life- Zyahna Bryant](#)
- [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack by Peggy McIntosh](#) This article covers 50 examples, or hidden benefits, from McIntosh's perspective, of the privilege white people experience in everyday life. Also [Tedtalk "How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion"- Peggy McIntosh](#)
- [Who's Gonna Take the Weight: Mo Cowan and Being Black in America](#)
- [Your Black Colleagues May Look Like They're Okay — Chances Are They're Not by Danielle Cadet](#)
- [Get Home Safely: 10 Rules of Survival](#)
- [America This Is Your Chance](#)
- [When Feminism is White Supremacy in Heels by Rachel Cargle](#) Excellent program on how to be an ally
- [Who Gets to Be Afraid in America? Ahmaud Arbery Could Have Been Me by Ibram X. Kendi](#); Americans don't see me, or Ahmaud Arbery, running down the road—they see their fear.
- [Op-Ed: Don't Understand the Protests? What You're Seeing is People Pushed to the Edge Kareem Abdul-Jabbar](#); Kareem Abdul-Jabbar reflects on George Floyd protests.
- [In the Fight for Racial Justice, Here's What White Allyship Looks Like](#)
- [White Supremacy Culture](#), also See [Dismantling Racism.org](#) for additional resources.
- [*21-Day Racial Equity Indigenous Challenge - Fighting White Supremacy Since 1492](#)
- [*Native Solidarity with Black Lives Matter as Both Communities Confront Centuries-Long State Violence](#)
- [*Native American History in Massachusetts](#)
- [Race and the Economy](#), series of articles on this topic
- [Most of the 23 Million Immigrants Eligible to Vote in 2020 Election Live in Just Five States](#)
- ['Forgotten Voting Blocs.' Florida's Black Caribbean Voters Identify with Kamala Harris](#)

- [Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man](#)
- [Talking to Children about Racial Bias](#)
- [Talking to Young Children about Race and Racism \(PBS\)](#)
- [A Battle for the Souls of Black Girls](#): Discipline disparities between Black and white boys have driven reform efforts for years. But Black girls are arguably the most at-risk student group in the United States. New York Times Oct 1, 2020
- * [Whose History Matters](#) - Indigenous (Native American Indian) First Nations Resources
- [The 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago today. The evolution of American voting rights in 244 years shows how far we've come — and how far we still have to go](#) (2020) Grace Panetta, Olivia Reaney, and Talia Lakritz
- [6 Reasons Why “All Lives Matter” is Neither Fair Nor Helpful](#)
- [An Open Letter from An Admitted Racist](#)
- [Diversity and Authenticity](#)
- [From Safe Places to Brave Spaces](#)
- [How Black Women Describe Navigating Race and Gender in the Workplace](#)
- [Reducing the Effects of Gender Stereotypes on Performance Evaluations](#)
- [Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal System Sept 2020](#)
- [AMA: Racism is a threat to public health](#) Nov 2020

B. Read: Nonfiction Books

[Frugal Bookstore](#) is black-owned book store in Boston that delivers.

1. **The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters** (2020) Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins The author Dr. Jenkins, a former president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, writes based on her years of research and interviews.
2. **The New Jim Crow** (2020) Michelle Alexander A must-read that explores how incarceration today has become a way of “keeping Blacks in their place”.
3. **The Color of Law** (2018) Richard Rothstein This book walks through US history detailing how the institutions of the US, including the Supreme Court, reflecting the tone of the times, were complicit in discrimination and segregation.
4. **One Person, No Vote** (2019) Carole Anderson This is a concise, well-written history of voter disenfranchisement and current vote suppression. *Shelby County v. Holder*, a 5-4 decision by the Supreme Court, opened the floodgates for more Jim Crow style voter suppression laws as well as allowed old ones to flourish. Some states have moved in the other direction and increased voter participation by expanding voter registration and access to the polls. Anderson concludes that the Russians piggy backed onto the years of efforts to disenfranchise and suppress the vote of African Americans and others. The author quotes Lincoln, “I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave, half free.”
5. **Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge** (2018) Erica Armstrong Dunbar This is the story of a slave owned by Martha Washington who ran away when she was going to be given to another woman as a wedding present. She made her way to New Hampshire and made a life with a seaman. Although the Washingtons implored her to return, she refused. She told her story and it was recorded.
6. **Sojourner Truth’s America** (2009) Margaret Washington This is the story of Sojourner Truth’s remarkable life set firmly in the history of the 1800s. She was a compelling orator who could neither read nor write but battled slavery along with Fredrick Douglass and others. She utilized her deep faith and spirituality as a source of inspiration.
7. **How to Be an Antiracist** (2019) Ibram X. Kendi A book that dissects racism in all its incarnations, revealing over and over how we cannot just not be a racist, but we need to be antiracist and alert to its various forms. Written by a young Black man who, in a series of insights, comes to understand his own innate racism, including the

seductive dead end of “Black exceptionalism.” Author Kendi denies that racism stems from ignorance or immorality. Instead, he believes that racism results from economic policy that places one racial group above another. He also believes the answer to racism is to truly treat all equally, beginning with policy.

8. **Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own** (2020) Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. The author, a professor at Princeton, traces Baldwin’s grief, rage, and isolation as he internalized the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., the betrayal of the dream, the rise of the Black Panthers, and the stalled effort to break down racial division and backsliding -- all during his lifetime. The author seeks hints of how Baldwin survived as a black man experiencing the pain of seeing the truth of America, and needing to define himself outside of it. Bracing, inspiring it places love at the center of redemption.
9. **Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor** (2020) Layla F Saad
10. **How Europe Underdeveloped Africa** (1981) Walter Rodney
11. **Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty** by Dorothy E. Roberts (1997) Author Roberts exposes America’s systemic abuse of Black women’s bodies.
12. **Radical Reproductive Justice: Radical Reproductive Justice: Foundation, Theory, Practice, Critique** (2017) Loretta J. Ross et. al
13. **So You Want to Talk About Race** (2019) Ijeoma Oluo Oluo Shows us how to talk to each other about racial prejudices and biases
14. **Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America** (2017) Ibram X. Kendi Author explores and reveals how racist ideas were created, spread, and became deeply rooted in American society
15. **The Fire Next Time** (1992) James Baldwin
16. **Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches of Audre Lorde** (2007) Audre Lorde and Cheryl Clarke
17. **The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America** (2018) Richard Rothstein
18. **White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism** (2018) Robin DiAngelo The book explores the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged.
19. **The End of Policing** (2018) by Alex Vitale Why restructuring policing is not enough, looking at origins
20. **White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism** (2015) Paula S. Rothenberg
21. **Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race** (2017) Beverly Daniel Tatum
22. **Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents** (2020) Isabel Wilkerson
23. **The Warmth of Other Suns** (2011) by Isabel Wilkerson Traces the migration of Southern Blacks from the South between WWI and the 1960’s /70s by following three individuals as they left for a variety of reasons and settled elsewhere in the US.
24. **American Apartheid, Segregation and the Making of the Underclass** (1998) by Douglas Masse. A scholarly book that tells the story of how we (whites) created black ghettos.
25. **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir** by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele (2020) This incredible story of an American life gives a face to the resilience, the love, and the resistance that founded BLM. ?
26. **The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide** (2006) Barbara Robles, Betsy Leondar-Wright, and Rose Brewer Written by five leading experts on the racial wealth divide who recount the asset-building histories of Native Americans, Latinos, African Americans, Asian Americans, and European Americans, this book is a uniquely comprehensive multicultural history of American wealth. With its focus on public policies—how, for example, many post-World War II GI Bill programs helped whites only.
27. **The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap** (2019) Mehrsa Baradaran In America, black people and white people have grossly different economic outcomes; why?
28. **The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics** (2018) George Lipsitz In this unflinching look at white supremacy, George Lipsitz argues that racism is a matter of interests as well as attitudes, a problem of property as well as pigment.
29. **A Colony in a Nation** (2017) Chris Hayes. The history of policing in the US is explored and the effect on black communities.

