

# HOW BLACK LIVES MATTERS ALLIES CAN ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY

*June 6, 2020*

In an attempt to provide guidance for Black Lives Matter allies seeking guidance about how to effectively engage to advance the attainment of racial equity, the following five—and evolving—list of recommendations is below. Please see second page for mostly free resources to learn more.

- 1. RE-EDUCATE YOURSELF WITH THE “HARD” HISTORY OF THE BIRTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION AND CURRENT RACIALLY INEQUITY ISSUES.** Absent People of Color and their contributions, this country and the American way of life would not exist. Learn about the social constructs of race, and racism—both individual and structural—which fully and factually explain where we are and how we got here. When White people and other allies see “incidents” of police brutality, Black people see a continued historic pattern of brutality and fatality that has existed since before the establishment of this nation. This is key to charting a course forward. There is no need for guilt for where we yet each of us bare responsibility for meaningful change; particularly our White allies who have the power to change the system.
- 2. HOST CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND COLLEAGUES ABOUT RACE, RACISM; WHY RACIAL EQUITY IS IMPORTANT WHY YOU; AND WHY EACH OF US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISMANTLING AND CORRECTING IT WHEREVER POSSIBLE.** White people and other allies may be more comfortable first having these conversations with other people who share their racial/cultural identity. This is especially true for those who may be unaware of their racist perspectives, actions, and inaction until it is brought to their attention. White entitlement and privilege allows White people to go through life free from oppression and never recognizing it because they do not “experience” systemic racism first-hand. Therefore, it is critically important to take advantage of all teachable moments by pointing out racially inequitable outcomes and racism; both individual and systemic.
- 3. SPEAK UP AND OUT PRIVATELY/PUBLICALLY ABOUT RACIAL INEQUITIES YOU WITNESS OR AWARE OF.** Choosing not to speak up or act perpetuates and strengthens the status quo. If you see something, say something and when you know better, do better.
- 4. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE BEING UNDERSTOOD.** Continue to educate yourself; listen to people of color describe their lived experiences with racism; ask people of color how to support them; ask questions for understanding; and follow-through. We are stronger together.
- 5. USE YOUR PRIVILEGE AS A PLATFORM TO MAKE ROOM FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.** Each of us have spheres of influence. Sharing/using your platform to raise awareness and spark action is key to realizing a racially just society.

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## MOSTLY FREE ARTICLES/RESOURCE LIST

*(by no means is this list exhaustive)*

### ARTICLES

- *Privileged*, Kyle Korver, <https://www.theplayertribune.com/en-us/articles/kyle-korver-utah-jazz-nba>
- *Teaching Hard History Report*, <https://www.splcenter.org/20180131/teaching-hard-history>
- *Teaching Hard History Quiz*, <https://www.splcenter.org/data-projects/how-much-do-you-know-about-american-slavery>
- *400: An Afrikan Epic*, Dr. Mark Lomax, II, <https://marklomaxii.com/400-an-afrikan-epic>
- *400: An Afrikan Epic Curriculum*, Dr. Melissa Crum, <https://www.mosaiceducationpress.com/> (not free)
- *The 1619 Project*, Nikole Hannah Jones, *The New York Times Magazine*, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

### VIDEOS

- *Why “I’m not racist” is only half the story*, Robin D’Angelo, <https://youtu.be/kzLT54QjclA>
- *Joaquin Phoenix Delivers Powerful Speech After Leading Actor Win for Joker*, EE BAFTA Film Awards, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAh0FSfc4Ls>
- *Jesse Williams’ BET 2016 Award Acceptance Speech*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orXogk3euMA>
- *The Making of Ferguson*, The Economic Policy Institute, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Iy6hUBj6is>
- *13<sup>th</sup> Full Feature Documentary*, Ava Duvernay, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>
- *When They See Us*, Ava Duvernay, Netflix
- *Why “I’m not racist” is only half the story*, Robin D’Angelo, <https://youtu.be/kzLT54QjclA>
- *Race Matters: America in Crisis*, PBS, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/watch-live-race-matters-america-in-crisis-a-pbs-newshour-special>

### BOOKS

- *Invention of the White Race*, Theodore Allen
- *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson
- *Learning to be White*, Thandeka
- *Racecraft*, Karen Fields and Barbara Fields
- *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein
- *The Color of Money*, Mersha Baradaran
- *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander
- *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Race*, Beverly DiAngelo
- *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, Carol Anderson
- *White Trash: The 400-Year Untold History of Class in America*, Nancy Isenberg
- *Stamped From the Beginning*, Ibram X. Kendi

### PODCASTS

- *Code Switch*, NPR
- *Revisionist History*, Malcolm Gladwell

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- ***Scene on Radio*** – A Podcast from the Center of the Documentary Studies (CDS), Duke University: Season 2 – Seeing White; Season 4 – The Land That Never Has Been Yet