Social/Racial Justice Resources for Sno-Isle Sierra Club Group

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis has drawn new attention to the institutional racism and police brutality experienced by many in our region and nation.

A recent <u>article</u> in the San Francisco Chronicle summed up much of what has been emerging in conversations across our nation.

"To be a strong white ally, you must assume racism is everywhere, every day, all the time," said Debra Gore-Mann, president of the Greenlining Institute, a racial equity organization. "Some people say, 'That sounds exhausting.' Well, welcome to being black...."

...Longtime advocates say becoming an ally involves a lot of work. And time. And a willingness to make yourself vulnerable...

...But [white people] have to make an effort. Emmy Award-winning comedian and CNN host W. Kamau Bell of Berkeley said that "right now, a lot of white people are frozen by the (feeling), 'I don't know what to do, so I'll do nothing.' "That's why black people get brutalized by police officers over and over again, because white people go, 'That was so bad, I feel so bad.' But then a couple of weeks later (they say), 'Back to my yoga classes,'" Bell told Conan O'Brien on his TBS show last week.

Let's hold ourselves, our friends and acquaintances accountable to ensure that this isn't one more tragedy that eventually gets forgotten by white people. The resources below are opportunities to engage, and to explore the entangled connections between environmental and social justice while educating yourself in preparation for advancing needed changes.

Links to sections within this resource

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Audiobooks to Listen To and Learn From Amidst the Protests

Books for Kids and Teens about Race, Racism and Police Violence

Films and TV Series to Watch

Organizations to Follow on Social Media

Guides

More Anti-racism Resources to Check Out

Take Action to Advance the Cause of Environment and Social Justice

Educate yourself by reading and watching informational items that expose the truth about racism in this country. See Sno-Isle Library's Anti-Racist Resources.

Join and support the **Snohomish NAACP Chapter**.

Donate to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Sign petitions and send emails.

Work on these Justice in June actions, for either 10, 25 or 45 minutes a day.

Join the Communities of Color Coalition (C3), a non-partisan group of citizens who meet on behalf of the people of Snohomish County to discuss, problem-solve, and advocate for social justice, cultural and religious respect and human rights, especially for people of color and other under-represented groups. Their major areas of concern include but are not limited to the elimination of personal and institutional racism; equal access to and opportunities in education; equal access to and opportunities in economic development and employment; and fair and equal treatment under the law and in our society.

Take immediate action to fight for Breonna Taylor. Visit FightForBreonna.org.

Read and follow up on other items from this list of immediate actions we all can take, including: advocate for specific cases and policy, educate yourself and others, donate to grassroots organizations and bail funds, and protect Black communities dying of COVID-19.

Stay Informed about the Work of National Environmental Organizations

Message from Sierra Club Director Michael Brune: From Outrage to Justice

Sierra Club Webinar: Democracy, Voting and Racial Justice in a Time of Coronavirus

Read this article in *Sierra* magazine: Racism is Killing the Planet

Watch the League of Conservation Voter's conversation with Joe Biden

Also read this message regarding equity from the <u>Audubon Society</u>

And, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition offers this Information

Review these resources recommended by Washington Conservation Voters:

- I'm a Black Climate Expert. Racism Derails our Efforts to Save the Planet. By Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson in *The Washington Post*.
- Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism, by Somini Sengupta, featuring Sam Grant, Robert D. Bullard, and Heather McGhee, in The New York Times.
- Why Racial Justice is Climate Justice, by Claire Elise Thompson, featuring Adrien Salazar, Kerene Tayloe, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Mariah Gladstone, and Alvaro S. Sanchez, in Grist.
- We Need You to Fight for Us to Breathe, by April Sims in *The Stand*.

Help Select Local Pro-environment and Social Justice Leaders

Do you have an interest in helping direct our future activities to promote social justice as well as to protect our environment? Nominations are now open for members in Island and Snohomish counties. Help build a diverse leadership team. Contact our nominations committee at Sno-Isle@Washington.SierraClub.org

Positively Influence November's Local, Regional and National Voting

Check out state and local candidates endorsed by Washington Conservation Voters

President Obama has reminded us that voting is an important way to work for justice. In his recent speech, he pointed out that electing officials who support our values is essential to change. You can help by participating in Sierra Club's massive effort to Get Out the Vote

Obama's writing has resonated. He has some great posts from June 1st and again on June 4th where he says, "Real change requires protest to highlight a problem, and politics to implement practical solutions and laws." And then he goes on to talk about steps Mayors and elected officials can take right now.

Hold our elected officials accountable to adopt the **8cantwait** policies. "Research shows more restrictive use of force policies can reduce killings by police and save lives. Tell your city to adopt all eight of these policies." Ask your city where it stands on these policies and then advocate!