30. **Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts** (2019) by Elise Lemire A local history of slavery in the freethinking capital of nineteenth-century America
31. **Are Prisons Obsolete?** (2003) Angela Davis; The case for prison abolition.
32. **From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation** (2016) Keeanga Yamahtta-Taylor; this activist and scholar surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment, arguing that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation.
33. **An African American and Latinx History of the United States** (2018) Paul Ortiz
34. **Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life** (2016) David Billings
35. **My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies** (2017) Resmaa Menakem
36. **The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America** (2017) Richard Rothstein
37. **The Color of Wealth, The Story Behind the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide** (2006) by Meizhu Lui, Barbara Robles, Betsy Leondar-Wright , Rose Brewer, & Rebecca Adamson
38. **The Cost of Privilege: Taking On the System of White Supremacy and Racism** (2007) by Chip Smith, author and Malcolm Goff (Illustrator)
39. **The Destruction of Black Civilization – Great Issues of a Race From 4500 BC to 2000 AD** (1987) by Chancellor Williams
40. **The Factory: A Journey Through the Prison Industrial Complex** (2016) by Christopher Lordan
41. **White Rage, the Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide** (2016) Carol Anderson
42. Also see LWVMA's [Criminal Justice Reform Reading List](#)
43. ***All the Real Indians Died Off, And 20 other Myths About Native Americans** (2016) Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker October
44. ***1491: New Revelation of the Americas Before Columbus** (2005) Charles Mann
45. ***The Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States** (2016) Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz
46. ***Firsting & Lasting: Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England** (2010) Jean O'Brien
47. ***Hidden Genocide, Hidden People** (2014) Dennis Cerrotti
48. ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants** (2013) Robin Wall Kimmerer
49. **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** (2016) by Monique W. Morris Chronicles the experiences of Black girls across the country whose intricate lives are misunderstood, highly judged--by teachers, administrators, and the justice system--and degraded by the very institutions charged with helping them flourish
50. **America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States** (2019) Erika Lee
51. ***Settler Fragility: Why Settler Privilege Is So Hard to Talk About (2018)** By Dina Gilio-Whitaker
52. **The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism** (2016) Edward E. Baptist. It changes the way one sees the world because it helps readers to understand how slavery is rooted into the very foundation of the United States — how it has affected everything that came after.
53. **The Souls of Black Folk** by W. E. B. Du Bois (1903, 2017) In this collection of essays, first published together in 1903, he eloquently affirms that it is beneath the dignity of a human being to beg for those rights that belong inherently to all mankind.
54. **Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence** (2019) by Patrick Sharkey. Over the past two decades, American cities have experienced an astonishing drop in violent crime, dramatically changing urban life. Patrick Sharkey reveals the striking consequences: improved school test scores, since children are better able to learn when not traumatized by nearby violence; better chances that poor children will rise into the middle class; and a striking increase in the life expectancy of African American men.

55. **Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People** (2016) by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald By gaining awareness, we can adapt beliefs and behavior and “outsmart the machine” in our heads so we can be fairer to those around us.
56. **Building a Movement to End the New Jim Crow: an organizing guide** (2015) by Daniel Hunter
57. **Learning to be white: money, race and God in America** (2000) by Thandeka Book explores the politics of the white experience in America, tracing the links among religion, class, and race.
58. **Paint the White House Black: Barack Obama and the Meaning of Race in America** (2013) Michael P. Jeffries
59. **Deep Denial: The Persistence of White Supremacy in United States History and Life**, (2016)by David Billings Deep Denial explains why race is still with us, and what the Civil Rights Movement can tell us about today
60. **Chokehold: Policing Black Men** (2018) by Paul Butler
61. **The Little Book of Restorative Justice** (2004) Howard Zehr A bestselling book by one of the founders of the movement
62. **The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement Is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear** (2016), by William J. Barber II
63. **Under the Affluence: Shaming the Poor, Praising the Rich and Sacrificing the Future of America** (2015) by Tim Wise
64. **Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice** (2017)by Paul Kivel
65. **White Rage, the Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide** (2017) by Carol Anderson, PhD
66. **From Here to Equality - Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century** (2020)by William A. Darity Jr., A. Kirsten Mullen
67. **Separate: Inside and American Tragedy** (2019) by Jacob Soboroff Author discusses the separation of children from their immigrant parents at the border during the Trump administration as policy.
68. **Uprooting Racism: How White People Can Work for Racial Justice** (2017)by Paul Kivel
69. **Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race** (2016) by Derald Wing Sue
70. **White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide** (2017)by Carol Anderson
71. **killing rage: Ending Racism** (1996) By bell hooks
72. **Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism, and Racial Violence** (2016)by Chad Williams (Editor), Kidada E. Williams (Editor), Keisha N. Blain (Editor)
73. **Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race** (2014) by Debby Irving
74. **The Wars of Reconstruction** (2014) by D.R. Egerton
75. **Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America** (2017) by Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
76. **Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow (2019)**by Henry Louis Gates Jr.

C. Read: Memoir

[Frugal Bookstore](#) is black-owned book store in Boston that delivers.

1. **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir** by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and asha bandele (2020) This is a story of a young woman growing up in the ghetto in California.
2. **Becoming** by Michelle Obama This book covers Michelle Obama’s life, background in Chicago, Princeton, Harvard and her life in the White House.
3. **Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race** (2019) Reni Eddo-Lodge
4. **I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness** (2018) Austin Channing Brown, memoir

5. **Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower**, (2019) Brittney Cooper autobiography
6. **Men We Reaped: A Memoir** (2014) Jesmyn Ward Author speaks of losing five black males in her life.
7. **Solitary (2019)** Albert Woodfox. Albert Woodfox was imprisoned for 40 years for a crime he did not commit. It is a story of the horrendous conditions in today's prison system. Woodfox grew up in New Orleans a poor Black man in a poor neighborhood, without ambitions or expectations in life. He engaged in petty crime that landed him in prison. There, he came in contact with three Black Panthers and found friendship. They taught him values: to be kind to others and to stand up for himself. He was framed for the death of a guard at Angola prison that landed him in solitary for 40 years until the sentence was overturned.
8. **Between the World and Me** (2015) Ta-Nehisi Coates This book is in the form of a letter from a father to his son about growing up Black in America.
9. **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** (2015) Bryan Stevenson Stories about the Equal Justice Initiative, that illuminates how "brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the U.S." justice system.
10. **Citizen 13660**(1983, 2014) Mine Okubo and Christine Hong. Internment of Asian Americans during WWII
11. **Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White Background** (2003) by Frank Wu Journalist, scholar, and activist Frank H. Wu offers a unique perspective on how changing ideas of racial identity will affect race relations in the twenty-first century
12. **Racism without Racists** (2017) Eduardo Bonilla-Silva The author documents how, beneath our contemporary conversation about race, there lies a full-blown arsenal of arguments, phrases, and stories that whites use to account for justify racial inequalities
13. **Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism** (2020) by Laura E. Gómez Reframes the often-confused and misrepresented discourse over the Latinx generation
14. **The Ungrateful Refugee : What Immigrants Never Tell You** (2020) Dina Nayeri Author and her family fled Iran and sought asylum in the U.S. providing an unfiltered commentary about what it means to leave—and not be welcomed upon your arrival.
15. **A Cup of Water Under My Bed: A Memoir** (2015) Daisy Hernández; Chronicles what her Cuban-Colombian family taught her about love, money, and race while also figuring out what it means to be an American and a woman.
16. **In the Country We Love: My Family Divided** (2016) Diane Guerrero When she was just 14 years old, Guerrero's parents were detained and deported while she was at school. Remaining in the country she had to rely on the kindness of family friends to survive.
17. **My Soul Looks Back: A Memoir** (2017) by Jessica B. Harris. Harris's memoir of her life in late-'70s and early-'80s bohemian New York, where she was a kind of younger sister to artistic geniuses like James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and Nina Simone, is remarkable for this very reason.
18. **When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir** (2018) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele. A story of perseverance from a woman who found her voice in a world that often tried to shut her out, a founder of BLM.
19. **No Name in the Street** (2007) by James Baldwin The book tries to come to terms with the fact that the struggles of the 1960s failed to transform the spirit of the nation.
20. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X** (1987) by Malcolm X with Alex Haley An epic and tragic tale of a young complicated, flawed, contradictory, and passionate visionary; a case study in the effects of misused power, racism, and the perils of "un-critical thought.
21. **My Bondage and My Freedom** (1855)by Frederick Douglass Douglass focuses his narrative on his transition from slavery to freedom, as well as examining the state of race relations and the politics of slavery leading up to the American Civil War
22. **The Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis** (2018) JD Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck.
23. **Incidents In the Life of a Slave Girl, Written by Herself**(1861) by Harriet Jacobs Harriet Jacobs was born in 1813, in Edenton, North Carolina, into slavery to her father, Elijah Jacobs and her mother, Delilah Horniblow

24. **Blackberry Juice** (2015) by Ralph C Hamm III Details life in prison, by a person denied parole.
25. **Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race** (2014) by Debby Irving
26. **White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son** (2011) Tim Wise A deeply personal polemic reveals how racial privilege shapes the daily lives of white Americans in every realm: employment, education, housing, criminal justice, and elsewhere.
27. **Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US** (2019) Lenny Duncan Addresses an institution that is blind to its issues.
28. **My (Underground) American Dream: My True Story as an Undocumented Immigrant Who Became a Wall Street Executive** (2017) Julissa Arce Author's Book begins with author growing up on the outskirts of San Antonio as an undocumented immigrant while dreaming of professional and financial success; explores the physical, financial, and emotional costs of being a high-achiever while also keeping the secret of her immigration status.

