

RACISM IN AMERICA

Blacks are and have always been systemically discriminated against due to racism. One alarming example has been in law enforcement, where black people are unjustly stereotyped, abused, and killed.

A GUIDE TO ALLYSHIP

What to Stop Doing



- STOP sharing videos of Black people being murdered – try other forms of bringing awareness to the issue.
- STOP perpetuating performative activism and centering these tragedies on how good of an ally you are – it’s not about you.
- STOP demanding your Black peers to educate you on social issues – there are plenty of free resources online for you to educate yourself.
- DO NOT play devil’s advocate when talking about racism with Black people

What to Do:



- Donate to the BLM movement or other related causes
- Sign petitions to demand justice (for a list of petitions, go to [this link](#))
- Contact people in power <https://emailforblm.com> <https://lettersforaction.weebly.com>
- Unearth your own internalized anti-blackness ([Racial Bias Test](#))
- Challenge and educate your family and friends
- Let the Black community lead the conversation, and listen
- Make conscious effort to follow more Black leaders on social media.

Avoid Calling the Cops



- If nobody is being harmed or endangered by property theft/damage, leave it be.
- If something of yours is stolen/damaged, consider going to the police station instead of bringing cops into your community.
- If you observe someone exhibiting behavior that seems “odd” to you, ask if they are okay, if they have a medical condition, and if they need assistance. Keep a contact list of community resources like suicide hotlines.
- Check your impulse to call the police on someone you deem “suspicious”.

How to be a Non-Black POC Ally



- Use whatever platform/space you are a part of to bring attention to the movement at hand without detracting from the experiences of fellow black Americans.
- Recognize anti-blackness sentiment within your own community/family and work to come to a mutual understanding to reach a resolution.

WHY DEFUND THE POLICE?



- The institution of modern day policing evolved from the slave patrol system.
- The safest communities don’t have the most cops; they have the most resources.

WHAT WILL WE DO WITHOUT POLICE?

- [You’re experiencing a mental health crisis and you’re afraid.](#) Call a 911 and a first responder trained in mental health crisis comes to your door. An hour later, you’re in a safe place with care and your consent.
- [Some folks are sleeping on benches in the park.](#) A city employee comes by and checks in to see if they need a place to sleep, food, water, or healthcare.
- [Incidents of gun violence are rising in your neighborhood.](#) A trauma-informed crisis intervention team works with community activists to disarm and de-escalate conflicts.
- [Someone is behaving erratically and is in harm’s way.](#) Text a number and an unarmed urgent responder trained in behavior and mental health comes within 5 minutes. That person is safe and getting the support they need.
- [You are experiencing intimate partner violence.](#) Text a number and a trauma-informed crisis intervention specialist meets you in a safe place. You are working together to make a plan that will keep you safe long-term.

POLICE FAQ

“What about murderers and rapists?”

- Preventive restraint is about engaging with people to prevent them from committing immediate planned violence, not disposing of them by banishing them to some form of detention and ignoring them.

“What about armed robbery?”

- Crimes aren’t random. Most of the time, it happens when someone is unable to meet their basic needs through other means. By shifting money away from the police and toward services that actually meet those needs, we’ll be able to get to a place where people won’t need to rob banks.

“How would we stay safe?”

- Are we safe right now? With record numbers of mass shootings, drug overdoses, sexual assaults, police murders, influxes or nationwide hate crimes, and endless instances of police brutality...are we really safe?
- Police officers don’t do what you think they do. They spend most of their time responding to noise complaints, issuing traffic citations, dealing with other noncriminal issues.

“How can we fight crime?”

- We don’t need more cops; we need more jobs, educational opportunities, arts programs, community centers, mental health resources, and more of a say in how our communities function.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Short Reads

- Guide to Allyship
- Scaffolding Anti-Racism Resources
- How Asian-Americans can be active allies
- Why “All Lives Matter” Is Such A Perilous Phrase
- 30 Ways Asians Perpetuate Anti-Blackness
- The Model Minority Myth

Books

- No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity by Sarah Haley
- Carceral Capitalism by Jackie Wang
- Are Prisons Obsolete? by Angela Y. Davis
- Slaves of the State: Black Incarceration from the Chain Gang to the Penitentiary by Dennis Childs
- Social Death: Racialized Rightlessness and the Criminalization of the Unprotected by Lisa Marie Cacho See chapter 3, “Grafting Terror onto Illegality”, for an examination of how the state warps the concept of illegality to fit its own desires, and how the people consciously/unconsciously support it

Papers

The roots of racial injustices in the U.S.: Settler Colonialism

- “Understanding settler colonialism as an ongoing structure rather than a past historical event”
- “Settlers sought to control space, resources, and people not only by occupying land but also by establishing an exclusionary private property regime and coercive labor systems, including chattel slavery to work the land, extract resources, and build infrastructure”

The Racialization of Space and the Spatialization of Race (George Lipsitz)

“The Case for Reparations” (Ta-Nehisi Coates)

- “Broach the topic of reparations today and a barrage of questions inevitably follows: Who will be paid? How much will they be paid? Who will pay? But if the practicalities, not the justice, of reparations are the true sticking point, there has for some time been the beginnings of a solution”

The Fire Next Time (Jenna M. Loyd)

- “rates of crime are better measures of targeted policing and discriminatory law-making and sentencing patterns than they are measures of illegal acts”

Videos

- The 13th by Ava DuVernay: a documentary examining how the history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in the U.S. Note, however, that this documentary only goes into the more recent manifestations of racial inequality and the prison industrial complex and does not provide a full overview of its history.