



June 2, 2020

Desmond Tutu Peace Lab at Butler University's Statement and Resources Regarding Recent Police Killings and Confronting Racial Injustice

"Without a struggle, there can be no progress" – Frederick Douglass

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe" – Frederick Douglass

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it" - The Talmud

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world" – Desmond Tutu

The Desmond Tutu Peace Lab was created to address conflicts and injustices that are prevalent in the U.S. and beyond, through education, research, dialogue and activism. We are committed to consciousness-raising and education about violence and oppression and to the promotion of nonviolent action for effective, sustained, and transformative systemic changes. Police brutality, racially-motivated violence, and disproportional health disparities are not new, but they have come to wider public attention recently due to the COVID pandemic and the brutal killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. The recent protests and unrest in Indianapolis have been responses to these events and to the killings by police this month of Dreasjon Reed and McHale Rose in our own home city. Many more casualties have been unnamed or forgotten. The responses of protestors reflect the ongoing trauma of many in our community and are rooted in the long term and harmful impact of colonization, slavery, segregation, racial terror, and unequal justice. Recent events call us to act and to consider where we can best serve, given our diverse identities but our collective agency. We recognize that without real and practical knowledge, we can be of little use; so that is our starting point: **Here is a suggested reading list, some organizations that we are following, joining, and supporting, as well as guidance on confronting misinformation, protesting and more.** We share them with you, our peers and colleagues, in the spirit of peace and solidarity, and encourage you to share them with your networks, read and talk about them with your friends and family, and *share with us your own suggestions for further readings and actions.*

Resources Regarding Recent Police Killings and Confronting Racial Injustice

WHAT CAN WE DO?

I. GET EDUCATED

The New York Times 1619 Project is an important intervention and corrective to the US history you may have been taught, as noted by Jake Silverstein in the introductory essay: “Out of slavery — and the anti-black racism it required — grew nearly everything that has truly made America exceptional: its economic might, its industrial power, its electoral system, its diet and popular music, the inequities of its public health and education, its astonishing penchant for violence, its income inequality, the example it sets for the world as a land of freedom and equality, its slang, its legal system and the endemic racial fears and hatreds that continue to plague it to this day” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/12/20/magazine/1619-intro.html>

If your time is short, **start with Nikole Hannah-Jones, “The Idea of America.”** You can read all of the different essays that are part of the 1619 Project here:

[The Idea of America](#), by Nikole Hannah-Jones
[Capitalism](#), by Matthew Desmond
[A Broken Health Care System](#), by Jeneen Interlandi
[Traffic](#), by Kevin M. Kruse
[Undemocratic Democracy](#), by Jamelle Bouie
[Medical Inequality](#), by Linda Villarosa
[American Popular Music](#), by Wesley Morris
[Sugar](#), by Khalil Gibran Muhammad
[Mass Incarceration](#), by Bryan Stevenson
[The Wealth Gap](#), by Trymaine Lee
[Hope, a Photo Essay](#), by Djeneba Aduayom
[400 Years: A Literary Timeline](#)

See also:

Erica Buddington on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/ericabuddington/status/1266531249914601472>

Ta-Nehisi Coates, The Case for Reparations

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Prescriptions for what we can do to change policing practices here: “New Era of Public Safety. An Advocacy Toolkit For Fair Safe and Effective Community Policing:

<https://www.obama.org/wp-content/uploads/Toolkit.pdf>

There are also many **antiracism resources** here: <https://www.obama.org/anguish-and-action/>

Quick reads/viewing that contextualize, document, humanize the current situation include:

Ibram X. Kendi, “The American Nightmare”, June 1, 2020.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/american-nightmare/612457/>

An article from Gen-Zine that was written by BLM youth activist Abeer Tijani. It is powerful testimony: <https://www.gen-zine.com/post/your-silence-aids-and-abets-violent-oppression>

A wealth of facts and statistics on disproportionality are provided this piece by Brian Resnick, "Police Brutality is a Public Health Crisis", <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2020/6/1/21276828/pandemic-protests-police-public-health-black-lives-matter>

Mark Greif, "Seeing Through The Police", <https://nplusonemag.com/issue-22/police/seeing-through-police/>

Watch: "Before You Call The Cops" The Tyler Merritt Project/Now This. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKeITMzMn7w>

Watch: "Get Your Knee Off My Neck", Jenifer Lewis's spoken word poem in honor of George Floyd, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kV-5ff1dyos>

Books:

There are a lot but here are few interesting ones to get started with:

- Charlene A. Carruthers, *Unapologetic: a Black, queer, and feminist mandate for radical movements* (Beacon Press: 2018).
- Mathew Desmond, *Evicted. Poverty and Property in the American City* (Broadway: 2017).
- Ibram X Kendi, *Stamped From The Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (Bold Type Book: 2017)
- Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele. *When they call you a terrorist : a black lives matter memoir* (St. Martin's Press: 2018).
- Ijeoma Oluo, *So you want to talk about race* (Seal Press: 2018)
- Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Graywolf Press: 2014)
- Barbara Ransby. *Making all Black lives matter: reimagining freedom in the twenty-first century* (University of California Press: 2018).
- Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (Liveright: 2018)
- Bryan J. Stephenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (One World: 2015)