D. Read: Fiction

[Frugal Bookstore](#) is black-owned book store in Boston that delivers.

1. **The Hate You Give** (2017) Angie Thomas This is a young adult book, a story about a young Black girl in a car with a Black youth who is arrested and shot. It is not a political book, but gives an inside view of race issues in the United States.
2. **God Help The Child** (2016) Toni Morrison Novel about how childhood suffering constrains the adult
3. **The Bluest Eye** (2007) Toni Morrison Novel about definition of beauty and conformity
4. **Their Eyes Were Watching God** (2006) Zora Neale Hurston Novel about love in Southern America with black protagonist
5. **Benito Cereno** (1856) by Herman Melville A short and masterful exploration of how a "benevolent heart" can be deceived by the morays of the times to be enveloped in the darkest evil. Also the story of slave mutiny.
6. **The Water Dancer: A Novel** (2019) by Ta-Nehisi Coates A fictional work of magical realism that takes place in the age of slavery in America, as plantations were in decline.
7. **Native Speaker** (1996) Chang-Rae Lee Henry Park is a Korean immigrant who spends his life trying to be a native speaker of English; trying to assimilate into American culture. When he agrees to spy on Korean-American politicians, his own questions of identity are drawn into sharp relief.
8. **Their Eyes Were Watching God** (1978, 2006) by Zora Neale Hurston Novel brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos.
9. **Beloved** (2004) by Toni Morrison This is the story of Sethe, who was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free.
10. **Uncle Tom's Cabin** (1852) by Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti -slavery novel that fueled the abolitionist movement.
11. **Americanah** (2014) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a novel by a Nigerian woman about racism in America.
12. **Sing, Unburied, Sing**, (2013) by Jesmyn Ward A family story and an odyssey through rural Mississippi's past and present

E. Watch: Film

1. **13th (Ava DuVernay) - Netflix** In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists, and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom
2. **John Lewis: Good Trouble: Dawn Porter** This documentary explores the life and legacy of Congressman John Lewis, and his history of civil rights activism.
3. **American Son (Kenny Leon) - Netflix**
4. **The Hate U Give (George Tillman Jr.) - Hulu with Cinemax Film** adaptation of the novel by Angie Thomas
5. **When They See Us (Ava DuVernay) - Netflix** A miniseries chronicling of the Exonerated 5, teens who were falsely convicted.
6. **The Broken Policing System** Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj, Five years after three high-profile killings by police, Hasan looks at the culture and systems in place that help officers avoid accountability.
7. **Just Mercy 2019 screenplay (Destin Daniel Cretton)** Just Mercy tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with the help of young defense attorney Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Stevenson
8. **Black Power** Mixtape: 1967-1975 — Available to rent
9. **Clemency** (Chinonye Chukwu) — Available to rent
10. **Dear White People** (Justin Simien) — Netflix
11. **Fruitvale Station** (Ryan Coogler) — Available to rent
12. **I Am Not Your Negro** (James Baldwin doc) — Available to rent or on Kanopy, Through eyes of Baldwin, explores the civil rights movement and the death of three of his friends- MLK, Malcolm X and Medgar Evers.
13. **If Beale Street Could Talk** (Barry Jenkins) — Hulu
14. **King In The Wilderness** — HBO
15. **See You Yesterday** (Stefon Bristol) — Netflix
16. **Black America Since MLK: Still we rise** -- National Public Radio
17. **Selma** (Ava DuVernay) — Available to rent Tells the story of the 1965 voting rights marches from Selma to Montgomery
18. **Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap** — Netflix, Short documentary on racial wealth gap
19. **The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution** — Available to rent
20. [America: Still Racist](#) This video uses the murder of Freddie Gray as a case study of how racial injustice functions at multiple levels in our country. This video is written as a teaching tool, with white people as the primary target audience.
21. [*We Shall Remain 5-part television series](#) that shows how Native people resisted expulsion from their lands and fought the extinction of their culture -- from the Wampanoags of New England in the 1600s to the bold new leaders of the 1970s

22. [***We Were Children**](#) As young children, Lyna and Glen were taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools. The profound impact of the Canadian government's residential school system is conveyed through their eyes.
23. [**Rigged the Film**](#)
24. [**Mooz-lum**](#) the story of an African American Muslim family whose lives are changed by the September 11 attacks and their aftermath
25. [**Race the Power of Illusion**](#) PBS, 2003
26. [**Slavery by Another Name**](#) PBS, 2/28/16 The film tells how even as chattel slavery came to an end in the South in 1865, thousands of African Americans were pulled back into forced labor with shocking force and brutality.
27. ***The Canary Effect** (2006) documentary film that looks into the effects that the United States and its policies have on the Indigenous peoples (Native Americans) who are residents. It premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and won the Stanley Kubrick Award at the 2006 Traverse City Film Festival. The movie was directed by Robin Davey and Yellow Thunder Woman, who are both members of LA Based alternative pop group The Bastard Fairies. The documentary was released on DVD in 2008.
28. [**Reconstruction: America After the Civil**](#) PBS series with Henry Louis Gates Jr.

F. Watch: TED talks, Webinars

1. [**How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Discussing Race- Jay Smooth TEDx talk**](#)
2. [**Black Feminism & the Movement for Black Lives: Barbara Smith, Reina Gossett, Charlene Carruthers**](#) (50 min) Black Feminism challenges us to act on the inextricable connections of sexism, class oppression, racism, ableism, homophobia and transphobia. As the contemporary Movement for Black Lives has invigorated resistance to racism and structural violence, this panel reflects on ways that Black Feminism shapes and informs the current struggles and successes.
3. [**Why "I'm not racist" Is Only Half the Story**](#) by Robin DiAngelo | Big Think (7 min) White guilt is a roadblock to equality, says Robin DiAngelo. It takes race conversations off the table and maintains the status quo. "How do so many of us who are white individually feel so free of racism and yet we live in a society that is so profoundly separate and unequal by race?" asks DiAngelo. Stop feeling bad—that's not productive. Instead, start doing something to dismantle the systemic racism that benefits you at the expense of others.
4. [**Dr. Robin DiAngelo discusses 'White Fragility'**](#) (1hr, 24min) University of Washington professor Dr. Robin DiAngelo reads from her book "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism," explains the phenomenon, and discusses how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively across race.
5. [**"How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion"- Peggy McIntosh**](#)
6. [**Ally, Accomplice, Co-conspirator with Brittany Packnett \(6 minute video clip\)**](#)
7. [**Creating A More Equitable Society Is in White Americans' Self Interest**](#) Dr. Ibram X. Kendi joins Stephen Colbert to discuss what it takes to call one's self antiracist, and how he believes it's in everyone's interest to end the racist policies that cause inequality in this country (12 minutes)
8. **Want to learn more about racial justice? [Watch these videos from #ScholarStrike.](#)**
9. [***In the fight for racial justice, Native stories should not be ignored**](#)
10. [**What Does it Mean to Be a Black Immigrant in the United States?**](#)
11. [**A Nation Built on Immigrants**](#)
12. [**James Baldwin Discusses Racism**](#) on The Dick Cavett Show 1969

13. [Who We Are: A Chronicle Of Racism in America](#) with Jeffrey Robinson
14. [The Black Tax](#) video with Shawn Rochester
15. [Allyship vs Co-conspirators](#)
16. [White Savior vs Ally](#) with Gem Droppin'
17. [Forum on Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal Justice System Oct 16, 2020](#)
18. [Love is the Motive](#) On Being with Krista Tippett in conversation with Bryan Stevenson
19. [Intersectionality](#)
20. [What do these words mean? What do we really mean? Defund, Reform, abolish Police](#)