Read Timely Voices of Local African Americans

- State Rep. John Lovick (44th District, Mill Creek) reflects on what 526 horrible seconds of video brought to mind.
- Former King County Executive Ron Sims writes in a recent Op-Ed, "When hope is elusive, only anger and despair remain."
- Ed Taylor, a University of Washington vice provost and dean, in his essay writes, "Nothing about the moment is OK. No one I know is OK."
- Brenda Leaks, an educator in Seattle, writes of her ongoing talk on race with her 10year-old son: "We have talked about violence against Black people — men and women."
- Dr. Benjamin Danielson, a Black pediatrician at Seattle Children's Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, writes that while he enjoys the support of family and community, "I

- have also had the wind knocked out of me by my share of denigrations through racist acts. I am continually traumatized by societal denigration that I cannot turn away from."
- Check out this essay by 90-year-old Robert Radford, who has lived through some of America's darkest days, but who is unbowed: "I continue to believe in America, my country, despite all that I have witnessed and continue to witness..."

Resources for White Parents to Raise Anti-racist Children

Books:

- Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners: books for children and young adults
- 31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance
- "Something Happened in Our Town", a picture book by Marianne Celano

Podcasts:

- Parenting Forward podcast episode 'Five Pandemic Parenting Lessons with Cindy Wang Brandt'
- Fare of the Free Child podcast
- Integrated Schools podcast episode "Raising White Kids with Jennifer Harvey"

Articles:

- PBS's Teaching Your Child About Black History Month
- Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup from Pretty Good

Media:

The Conscious Kid: follow them on Instagram and consider signing up for their Patreon

Articles to Read

- America's Racial Contract Is Killing Us, by Adam Serwer, Atlantic, May 8, 2020
- Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement, Mentoring a New Generation of Activists
- My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant by Jose Antonio Vargas, The New York Times Magazine, June 22. 2011
- The 1619 Project, all the articles, The New York Times Magazine
- The Combahee River Collective Statement
- The Intersectionality Wars by Jane Coaston, Vox, May 28, 2019
- Tips for Creating Effective White Caucus Groups, developed by Craig Elliott PhD
- Where do I donate? Why is the uprising violent? Should I go protest? by Courtney Martin, June 1, 2020
- White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, by Peggy McIntosh
- Who Gets to Be Afraid in America?, by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, Atlantic, May 12, 2020
- Elijah Anderson, "The White Space"
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations"
- Robin DiAngelo, "Nothing to Add: The Role of White Silence in Racial Discussions" and "White Fragility"
- Cheryl Harris, "Whiteness as Property"
- Camara Phyllis Jones, "Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale"

- Ibram X. Kendi, "A History of Race and Racism in America, in 24 Chapters"
- National Equity Project, "Lens of Systemic Oppression" and "Implicit Bias and Structural Racialization"
- Devah Pager and Bruce Western, "Identifying Discrimination at Work: The Use of Field Experiments"
- William L. Patterson, <u>We Charge Genocide</u>
- Kaitlin Smith, "Bearing Witness: The Death of George Floyd"
- Bryan Stevenson, "On the Frustration Behind the George Floyd Protests"

Videos to Watch

- Black Feminism & the Movement for Black Lives with Barbara Smith, Reina Gossett and Charlene Carruthers
- How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion, by Peggy McIntosh
- Listen to co-founder of Black Lives Matter Patrisse Cullors explain the intention behind efforts to defund the police.
- The Urgency of Intersectionality, by Kimberlé Crenshaw
- How Do We Span the Racial Wealth Gap?, by William A. Darity Jr.
- Color Blind or Color Brave?, by Mellody Hobson
- There's a Direct Line From Lynching to George Floyd, by Bryan Stevenson
- Oprah's two-part series Where Do We Go From Here? Part 1, Part 2
- Working to ensure every American can vote, end massive incarceration, stop voter suppression and gerrymandering. Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School

Podcasts to Subscribe To

- 1619. New York Times
- About Race
- Code Switch, NPR
- Intersectionality Matters!, hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw
- Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast
- Pod For The Cause, from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Pod Save the People, by Crooked Media, especially the first 30 minutes of the powerful episode entitled Keep the Fight.
- Seeing White
- Ear Hustle

Books to Read

- An African-American and Latinx History of the United States, by Paul Ortiz
- An American Marriage, by Tayari Jones
- An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States, by Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz
- Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Black Feminist Thought by Patricia Hill Collins
- Black Skin, White Masks, by Frantz Fanon

- Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People, by Anthony Greenwald and Mahzarin Banaji
- Brazil: Mixture or Massacre: Essays in the Genocide of a Black People, by Abdias do Nascimento
- <u>Discourse on Colonialism</u>, by Aime Cesaire
- Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower, by Brittney Cooper
- Evicted, by Matthew Desmond
- Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?, by Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Heavy: An American Memoir by Kiese Laymon
- How Does it Feel to be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America, by Moustafa Bayoumi
- How To Be An Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- If Beale Street Could Talk, by James Baldwin. (Bonus: <u>the beautiful 2018 film version of</u> the book, directed by Barry Jenkins.)
- Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison
- <u>Just Mercy</u>: A Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson
- Making Multiracials: State, Family, and Market in the Redrawing of the Color Line, by Kimberly McClain DaCosta
- Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad
- My People are Rising: Memoir of a Black Panther Party Captain, by Aaron Dixon
- Native Son, by Richard Wright
- No Ashes in the Fire, by Darnell Moore
- Policing the Black Man, by Angela Davis
- <u>Privilege, Power, and Difference</u>, by Allan G. Johnson
- Raising Our Hands by Jenna Arnold
- Race: Are We So Different?, by Alan H. Goodman, Yolanda T. Moses, and Joseph L. Jones
- Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence: Understanding and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues on Race, by Derald Wing Sue
- Redefining Realness by Janet Mock
- <u>Sister Outsider</u> by Audre Lorde
- So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, by Ibram X. Kendi
- The Autobiography of Malcolm X, by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
- The Bluest Eye and The Source of Self-Regard, by Toni Morrison
- The Color of Law, by Richard Rothstein
- <u>The Fire Next Time</u> by James Baldwin
- The Fire This Time, Jesmyn Ward, ed.
- The Forging of a Black Community: Seattle's Central District from 1870 Through the Civil Rights Era, by Quintard Taylor
- <u>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</u> by Michelle Alexander
- The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century by Grace Lee Boggs

- The Person You Mean To Be: How Good People Fight Bias, by Dolly Chugh
- The Souls of Black Folk, by W.E.B Du Bois
- The Turner House, by Angela Flournoy
- The Underground Railroad, by Colson Whitehead
- The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, by Isabel Wilkerson
- Their Eyes Were Watching God, by Zora Neale Hurston
- When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality in Twentieth-Century America by Ira Katznelson
- This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, eds.
- When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir, by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele
- White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo, PhD
- White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide, by Carol Anderson

For even more suggestions, see the Schomburg Center Black Liberation Reading List from the New York Public Library.

Audiobooks to Listen To and Learn From Amidst the Protests

(Compiled by Seattle Public Library)

Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People," by civil rights attorney Ben Crump, extends the term "colored people" to those discriminated against on the basis of race, sexual preference, religious beliefs and gender, and ably supports his contention that our justice system has been relentlessly engineered to efficiently destroy such people. Crump's methodical evidence, persuasively conveyed by narrator Korey Jackson, ranges from upclose-and-personal observations (Crump represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown), to far-reaching ones on the evolution of institutional and environmental racism, culminating in 12 actionable steps each listener can take to help bring us closer to the ideals upon which our nation was founded.

In The Black and the Blue, co-author and narrator Matthew Horace lifts the veil on the racism endemic in law enforcement today from his vantage point as a veteran police officer, and as a Black man who has narrowly escaped police brutality himself, both while working undercover and simply going about his life. Calling on his own hard-won life experience as well as a wealth of interviews, Horace offers a considered, heartfelt and at times impassioned account of the best and worst of his profession. While their account is balanced, Horace and co-author Ron Harris, a former Los Angeles Times reporter and editor, now a Howard University professor, are unequivocal in their call for reform, presenting an unsparing exposé that may open the ears and minds of those prone to binary, law-andorder thinking.

James Forman Jr. offers a nuanced and convincing exploration of the insidious nature of institutional racism in his Pulitzer Prize-winning "Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America," narrated with sensitivity and compassion by Kevin R. Free. Recounting the history of how communities of color have been tragically caught between competing needs for equal protection and justice under the law, he shows how the politics of respectability and narratives of assimilation have helped fuel a war on crime that has militarized America's police against its own citizens. This incisive and eye-opening examination of the often unconscious mechanisms of oppression is grounded in Forman's own experiences as a public defender, conveyed with moving emotion by Free.

In "I Can't Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street," journalist Matt Taibbi reveals in detail the life and death of Eric Garner, killed by Staten Island police on July 17, 2014, and the infamously futile quest for justice that followed in the wake of his murder. Expertly varying his own appealing rasp, narrator Dominic Hoffman brilliantly personates the wide range of individuals interviewed for the book, including many lesser-known victims of police brutality, and he admirably channels the outrage and cynicism inspired by a seemingly endless litany of injustice. It is a performance well calibrated to refuel and reignite necessary outrage.

