

Volunteers of Legal Service
Juneteenth Staff Reflection Resources and Materials
June 19, 2020

This year, the VOLS team is observing Juneteenth as a Day of Reflection, a day away from the office to take time and engage in self-reflective action. We are sharing these resources and readings with each other and with the public.

Written Material:

Note: While websites like Amazon and Barnes and Noble are easily accessible for books, please consider purchasing from Black-owned bookstores, and Black authors directly, whenever possible (see below).

Alexander, Michelle, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press, 2012.

- *The New Jim Crow* “directly challenges the notion that the election of Barack Obama signals a new era of colorblindness. By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.”
- Find out more on Alexander’s book site - [Here](#)

Davis, Angela Y., *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Seven Stories Press, 2011.

- “*In Are Prisons Obsolete?*, Davis seeks to illustrate that the time for the prison is approaching an end. She argues forthrightly for ‘decarceration’, and argues for the transformation of the society as a whole.”

Goffman, Alice, *On the Run: Fugitive Life in the American City*. University of Chicago Press, 2014.

- “Forty years in, the War on Drugs has done almost nothing to prevent drugs from being sold or used, but it has nonetheless created a little-known surveillance state in America’s most disadvantaged neighborhoods. Alice Goffman spent six years living in one such neighborhood in Philadelphia, and her close observations and often harrowing stories reveal the pernicious effects of this pervasive policing. “

Hannah-Jones, Nikole, creator. The 1619 Project. *The New York Times*, 2019.

- The 1619 Project is an on-going project made in conjunction with *The New York Times Magazine* to re-examine the legacy of slavery 400 years since the arrive of the first enslaved individuals to Virginia in 1619.
- Accessible via NYT - [Here](#)

Johnson, Tremaine, “When black people are in pain, white people just join book clubs.” *The Washington Post*, June 11, 2020

- "This is all to say that when things get real — really murderous, really tragic, really violent or aggressive — my white, liberal, educated friends already know what to do.

What they do is read. And talk about their reading. What they do is listen. And talk about how they listened.”

- View full article - [Here](#)

Oluo, Ijeoma, *So, You Want to Talk About Race?* Seal Press, 2018.

- “Oluo offers a hard-hitting but user-friendly examination of race in America. Widespread reporting on aspects of white supremacy--from police brutality to the mass incarceration of Black Americans--has put a media spotlight on racism in our society. Still, it is a difficult subject to talk about. How do you tell your roommate her jokes are racist? Why did your sister-in-law take umbrage when you asked to touch her hair--and how do you make it right? How do you explain white privilege to your white, privileged friend?”

Potter, Gary, “The History of Policing in the United States.” Eastern Kentucky University, 2013.

- Potter’s multi-part essay for Eastern Kentucky University details the chronology and evolution of policing in the United States.
- Accessible via EKU - [Here](#)

Rios, Victor, *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. NYU Press, 2011.

- “*Punished* examines the difficult lives of young Black and Latino men, facing punitive policies in their schools, communities, and a world where they are constantly policed and stigmatized.”
- Accessible via JSTOR - [Here](#)

Arts/Culture/Visual Media:

DuVernay, Ava. *13th* (2016)

- “An in-depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.”
- Watch it on Netflix - [Here](#)

Folayan, Sabaah. *Whose Streets?* (2017)

- Sabaah’s *Whose Streets?* explores the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson. The documentary includes interviews with activists, leaders, and members of the St. Louis community as they grapple with grief and outrage.
- Learn more about the film - [Here](#)

Jacqueline, Olive. *Always in Season* (2019)

- “Lennon Lacy was found hanging from a swing set in Bladenboro, NC. Despite inconsistencies in the case, local officials quickly ruled Lennon's death a suicide, but his mother, Claudia, believes he was lynched. *Always in Season* explores the lasting impact of lynchings and racial terrorism.”
- Learn more about the film - [Here](#)

Keating, Kevin. *Giuliani Time* (2006)

- Following the tenure of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Keating examines the jarring clash between his populist policies and the realities of his

administration. It examines issues of “police brutality, violations of the First Amendment, and racist political actions.”