G. Listen

1. [1619 \(New York Times\)](#) Four hundred years ago, a ship carrying enslaved Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. A new audio series from The New York Times examines the long shadow of that fateful moment.
2. [About Race](#)
3. [Does the Voting Rights Act Have a Second Chance?](#) All Things Considered, NPR; NPR's Alisa Chang speaks with Myrna Pérez, director of the Brennan Center's Voting Rights and Elections Program, about the history of the Voting Rights Act — the legacy of the late Rep. John Lewis.
4. [Nice White Parents](#), NYT Program looks at the 60-year relationship between white parents and the public school down the block.
5. [Code Switch \(NPR\)](#)
6. [Intersectionality Matters!](#) hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw
7. [Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast](#)
8. [Pod For The Cause](#) (from The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights)
9. [Seeing White](#)
10. [Teaching While White](#)
11. [American Police \(NPR Through line\)](#) Discusses origins of American policing
12. [Unlocking Us: How to Be an Antiracist \(Brené Brown and Ibram X. Kendi\) podcast](#)
13. [*The Hidden History of Indian Slavery in America](#) Podcast exposes the history of the enslavement of 2.5-5 million native peoples in the Americas, beginning the moment Christopher Columbus arrived. (40 minutes)
14. [Witness History: Witness Black History BBC](#)
15. [In Black America](#)
16. [Into America NBC News](#)
17. [All My Relations Podcast](#)
18. [The Evolution of Voting Rights, podcast](#)
19. [Confronting Misconceptions about Race](#) with Michelle Singletary, On Point (October 8, 2020)
20. [Why Now, White People?](#) NPR Code Switch June 2020

V. Civil Civic Discourse: Resources to support bridging the gap between disparate views

- [National Institute of Civil Discourse](#) ; [Engaging Difference video series](#)
- [Everyday Democracy](#); [resources on racism](#)
- [Braver Angels](#)

In brief:

1. Be a voice that calls out the pain of oppression experienced by Black and brown people in the workplace, at school and in the community. Call out unfairness and disparate treatment when you see it.
2. If you see something happening, stay and observe. Film if you feel comfortable. Sometimes the fact that someone is watching can change a situation. <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/how-to-film-police-safely>
3. Support the creation of civil review boards/commissions with subpoena power to investigate allegations of law enforcement wrongdoing.
4. Practice zero tolerance for racism among your family members and friends.
5. Contact your legislators to let them know that you support adoption of clear statutory limits on police use of force, including chokeholds and other tactics known to have deadly consequences.
6. Join the fight against voter suppression
7. Donate to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund or other organizations fighting for civil rights

Appendix A: Complete LWV Documents Related to Racial Justice and Police Reform

1. **5/29/2020** [LWVUS Responds to Police Killing of George Floyd](#) WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters of the United States issued the following statement in reference to the murder of George Floyd: "The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

"We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—*indivisible, with liberty and justice for all*.

"As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

"The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

"We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

"Finally, we echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box."

2. [June 1, 2020 LWVMA's Statement on Violence Against Black People Throughout the United States](#)

To our fellow League members,

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts wanted to share with you our statement in response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, as well as those of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

As the Massachusetts League, we grieve and share the horror at the brutal acts toward our fellow Black citizens. We demand accountability at all levels of our government which is “of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Here in Massachusetts we commit as individuals and as a League to hold ourselves accountable: to listen to Black voices in our communities and the Commonwealth, to educate ourselves better and stand against the racism prevalent in our society, and to advocate for policies and practices to eliminate systemic racism in Massachusetts. We dedicate ourselves: to vigorously advocate for the opportunity for everyone to vote safely in this fall’s elections, to ensure that each member of our communities, statewide, is counted in the Census, to address the inequities in our society that the coronavirus pandemic has so dramatically exposed, and to speak out against racism. Every resident in Massachusetts deserves equal protection and safety as we go about our daily lives. Every member of our communities should be welcomed with open hearts into our institutions and our organizations. As civically engaged members of our communities from every corner of the Commonwealth, we must set the example with our words and actions for our children and grandchildren to demand a Massachusetts which is just and fair for all.

And we amplify this call to action: the road to change lies at the ballot box, and the most significant change can happen in elections closest to home. We must exercise our rights to safeguard them. Protecting rights for everyone means standing against injustice toward anyone. Vote.

Mary Ann Ashton and Judy Zaunbrecher, Co-Presidents; On behalf of the LWV Massachusetts Board

[3. June 1, 2020 Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Letter to House and Senate](#)

[4. June 2, 2020 League Joins Partners Calling for Congressional Action on Police Violence](#)

LWVUS joined a letter with over 400 civil rights organizations calling on Congress to implement needed policing reforms. The letter urges congressional leadership to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country.

June 1, 2020

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (The Leadership Conference), a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 220 national organizations to promote and protect civil and human rights in the United States and the 386 undersigned organizations, we urge you to take swift and decisive legislative action in response to ongoing fatal police killings and other violence against Black people across our country. Federal statutory reforms are urgently needed on a range of policing issues, including use of force, police accountability, racial profiling, militarization, data collection, and training.

We also respectfully request a meeting with House and Senate Leadership within the week to discuss legislative responses to ongoing police killings against Black people. Abusive police practices coupled with devastating state-sanctioned violence have exacted systemic brutality and fatality upon Black people since our nation’s founding. The current protests across our country are not new. They are in response to a long cycle of lawlessness against Black people, from our founding to 1968, the year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered. This cycle includes deadly incidents spanning from Los Angeles in 1992 to Ferguson in 2014.¹ Police have shot and killed more than 1,000 people in the United States over the past year.² Moreover, Black people are disproportionately more likely than white

people to be killed by police. For too long, the cycle of police brutality and racism has been met with cosmetic tinkering instead of substantive structural change. The current public protests in our cities are a response not only to unjust policing of Black people but are a cry for action to public officials for structural change, writ large.

In recent weeks, the chronic structural issue of police killings against Black people across our country has, again, escalated to a boiling point. The February 23, 2020, death of Ahmaud Arbery, who was killed by a former police officer in a Brunswick, Georgia suburb, sparked public outrage and scrutiny. The more recent police killings of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky on March 13, 2020, Dreasjon “Sean” Reed in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 6, 2020, George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, 2020, and Tony McDade in Tallahassee, FL on May 27, 2020 have generated national attention and protest. This spate of cases highlights entrenched, systemic dysfunction that has long plagued police departments and our criminal legal system.³ Congress must rectify these structural wrongs through legislation before another Black life is needlessly lost.

The recent case of Ahmaud Arbery brings back harrowing memories of Trayvon Martin’s February 26, 2012 death. Like Mr. Martin, Mr. Arbery was young, Black, and unarmed when he was stalked and killed by vigilante actors, presumably based on the color of his skin. Mr. Arbery was fatally shot by a former police officer with impunity. It should not have taken three months and public pressure for the shooter to be arrested and charged. Pervasive lack of accountability by police departments persists in far too many agencies and destroys police legitimacy, and must be addressed by Congress.⁴

The case of Breonna Taylor’s death on March 13 demonstrates the unresolved problem of militarized policing, which we also saw in Ferguson, Missouri after the death of Michael Brown in 2014. Ms. Taylor was fatally shot eight times by police in her Louisville home, after a heavy-handed, military-style raid.⁵ Police executed a no-knock warrant even though the suspect the police were looking for was already detained and did not live where Ms. Taylor was killed. This case demonstrates the need for police agencies to prohibit the use of no-knock warrants and institute mandatory de-escalation training for all officers. This case also indicates the need for Congress to end the transfer of military weapons to state and local police agencies through the Department of Defense 1033 program and other such programs.

Despite the passage of more than two months to investigate the circumstances surrounding the police killing of Ms. Taylor, none of the officers involved in her death have been arrested or charged. This situation demonstrates the need for federal prosecutors to act when state law enforcement agencies do not. This also demonstrates the need to update the federal criminal civil rights statute – Deprivation of Rights Under Color of Law, 18 U.S.C. §242 – so prosecutors can bring criminal charges against officers who violate individuals’ civil rights.

George Floyd’s death reopens the wounds that have barely healed after the death of Eric Garner, who was killed after an NYPD officer placed him in an illegal chokehold in July 2014.⁶ Mr. Floyd, like Mr. Garner, was killed at the hands of a police officer as other officers sat idly and refused to intervene. In Mr. Floyd’s case, a Minneapolis police officer forced a handcuffed Mr. Floyd into a prone position and pinned him to the ground by driving his knee into Mr. Floyd’s neck for more than eight minutes until Mr. Floyd stopped breathing. Mr. Floyd, to no avail, repeatedly told the officer that he could not breathe.

The case of Tony McDade, a black trans man, highlights the violence that many black trans, queer and gender non-conforming people face daily. In addition, the lack of coverage of his killing demonstrates a harmful disparity of awareness around violence against this community.⁷

It is past time for Congress to address the use of maneuvers that restrict the flow of oxygen or blood to the brain such as chokeholds, knee-to-neck, and similar restraints. These and other such techniques make the death or injuries resulting therefrom a violation of 18 U.S.C. §242. Accordingly, we urge members of Congress to pass legislation that would prohibit the use of such maneuvers.