II. JOIN WITH FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES IN PROTEST AND ADVOCACY:

Black Lives Matter: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

Wherever you are, you can connect with the local Black Lives Matter chapters;

In Indianapolis, see Indy10 Black Lives Matter: <https://www.facebook.com/Indy10People>

Another local group, specifically for white allies, is:

IndySURJ: Showing up for Racial Justice:

<https://www.facebook.com/SURJIndianapolis/>

To find your chapter in other areas go to the national organization website: <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/>

If you are participating in protests as a white ally please watch this webinar on do's and don'ts, ethics and safety: "De-escalation Training for White People in Direct Action"

<https://www.facebook.com/SURJIndianapolis/videos/240867327142031/>

This is handy graphic guide on how to **protest safely** from Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez: https://www.instagram.com/p/CA0jzCdg_vR/?utm_campaign=Brand%20Comms&utm_medium=email&_hs_mi=88749778&_hsenc=p2ANgtz-87Fok2s_HegEAV8xtUid6T9lwuOzx2sWIARXYjzqseORpsmOO7eT4MjhNd30Ol72x81Afcl905k6lY5r6djtCcqA-INw&utm_content=88749778&utm_source=hs_email

Protect your privacy and contacts. To learn about surveillance and "contact tracing" see:

Andy Greenberg and Lilly Hay Newman, "How to Protest Safely in the Age of Surveillance" <https://www.wired.com/story/how-to-protest-safely-surveillance-digital-privacy/>

Adam Schwartz, "Don't Mix Policing with Covid-19 Contact Tracing". Electronic Freedom Foundation, <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2020/06/dont-mix-policing-covid-19-contact-tracing>

Take advantage of free online trainings:

E.g. Do The Work with Rachel Cargle <https://www.rachelcargle.com/>; sign up for training here: <https://instagram.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e7528b5266e654d0ce83c211d&id=1e469b88c0>

Many other ideas for **supporting from home** are provided here: "Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets" https://issuu.com/nlc.sf.2014/docs/beyondthestreets_final

Donate:

If you have financial resources you can contribute to bail funds for protesters who are arrested.

Info on the National Bail Fund Network by State is

here: <https://www.communityjusticeexchange.org/nbfn-directory>

For Indiana : <https://bailproject.org> (This is the option for donation recommended by Indy 10 Black Lives Matter)

The Minnesota Freedom Fund is being inundated with funds and is asking that you give to other community-based organizations: see <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/>

Other Resources on Allyship:

Tamara Winfrey Harris writes that "The real work of being an ally" is to "Learn. Listen. Speak Up. Take Action. Be Brave." Read the full article here:<https://www.thecut.com/2017/01/the-real-work-of-being-an-ally.html>

Corinne Shutack, "75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice" <https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

David Campt, The White Ally Toolkit, <https://www.whiteallytoolkit.com/>

Jenifer Harvey, *Raising White Kids. Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America* (Abingdon, 2016).

See also the resources here: <https://www.bustle.com/p/10-books-about-race-to-read-instead-of-asking-a-person-of-color-to-explain-things-to-you-8548796>

And here: bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES

Selfcare and Avoiding Burnout:

George Lakey, "When activist burnout was a problem 50 years ago, this group found a solution"
<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2020/05/activist-burnout-50-years-ago-movement-for-a-new-society/>

Bedford Palmer, "Self-care in #Black Lives Matter Activists!" <https://medium.com/@DrBFPalmer/tips-for-self-care-in-activism-and-the-blacklivesmatter-movement-b501052d6379>

Lauren Lofton, "Self-care Strategies For Survival. Sustaining Oneself in Social Justice Movements", <https://www.compasspoint.org/blog/self-care-strategies-survival-sustaining-oneself-social-justice-movements>

III. HELP CONFRONT MISINFORMATION:

Consult multiple sources.

Document and record your own experiences.

NPR has a good general article on misinformation. <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/17/837202898/comic-fake-news-can-be-deadly-heres-how-to-spot-it>

Seek out first person accounts of protest by following independent media on twitter. For Indianapolis: e.g. <https://twitter.com/shakkirasays>; @breannaNcooper. Please share your favorites!

But also recognize that twitter produces misinformation: See "Misinformation about the extent of unrest in Washington, D.C., surges across Twitter" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2020/06/01/misinformation-about-extent-unrest-washington-dc-surges-across-twitter/>

Read about arrests of and attacks on reporters:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/30/us/minneapolis-protests-press.html>

IV. SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS WORKING FOR PREVENTION/REPARATIONS

Martin Luther King Center. <https://mlkcenterindy.org/>

Indiana Youth Justice Coalition. <https://www.inyouthjustice.org/>

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