- Watch it on Amazon Prime - [Here](#)

Peck, Raoul. *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016)

- “In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, *Remember This House*. Now, in his incendiary new documentary, Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished.” *I Am Not Your Negro* looks both into the Civil Rights Movement and connects this history to the current #BlackLivesMatter Movement.
- Watch it on Amazon Prime - [Here](#)

Renee, Taylor & Lynne, Jessica, editors. *ARTS.BLACK*

- “ARTS.BLACK is a journal of art criticism from Black perspectives predicated on the belief that art criticism should be an accessible dialogue – a tool through which we question, celebrate, and talk back to the global world of contemporary art”
- Learn more about it - [Here](#)

Taylor, Sonia Renee. *On conversations about Black people* (2020)

- Watch it on Instagram - [Here](#)

Yance, Ford. *Strong Island* (2016)

- “Strong Island chronicles the arc of a family across history, geography and tragedy - from the racial segregation of the Jim Crow South to the promise of New York City; from the presumed safety of middle-class suburbs, to the maelstrom of an unexpected, violent death.”
- Watch it on Netflix - [Here](#)

Bryan Stevenson/ Equal Justice Initiative:

- Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy*. One World Print, 2014
 - “Just Mercy tells the story of EJI, from the early days with a small staff facing the nation’s highest death sentencing and execution rates, through a successful campaign to challenge the cruel practice of sentencing children to die in prison, to revolutionary projects designed to confront Americans with our history of racial injustice.”
 - Find out more about Stevenson’s book - [Here](#)
- Cretton, Dustin Daniel. *Just Mercy* (2019)
 - “Based on the bestselling book, the Just Mercy movie presents the unforgettable story of Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) and the case of Walter McMillian (Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx), who was convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit.”
 - Free on YouTube in June (Click “Buy or Rent”) - [Here](#)
- Capehart, Jonathan. Interview with Bryan Stevenson. “Bryan Stevenson, TL;DR,” *The Bryan Lehrer Show*, 2018.
 - Recording of Capehart's “hour long sit down with Bryan Stevenson on the lynching memorial and legacy museum opening in Montgomery, Alabama.”

- Listen to it - [Here](#)
- Bharara, Preet. Interview with Bryan Stevenson. “*Revisiting Just Mercy*,” *Stay Tune with Preet*, 2019.
 - Preet Bharara interviews Stevenson about the *Just Mercy* book and film
 - [Listen to it - Here](#)

Podcasts:

Carroll, Rebecca. “Come Through With Rebecca Carroll,” WNYC Radio (2020)

- “Join host Rebecca Carroll of WNYC radio for 15 essential conversations about race in a pivotal moment for America. She talks to great thinkers, writers, and artists about faith, representation, white fragility, and how it’s all playing out in 2020.”
- Listen to it - [Here](#)

Code Switch, “A Decade Of Watching Black People Die,” *NPR* (2020)

- The hosts of Code Switch contextualize the death of George Floyd within the larger history of police violence against Black communities. This podcast episode details the numerous shootings and killings from Eric Garner in 2014 till the present.
- Listen to it - [Here](#)

Lists Compiled by others

Metropolitan College of New York Library LibGuide addressing Racism, White Privilege, and Police Brutality

<https://libguides.mcny.edu/c.php?g=187478&p=1280373>

Kupferberg Holocaust Center Anti-Racism Resources

http://khc.qcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KHC-Antiracism-Resources_061320.pdf

Tolerance.com Teaching About Race, Racism, and Police Violence

<https://www.tolerance.org/moment/racism-and-police-violence>

Educational Resources for Non-Black POC and White Folks (Google Doc)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UtPdcNHtsnfJXwN2SBwtyFO8GQpPFTVUxsEcaAUne3U/edit>

Anti-Racism resources for white people (Google Doc)

https://docs.google.com/document/u/o/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VlBO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic

18 books on race and privilege that will show you what’s really happening in America right now (Business Insider)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/books-white-privilege-novels-racism-antiracism-black-schools-2020-6>

Talking About Race, Racism and Racialized Violence with Kids

https://centerracialjustice.org/resources/resources-for-talking-about-race-racism-and-racialized-violence-with-kids/?utm_source=NY+Initiative&utm_campaign=a2033ed752-NYCIP_FOR_MATTED_AS_ENEWS_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f811daccf3-a2033ed752-139883509

Events:

BRIC – Friday, June 19th 7 – 8 PM EST

Juneteenth: Then and Now | A Virtual #BHeard Town Hall

- “This Juneteenth, our virtual #BHeard Town Hall will look at the state of freedom in Black communities as they grapple with COVID-19, benign neglect, and state-sanctioned violence.”
- Find out more - [Here](#)

Sixnineteen – Defend Black Lives - June 19–21, 2020

- Sixnineteen are calling for mobilization on the weekend of Juneteenth, June 19–21, 2020. They invite you to take action from home, in your community, or in Washington, D.C.
- Find out more - [Here](#)

Black-Owned Bookstores in the NYC area:

The Lit. Bar, the Bronx ([website](#))

Café con Libros, Brooklyn ([website](#))

Sister’s Uptown Bookstore and Cultural Center, Harlem ([website](#))

Online-Only Bookstores:

The Key Bookstore ([website](#))

African Bookstore ([website](#))