Additionally, too often police killings involve officers with a history of misconduct complaints. For example, last week, the officer who killed Mr. Floyd allegedly had 18 misconduct complaints lodged against him with two resulting in

discipline.⁸ The officer who shot and killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Ohio reportedly was deemed emotionally unstable and unfit for duty in a previous job:⁹ he was ultimately fired from the Cleveland Police Department for lying on his job application.¹⁰ The same officer applied for and was hired to serve in another police department in the state; and he resigned from that job days later.

Police executives need information about the misconduct histories of officers before hiring them, which underscores the need for a national public registry of law enforcement officers that compiles the names of officers who have been terminated or decertified, involved in misconduct, or who have complaints lodged against them. This publicly available database would permit law enforcement executives' access to necessary data to inform hiring decisions and would allow the public to know the employment histories of the officers who work in their communities.

These recent police killings of residents across the country are part of a longer history of fatal police killings against Black people in America and require Congressional action immediately. Sadly, there is no reliable national accounting of victims of police use of force, a reality that former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey acknowledged in 2015. Congress must ensure compliance with the Death in Custody Reporting Act,¹¹ which it enacted six years ago, as well as ensure more robust data collection on police-community encounters, including use of force, as it prohibits racial profiling.

We call on Congress to adopt the following legislative measures to ensure that police officers live up to their oath to protect and serve:

1. Require a federal standard that use of force be reserved for only when necessary as a last resort after exhausting reasonable options, and incentivize states through federal funding mechanisms to implement this standard; require the use of de-escalation techniques, and the duty to intervene; ban the use of force as a punitive measure or means of retaliation against individuals who only verbally confront officers, or against individuals who pose a danger only to themselves; and require all officers to accurately report all uses of force;
2. Prohibit all maneuvers that restrict the flow of blood or oxygen to the brain, including neck holds, chokeholds, and similar excessive force, deeming the use of such force a federal civil rights violation;
3. Prohibit racial profiling, and require robust data collection on police-community encounters and law enforcement activities. Data should capture all demographic categories and be disaggregated;
4. Eliminate federal programs that provide military equipment to law enforcement;
5. Prohibit the use of no-knock warrants, especially for drug searches;
6. Change the 18 U.S.C. Sec. 242 mens rea requirement from willfulness to recklessness, permitting prosecutors to successfully hold law enforcement accountable for the deprivation of civil rights and civil liberties;
7. Develop a national public database that would cover all police agencies in the United States and its territories, similar to the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training's National Decertification Index,¹² which would compile the names of officers who have had their licenses revoked due to misconduct, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual violence, assault and harassment, criminal offense against minors, excessive use of force, violation of 18 U.S.C. § 242; perjury, falsifying a police report or planting and destroying evidence, and deadly physical assault; as well as terminations and complaints against the officers; and
8. End the qualified immunity doctrine which prevents police from being held legally accountable when they break the law. Qualified immunity, a defense that shields officials from being sued, has been interpreted by courts so broadly that it allows officers to engage in unconstitutional acts with impunity.

Now is the time for Congress to pass meaningful police reform legislation. While we appreciate hearings and resolutions, we need comprehensive measures enacted. We need Congress to advance meaningful legislation to protect Black communities from the systemic perils of over policing, police brutality, misconduct, and harassment, and end the impunity with which officers operate in taking the lives of Black people. It is your moral and ethical duty to ensure Black people and communities are free from the harm and threats from law enforcement and to curtail state sanctioned police violence and militarized police responses. We welcome the opportunity for Members of Congress and the principals of our organizations to meet and confirm next steps to advance federal legislation that will save the lives of countless Black people.

Thank you for your consideration. To follow-up on this request or raise any questions, please contact Sakira Cook of The Leadership Conference at cook@civilrights.org; Kanya Bennett of the ACLU at kbennett@aclu.org; Monique Dixon of NAACP LDF at mdixon@naacpldf.org; Kristina Roth of Amnesty International USA at kroth@aiusa.org; or Ebonie Riley of National Action Network at eriley@nationalactionnetwork.net; or Christopher Scott of The Open Society Policy Center at Christopher.Scott@opensocietyfoundations.org.

Sincerely,

[See letter for full list of signers](#)

1 Zelizer, J. (May 30, 2020). It has been 5 Decades Since 1968, and Things are Somehow Worse, CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/30/opinions/2020-echoes-of-1968-zelizer/index.html>

2 Database of Police Shooting since 2015. (May 29, 2020). Fatal Force, The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

3 The Sentencing Project. (Apr. 19, 2018). UN Report on Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System Available at, <https://www.sentencingproject.org/publications/un-report-on-racial-disparities/>

4 Muhammad, K. (July 26, 2019). Why police accountability Remains Out of Reach, The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/07/26/why-police-accountability-remains-out-reach/>. This article highlights the prosecutorial decisions not to indict police because of impenetrable qualified immunity for police and acquittals based on racism. The cases of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Terence Crutcher and Philando Castile are examples of this dynamic.

4 Southall, A. (Aug. 8, 2019). Officer in 'I Can't Breathe' Chokehold Was 'Untruthful,' Judge Says, NY Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/18/nyregion/daniel-pantaleo-eric-garner-chokehold.html>

5 See, e.g., American Civil Liberties Union. (2014). War Comes Home: The Excessive Militarization Of American Police, at 2. <https://www.aclu.org/report/war-comes-home-excessive-militarization-american-police>: "[T]he use of hyper-aggressive tools and tactics results in tragedy for civilians and police officers, escalates the risk of needless violence, destroys property, and undermines individual liberties."

7 Thompson, L. (May 29, 2020). The Police Killing You Probably Didn't Hear About This Week, Mother Jones, <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/tony-mcdade-tallahassee-florida-police-shooting-death/>

8 Adone, D., Silberman, H., Alonso, M. (May 29, 2020). The Minneapolis police officer who knelt on George Floyd's neck had 18 previous complaints against him, police department says, CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/28/us/minneapolis-officer-complaints-george-floyd/index.html>

9 (Dec. 4, 2014). Officer Who Killed Tamir Rice Found Unfit in Previous Job, NBC, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/officer-who-killed-tamir-rice-found-unfit-previous-police-job-n261111>

10 Burke, M. (Oct. 11, 2018). Officer who fatally shot Tamir Rice Quits Ohio Police Department Days After He was Hired, NBC, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/officer-who-fatally-shot-tamir-rice-quits-ohio-police-department-n919046>

11 Public Law 113 - 242 - Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2013

12 See e.g., The President's 21st Century Task Force report at 2.15, at https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf.

[5. June 3, 2020 Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community from Virginia Kase, LWVUS, blog](#)

“This week, people from all over this country have exercised their First Amendment rights as they protested the killing of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been taken at the hands of police. We have seen peaceful demonstrators take to the streets demanding change. We have seen people of every race, religion, and ethnic background stand and kneel in solidarity with the Black community with the same message—**Black Lives Matter**.

We’ve also seen civil unrest in some places and, sadly, acts of police violence against protestors. We must not let those images derail the fight against systemic racial injustice and inequality. Speaking out is an important first step, but this moment requires more than words—it requires us to change. We must do the work of introspection and make real, lasting change within our organization.

As a democracy and voting rights organization, we must be part of the progress that is catalyzed at this moment. In the coming weeks and months, we will be supporting our partners in the civil rights community who are working on legislation and policy reforms focused on creating systemic change in our government institutions, starting with unjust policing. We have been invited to do this work, but we must remember that we come to the table as allies. We will listen to civil rights leaders spearheading this effort, and we will use our power, our talents, and our collective voices to support and amplify their work.

Now, more than ever, it’s clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies. As we saw yesterday, throughout the month of June states are still holding important primaries, delayed due to COVID-19. Voters need to know where candidates stand on the issues, how their votes will directly impact their communities in the immediate and the long term. We must also remain dedicated to our advocacy work that is focused on dismantling racism within our electoral system: *People Powered Fair Maps*, voting rights restoration for formerly incarcerated people, combating unfair voter purging, and fighting voter ID laws and polling place closures.

We have embarked on this journey, and we will not and cannot turn back.

6. June 2020 Resolution [“Urgent Resolution: Racial Justice for Black People and People of Color”](#) passed at 2020 Convention and by LWVMA

FINAL June 24, 2020

URGENT RESOLUTION

RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR

SUBMITTED BY

LWVMO, LWVAZ, LWVCA, LWVDE, LWVMA, LWVMN, LWVNM, LWVNY, LWVAL, LWVCT, LWVIA, LWVKS, LWVMD, LWVNJ, LWVOH, LWVSC, LWVTN, LWVUT, LWVOR, LWVFL

1. **Whereas**, the killings of George Floyd¹ and countless other Black people have focused our nation’s attention on the continuing structural and systemic racism in law enforcement and the justice system; and,

2. **Whereas**, Black people and all historically marginalized people of color are disproportionately criminalized and targeted by excessive force and brutality by law enforcement²; and,

3. **Whereas**, delegates to the 2020 League of Women Voters (League) Convention are outraged by these injustices in law enforcement that unfairly target Black people and all people of color; and,

4. **Whereas**, the current crisis is a result of racism and socio-economic inequalities that have marginalized, discriminated against and harmed Black people and all people of color. Education, housing, employment, healthcare and every aspect of American life have been impacted; and,

5. **Whereas**, the League acknowledges painfully that America is a nation founded on racism.³ We must end white privilege and the myth of white supremacy if we are to become the nation we pledge⁴ to be; and,

6. **Whereas**, the League commemorates the centennial of our organization and passage of the 19th Amendment along with the courage, persistence and vision of our founding members. We have openly acknowledged that our past has been marred by racism⁵ and we will continue to work toward being Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive, (DEI) ⁶; and

7. **Whereas**, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights ⁷; therefore,

8. **We Resolve First**, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,

9. **We Resolve Second**, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC)⁸ deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all” ⁴;⁶

FOOTNOTES

1 May 29, 2020 [LWVUS Response to Police Killing of George Floyd](#).

2 <https://www.vox.com/identities/2016/8/13/17938186/police-shootings-killings-racism-racialdisparities>;
<https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2018/11-15-Police-Force.pdf>;

3 The Constitution of the United States of America, Article I, Section 2(2)

4 [Pledge of Allegiance](#),

5 “[Facing Hard Truths About the League’s Origin](#),” August 8, 2018, <https://www.lwv.org/blog/facing-hard-truthsabout-leagues-origin>

6 See Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policiesguidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy>

7 See LWVUS Position on Equality of Opportunity, Pgs 8 & 10, Impact on Issues 2018-2020/Equality of Opportunity, <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

8 <https://www.nytimes.com/article/what-is-bipoc.html>

7. LWV positions and statements that relate to police reform

- a) **URGENT RESOLUTION: RACIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK PEOPLE AND ALL PEOPLE OF COLOR** approved by LWVUS Convention June 27, 2020:

“Whereas, the League believes in individual liberties, civil rights, human rights, and voting rights writ large; we defend democracy and oppose all threats to these constitutional rights; therefore,

We Resolve First, that the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes; and,

We Resolve Second, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all”.

- b) **LWVUS coalition letter (contains specific list of reforms):** LWVUS joined a letter 6/2/20 with over 400 civil rights organizations calling on Congress to implement needed policing reforms. The letter urges congressional leadership to swiftly rectify the legacy of white supremacy and anti-black racism that has led to police violence against Black people across our country. “Now is the time for Congress to pass meaningful police reform legislation. While we appreciate hearings and resolutions, we need comprehensive measures enacted. We need Congress to advance meaningful legislation to protect Black communities from the systemic perils of over policing, police brutality, misconduct, and harassment, and end the impunity with which officers operate in taking the lives of Black people.”

[Letter includes list of specific legislative requests](#)

#8 is specific to Qualified Immunity: “End the qualified immunity doctrine which prevents police from being held legally accountable when they break the law. Qualified immunity, a defense that shields officials from being sued, has been interpreted by courts so broadly that it allows officers to engage in unconstitutional acts with impunity.”

- c) [From LWVUS Statement 5/29/2020 on death of George Floyd:](#)

“We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government. ...As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.”

- d) **From Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO, [Standing in Solidarity with the Black Community, blog 6/3/2020](#):** “As a democracy and voting rights organization, we must be part of the progress that is catalyzed at this moment. In the coming weeks and months, we will be supporting our partners in the civil rights community who are working on legislation and **policy reforms focused on creating systemic change in our government institutions, starting with unjust policing.**” Additionally she stated, “**Now, more than ever, it’s clear that our work to inform voters and hold government accountable on the local and state level is where real potential for change lies.**”

- e) **From [Impact on Issues 2018-2020 \(LWVUS\)](#)**

1. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in the individual liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The League is convinced that individual rights now protected by the Constitution should not be weakened or abridged. p.31
2. The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide equality of opportunity for education, employment, and housing for all persons in the United States regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or disability. Employment opportunities in modern, technological societies are closely related to education; therefore, the League supports federal programs to increase the education and training of disadvantaged people. The League supports federal efforts to prevent and/or remove discrimination in education, employment, and housing and to help communities bring about racial integration of their school systems. p.68

f) **[LWVUS Calls on Congress to Act on Institutional Violence Against Black](#)**

[Communities 8/4/2020](#) LWVUS joined 189 organizations addressing Congressional leadership and standing in solidarity with Black Women’s Reproductive Justice advocates to protect the bodily autonomy and reproductive rights of all people. The letter details how institutionalized violence has impacted Black women and women of color. The letter calls for federal action to divest from the over policing of Black people and invest resources into communities. "The blueprint for this already exists. Last year, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced the “People’s Justice Guarantee” recognizing the United States has a moral obligation to meet its foundational promise of guaranteed justice for all. Last month, Congresswoman Pressley along with Congresswoman Karen Bass, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee introduced a resolution condemning police brutality. Most recently, Congresswoman Pressley, Congresswoman Tlaib, and the Movement for Black Lives unveiled their plans to introduce the BREATHE Act. This legislative proposal aims to divest from the system of policing and prisons and invests in approaches to maintain safe and sustainable communities. These are just a few examples of those in power listening to the communities most impacted and proposing ideas and solutions to serve those communities. While much of this work will happen at the local and state level, Congress can set the tone for progress and demonstrate what service to community needs look like."

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy,

We, the 189 undersigned local, state, and national organizations, write to you in solidarity with Black women reproductive Justice advocates leading the work to ensure Reproductive Justice for all, which includes the ability to make decisions about our lives, bodies, sexuality, and reproduction free from interference and violence. We call on you as federal leaders representing constituents who have been directly harmed by police violence and other state sanctioned violence to support the efforts and leadership of Black women and other reproductive and racial justice leaders in each and every one of your districts and states across the country.

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective defines Reproductive Justice as “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe, and sustainable communities.” The 1 term “Reproductive Justice” was coined by 12 Black women in 1994 after they recognized that the larger women’s rights movement, led predominantly by white women, could not account for the needs of women of color, other marginalized women, and trans and non binary people.²

The ability to live and thrive in communities that are safe from interpersonal and state violence, including freedom from coercion, police terror, and violence is an inherent pillar of Reproductive Justice. Law enforcement that is vested in models of harm, punishment, and legal repression jeopardizes the safety, health, and livelihood of Black communities.

Police violence does not impact hypothetical people. These are our friends. Our families. Our communities. Far too often, police use their powers and freedoms to enact violence on Black communities. The recent murders of Breonna Taylor, Dominique Fells, George Floyd, Nina Pop, Riah Milton, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, and Rayshard Brooks demand us to reimagine safety for everyone in our communities.

Black leaders and communities have the answers. People closest to the pain must be closest to the power. To feel safe, communities need less police presence and more unbiased healthcare, including mental health and the full range of reproductive healthcare, housing for unhoused people, employment for people who are unemployed or underemployed, and food for people who need nutritional assistance.

White supremacy and policing are two sides of the same coin of institutionalized violence, obstructing people's ability to exercise the fullness of their bodily autonomy. This institutionalized violence includes targeted divestment of resources from Black and brown communities, from clinic closures and lack of access to clinic-based abortion care, to the risk of being over-policed and surveilled for self-managing their abortion outside of a clinic setting. We also acknowledge that prosecutions for self-managed abortion disproportionately impact Black people who face higher rates of arrests for a suspected abortion or pregnancy loss, or are forced to have more interactions with police and other state agents (such as social workers) because of negative pregnancy outcomes caused by health disparities.

We must continue to hold the full picture of our communities and uplift and center the realities of Black trans and gender non-conforming people. Black trans and gender non-conforming communities face extremely high rates of violence and are often revictimized when seeking help. Due to high rates of employment discrimination and poverty, many transgender people participate in underground economies. For example, 53 percent of Black trans people who worked in these spaces reported elevated levels of police violence.³

At a time when the maternal mortality rate for Black pregnant women is three to four times that of white women, federal, state, and local governments continue to increase law enforcement budgets that allow for more police presence, which decimate Black communities and kill Black people, instead of working to decrease maternal mortality among Black women. No Black person should have to raise a family in an overpoliced neighborhood; send their children to schools that place them in jail as often as they do colleges; live without affordable and accessible health care and child care; be subject to health care that is denigrating and demoralizing; or be expected to thrive in a society that consistently and relentlessly brutalizes and dehumanizes them. Reproductive justice requires that we critique frameworks of power and the state factors that continuously dictate our right to form families and parent with dignity. The right to parent free from violence is Reproductive Justice.

As organizations committed to a world where everyone has the right to decide if, when, and how to become a parent - we have seen the needs of our families and communities rejected by local, state and federal governments year after year as defense and law enforcement budgets eclipse funding for programs and resources that our families need to thrive. We can no longer stand for cuts to food assistance and other critical resources for families with low incomes, restrictions on and cuts to Medicaid and other safety net programs, bans on abortion coverage, cuts to family planning providers and much more. Budgets are moral documents and we are in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives and Reproductive Justice advocates, and we call on members of Congress to take action federally and to support local efforts to divest from law enforcement and invest in Black and brown communities. A poll among women of color who voted in the 2018 election found that 75% of Black women named ending racial, ethnic, and cultural discrimination as a top priority that drives them to the polls, with Latina and Asian American and Pacific Islander women also expressing it as a top priority.⁴

The blueprint for this already exists. Last year, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley introduced the "People's Justice Guarantee" recognizing the United States has a moral obligation to meet its foundational promise of guaranteed

justice for all. Last month, Congresswoman Pressley along with Congresswoman Karen Bass, and Congresswoman Barbara Lee introduced a resolution condemning police brutality. Most recently, Congresswoman Pressley, Congresswoman Tlaib, and the Movement for Black Lives unveiled their plans to introduce the BREATHE Act. This legislative proposal aims to divest from the system of policing and prisons and invests in approaches to maintain safe and sustainable communities. These are just a few examples of those in power listening to the communities most impacted and proposing ideas and solutions to serve those communities. While much of this work will happen at the local and state level, Congress can set the tone for progress and demonstrate what service to community needs look like.

However, Congress continues to insert discriminatory policies such as the Hyde Amendment, which remains in this year's FY2021 appropriations package despite the efforts of Black women such as Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Ayanna Pressley to end it. These bans are racist and perpetuate systems of oppression, anti-Black racism, and white supremacy that target people of color, especially Black women, and their ability to thrive in their own communities.

For more than 40 years, the Hyde Amendment has disproportionately denied Black, Indigenous, and people of color the right to decide when and how to start or grow their families. The clock has run out--Congress must put an end to abortion coverage bans, once and for all. It is time for us to act upon the leadership of Black women by ending harmful policies like the Hyde amendment and instead enact ones that affirm the autonomy and dignity of Black people.

We need federal legislation that will divest from the violent reality of over-policing of Black people and instead invest in new approaches to community safety utilizing state incentives. We need legislation that will allocate new money to build health, sustainable, and equitable communities for all people. We call on congressional leaders to listen to the individuals in your cities and states and act justly. Communities know what is best for themselves. We are telling you what we need - your role is to listen and act upon our demands.

Endorsement is an indication of solidarity within our movement to address ending police brutality and a recognition of the urgency of these policies. Endorsement does not necessarily mean that each organization has expertise in or are actively working towards everything listed therein.

1 SisterSong. What is reproductive justice? <https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice>

2 Ibid.

3 National Center for Transgender Equality. Blueprint for Equality: A Transgender Federal Agenda, Chapter 6: Reforming Police and Ending Anti-Transgender Violence.

<https://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE%20Federal%20Blueprint%20Chapter%206%20Police%20and%20Ending%20Violence.pdf>

4 <https://intersectionsofourlives.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/The-Intersections-of-Our-Lives-Survey-Findings-FINAL.pdf>

g). From League Leader Update August 27, 2020, Statement from LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner “Finally, and sadly, I must address the ongoing and inexcusable violence against Black people in our country. On Sunday we saw another police shooting of an unarmed Black person, Jacob Blake, this time, in front of his children. The League stands with Jacob Blake and we stand with Kenosha, Wisconsin. We strongly oppose the systemic racism that allows violence like this to occur repeatedly. The League remains an ally to those leading the work for social justice, and we encourage all Leagues to advocate for Black lives and nonviolent protest.”

Appendix B: Racial Justice and Media- news, articles, reports, etc.¹

1. Topic: General- Antiracism

- 7/15/20 [‘White Fragility’ Is Everywhere. But Does Antiracism Training Work?](#)
- 7/19/20 [“The Problem With ‘Anti-Racist’ Movie Lists”](#)

2. Topic: Policing/ Criminal Justice

A. Reports on Policing/ Database/History and Criminal Justice

- Sept 2020 [Racial Disparities in the Massachusetts Criminal System](#)
- March 2016 [Harnessing the Power of Data for Justice Reinvestment in Massachusetts \(MassINC\)](#)
- July 20, 2020 [The Invention of the Police by Jill Jepore](#)
- 2014 [21st Century Policing, Report of the President’s Taskforce](#)
- [New Era of Public Safety](#)
- [New Era of Public Safety Toolkit](#)
- [July 14, 2020 Fatal Force, Database by Washington Post](#)
- [July 9, 2020 Majority of Public Favors Giving Civilians the Power to Sue Police Officers for Misconduct](#)
- [Friedman, Barry, Disaggregating the Police Function \(March 30, 2020\)](#). U. Pa. L. Rev. (2020-21 Forthcoming),
- [July 11, 2020 Here’s How We Can Build Better Police Departments](#)
- [June 2020 The Struggle to Abolish the Police is Not New by Garrett Felber](#)
- [Defining Restorative by Ted Wachtel, founder of International Institute for Restorative Practices](#)
- [2016 Police Reform vs. Policing Reform](#)
- [Reform/Transform: A Policing Policy Toolkit](#)
- [Freedom to Thrive – Reimagining Safety and Security in our Communities](#)

B. Qualified Immunity

- June 2, 2020 End the qualified immunity doctrine which prevents police from being held legally accountable when they break the law. Qualified immunity, a defense that shields officials from being sued, has been interpreted by courts so broadly that it allows officers to engage in unconstitutional acts with impunity." *From document that LWVUS signed onto.* https://www.lwv.org/league-joins-partners-calling-congressional-action-police-violence#utm_source=LeagueUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=06042020
- June 25, 2020 Qualified Immunity: Both Sides of the Debate <https://supreme.findlaw.com/supreme-court-insights/pros-vs-cons-of-qualified-immunity--both-sides-of->
- June 6, 2020 What Is Qualified Immunity, and What Does It Have to Do With Police Reform? <https://www.lawfareblog.com/what-qualified-immunity-and-what-does-it-have-do-police-reform>
- Feb 23, 2018 The Empirical truth about Qualified Immunity, book summary and review of “How Qualified Immunity Fails” by Joanne C. Schwartz <https://courtslaw.jotwell.com/empirical-truth-qualified-immunity/> ; https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2897000
- June 2014 Police Indemnification, by Joanne C. Schwartz <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2297534> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2297534>

¹ Articles reflect media coverage in Boston area since June 2020- December 2020 generally starting when George Floyd was murdered by policeman on video.

- May , 2020 U.S. high court’s continual refinement of an obscure legal doctrine has made it harder to hold police accountable when accused of using excessive force. <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-police-immunity-scotus/>
- June 15, 2020 Qualified Immunity, or How the Law Shields Police https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/qualified-immunity-or-how-the-law-shields-police/2020/06/09/83cf1f3e-aa7c-11ea-a43b-be9f6494a87d_story.html
- June 17, 2020 Congress Is Going to Have to Repeal Qualified Immunity: Advocates had hoped that the Supreme Court would step in, but that’s not going to happen. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/congress-going-have-repeal-qualified-immunity/613123/>
- June 3, 2020 How to Actually Fix America’s Police <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/how-actually-fix-americas-police/612520/>
- June 15, 2020 Supreme Court refuses to hear cases challenging qualified immunity [https://ij.org/press-release/supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-cases-challenging-qualified-immunity/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CQualified%20immunity%20means%20that%20government,\(IJ\)%20Attorney%20Any%20Bidwell](https://ij.org/press-release/supreme-court-refuses-to-hear-cases-challenging-qualified-immunity/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CQualified%20immunity%20means%20that%20government,(IJ)%20Attorney%20Any%20Bidwell)
- June 22, 2020 Supreme Court won’t revisit qualified immunity for police, leaving it to Congress: The justices punt to Congress on controversial policy the court created. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/supreme-court-wont-revisit-qualified-immunity-police-leaving/story?id=71374240>
- June 19, 2020 Colorado prohibits qualified immunity <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-passes-sweeping-police-reform-bill/>
- July 22, 2020 What is qualified immunity? <https://www.acluct.org/en/news/what-qualified-immunity>
- July 25, 2020 Who will hold the police accountable? <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/07/battle-over-police-accountability/594484/>
- July 9, 2020 Majority of Public Favors Giving Civilians the Power to Sue Police Officers for Misconduct <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/07/09/majority-of-public-favors-giving-civilians-the-power-to-sue-police-officers-for-misconduct/>

C. News Articles on Policing

- December 22, 2020 House accepts revised police accountability bill, putting it on the verge of becoming law <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/12/22/metro/house-accepts-revised-police-accountability-bill-putting-it-verge-becoming-law/>
- [December 22, 2020 How Cities Lost Control of Police Discipline](#)
- [December 18, 2020 ‘I want to hit this kid’: Newly unearthed body cam footage shines light on Boston police during racial justice protests](#)
- [December 11, 2020 Pressley, Rollins, other Mass. leaders of color condemn Baker’s amendments to police reform bill](#)
- [November 30, 2020 Lawmakers unveil police reform compromise after months of secret negotiations](#)
- [November 19, 2020 Behind closed doors at State House, police reform stuck in neutral](#)
- [October 12, 2020 Homicide Charges Against Police Officers Rare](#)
- [September 29, 2020 Why Police Reform is Stalled on Beacon Hill](#)
- [September 29, 2020 Black leaders call on Legislature to pass police reform bill](#)
- [September 17, 2020 SJC confronts systemic racism in interactions between police and people of color](#)
Summary: The unanimous rulings by the Supreme Judicial Court in MA created new avenues for Black people to argue that racial profiling by police led to a traffic stop; declared that “nervous and evasive” behavior can no longer be proof of suspicious activity by a Black person; and decided that a [lawsuit alleging civil rights violations can be pursued even if the person is convicted of some crimes during the incident](#).
- [September 11, 2020 National mayors group calls for change in policing: will city leaders step up to do the hard work?](#)

- [September 11, 2020 Walsh Plans To Implement 'A Lot' Of Police Task Force Recommendations](#)
- [September 3, 2020 Calls For Boston Police Reform Evoke Almost 30 Years Of Tension](#)
- [August 28, 2020 Why hasn't the Mass. Legislature sent a police accountability bill to the governor?](#)
- [July 19, 2020 Massachusetts House leaders unveil sweeping police reform bill](#)
- [July 18, 2020 'Hopefully someone will actually read this': Lawmakers asked for opinions on policing. They got thousands.](#)
- [July 18, 2020 Within the Boston police department, complaints against policy officers are rarely confirmed or result in punishment](#)
- [July 14, 2020 Sweeping Police Reform Approved In 4 AM Senate Vote](#)
- [July 13, 2020 'Never seen anything like this:' State lawmakers face multiple crises and a time crunch](#)
- [July 13, 2020 Qualified immunity debate continues as state Senate mulls policing bill](#)
- [July 12, 2020 Could This City Hold the Key to the Future of Policing in America?](#)
- [July 12, 2020 Taskforce starts review of policing in Newton](#)
- [July 6, 2020 State Senate unveils sweeping police reform bill, plans to pass it this week](#)
- [July 6, 2020 Senate policing bill would bar Massachusetts officers from firing a gun at a fleeing vehicle, limit use of tear gas and rubber bullets](#)
- [June 27, 2020 In police licensing, the details matter](#)
- [June 25, 2020 Qualified Immunity: Both Sides of the debate](#)
- [June 23, 2020 Above the Law: The Data Are In on Police, Killing, and Race](#)
- [June 23, 2020 In Germany, Confronting Shameful Legacy Is Essential Part of Police Training](#)
- [June 21, 2020 New York Times "The message is clear: policing in America must change"](#)
- [June 16, 2020 Police union leaders, Black and Latino legislators agree on building blocks for reform](#)
- [June 12, 2020 Beacon Hill tackles police reform](#)
- [June 10, 2020 The Atlantic "What the World Could Teach America About Policing: Examples abound of reforms that are seen as "radical" in the United States."](#)
- [June 9, 2020 Qualified Immunity, or How the Law Shields Police](#)
- [June 5, 2020 The Atlantic "What defund the police means"](#)
- [June 5th, 2020 "Cities Ask if It's Time to Defund Police and 'Reimagine' Public Safety"](#)

Topic: Civil Rights

- [September 30, 2020 California to study reparations for Black residents under new law signed by Gov. Newsom](#)
- [July 12, 2020 Boston Globe "Welcome to the new Civil Rights Era"](#)
- [June 30th, 2020 What is Owed/ Reparations](#)

3. Topic: Investment, Finance

- [July 4, 2020 New York Times "How Investors Can Address Racial Injustice"](#)
- [June 30, 2020 Trying to Correct Banking's Racial Imbalance](#)
- [June 9, 2020 The Stark Racial Inequity of Personal Finances in America](#)
- [Race and the Economy, series of articles on this topic](#)
- [November 2019 Is Inequality Inevitable? Wealth naturally trickles up in free-market economies, model suggests](#)
- [January 3, 2019 Kwanzaa Meets Capital: Meet Boston's New Democratic Investment Fund](#)

4. Topic: School Disparity in Discipline

- [October 1, 2020 ‘A Battle for the Souls of Black Girls’](#)
- [July 12, 2020 “In Arlington, Black voices challenge a white suburban school district to do better](#)
- [2014 Racial Disparities in School Discipline in Massachusetts](#)
- [“Racial and Ethnic Disparities \(R.E.D\)”](#)
- [2019 Racial Disparities and School Discipline](#)
- [2018 DeVos To Rescind Obama-Era Guidance On School Discipline](#)

5. Report: Pandemic and Racial Justice

- [Building Toward Racial Justice and Equity in Health: A Call to Action \(2020\)](#)

6. Opinion –Various Racial Justice Topics

- [December 21, 2020 Senate approves Baker’s amendment, sends policing bill to House; Drops facial recognition software ban, gives law enforcement officials more control over training](#)
- [December 16, 2020 Governor Baker, regulating facial recognition technology is a racial justice issue](#)
- [October 21, 2020 Police Reform: Is this who we are?](#)
- [October 4, 2020 To Hold Police Accountable, Ax the Arbitrators](#)
- [October 3, 2020 I don’t have qualified immunity; Why should police?](#)
- [October 1, 2020 Mass. has an opportunity to lead the way on police reform](#)
- [Sept 26, 2020 Deval Patrick: 'Policing In America Has To Change For Peace In America To Exist'](#)
- [August 28, 2020 If police reform is ever going to come, it has to be right here, right now](#)
- [July 19, 2020 ‘White Fragility’ Is Everywhere. But Does Antiracism Training Work?](#)
- [July 17, 2020 Transparency key to a better police reform bill](#)
- [July 14, 2020 Boston police are not Minneapolis police](#)
- [July 12, 2020 Here's how we can build better police departments-Opinion by Jim Jordan](#)
- [July 11, 2020 Commonwealth Magazine “Here's how we can build better police departments”](#)
- [July 7, 2020 New York Times “Everyone’s an Antiracist, Now What? Recognizing that Black people deserve dignity isn’t progress.”](#)
- [July 7, 2020 More Heroes, Fewer Traitors](#)
- [July 2, 2020 A long road to hope](#)
- [July 2nd, 2020 Other cities can fire police officers for misconduct. Why not Boston?](#)
- [June 27, 2020 In police licensing, the details matter](#)
- [June 23, 2020 How to reduce police violence in Boston](#)
- [June 21, 2020 Policing Is Doing What It Was Meant to Do. That’s the Problem.](#)
- [June 13, 2020 A discussion about how to reform policing.](#)
- [June 13, 2020 It’s time to raise the age](#)
- [June 12, 2020 Beacon Hill Tackles Police Reform](#)
- [June 12, 2020 Yes, we mean literally abolish the police](#)
- [June 9th, 2020 Our city and nation must do more to address the root causes of all the social problems we unfairly ask cops to handle.](#)
- [June 5, 2020 Defund the Police: America needs to rethink its priorities for the whole criminal-justice system.](#)