For older teens and adults looking for fiction to help them process these realities, Kekla Magoon's incendiary, thought-provoking novel **Light It Up** explores the police shooting of a young girl from diverse points of view, brilliantly brought to life by a full cast. The death of 13-year-old Shae Tatum sparks civil unrest in which protesters clash with white supremacists, as media and political figures jockey for position. Others ranging from a hapless witness to the disgraced cop's family struggle with the impacts. This novel is a stand-alone sequel to Magoon's previous novel How It Went Down, another masterful fullcast recording of a Rashomon-like tale of another racially tinged shooting in the same community. Both books are complex and stirring explorations of the causes and effects of violence that do much to heighten empathy and understanding, without dulling the impact of such tragedies, all too familiar in America.

Books for Kids and Teens About Race, Racism and Police Violence

"A Kids Book About Racism" by Jelani Memory (A Kids Book About, \$19.95). There are no pictures, but even very early readers can decipher the vocabulary in this book. Portland author Memory matter-of-factly presents racism in simple, child-friendly terms. "We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices" edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson (Crown Books for Young Readers, \$10.99). The Hudsons have compiled poems, letters, essays and art from a diverse group of 50 well-known artists and children's book authors in an anthology to help young people cope with cruelty and hate. It is not a guide to political activism; rather, it combines messages of community and hope with advice on everyday actions of kindness and friendship that kids can practice every day. "Ghost Boys" by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, \$16.99). The protagonist of this middle grade book is the ghost of Jerome, a 12-year-old boy shot by a police officer. He meets the ghost of Emmett Till, who was lynched in 1955 at age 14.

Through his interactions with Emmett Till, Jerome learns the history of racism that led to their deaths.

"This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work" by Tiffany Jewell (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, \$14.99). For tweens and teens who are ready to act after reading local author lieoma Oluo's "So You Want to Talk About Race" primer on racism, the 20 chapters in this book are designed to educate, encourage introspection and help empower readers to actively defy racism.

"Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You: A Remix" by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, \$18.99). National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and Newbery Award-winning children's author Reynolds partnered with scholar and Atlantic columnist Kendi to adapt Kendi's National Book Award-winning "Stamped from the Beginning" for younger readers. Like the original, it examines the history of racist ideas in America and identifies strategies to oppose them.

"Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, \$26). It wasn't marketed for young adults, but it was written for one in response to another police shooting. Presented as a letter to his teenage son, Coates blends personal stories of growing up African American with history, politics and philosophy to contextualize race in America.

"The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas (Balzer & Bray, \$18.99). Thomas' powerful debut novel follows Starr Carter, a 16-year-old girl who is the only witness to her childhood friend's death by a police bullet. Thomas never flinches from Starr's trauma or the circumstances that she faces — from microaggressions at her elite private school to the poverty and crime in her segregated neighborhood — as she traces the young woman's path to activism. (The book was made into a 2018 movie starring Amandla Stenberg.)

Films and TV Series to Watch

- **13th** (Ava DuVernay) Netflix
- American Son (Kenny Leon) Netflix
- **Black Power Mixtape: 1967-**1975 Available to rent
- **Blindspotting** (Carlos López Estrada) Hulu with Cinemax or available to rent
- Clemency (Chinonye Chukwu) Available to rent
- **Dear White People** (Justin Simien) Netflix
- Fruitvale Station (Ryan Coogler) Available to rent
- I Am Not Your Negro (James Baldwin doc) Available to rent or on Kanopy
- If Beale Street Could Talk (Barry Jenkins) Hulu
- **Just Mercy** (Destin Daniel Cretton) Available to rent for free in June in the U.S.
- King In The Wilderness HBO
- **See You Yesterday** (Stefon Bristol) Netflix
- **Selma** (Ava DuVernay) Available to rent
- The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution Available to rent
- **The Hate U Give** (George Tillman Jr.) Hulu with Cinemax
- When They See Us (Ava DuVernay) Netflix

Organizations to Follow on Social Media

- Antiracism Center: Twitter
- Audre Lorde Project: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- Black Women's Blueprint: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- Color Of Change: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- Colorlines: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- 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
- MPowerChange: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- Muslim Girl: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- NAACP: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- National Domestic Workers Alliance: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- RAICES: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- SisterSong: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook
- United We Dream: Twitter | Instagram | Facebook

Guides

- Ascend Pan-Asian Leaders, COVID-19 Resource
- Diversity Best Practices, <u>Upstanding Against Racism</u>
- Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, "<u>Talking About Race: Being Antiracist</u>"
- 24 Books For White People To Read Beyond Black History Month

More Anti-racism Resources to Check Out

- 75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice
- Anti-Racism Project
- Jenna Arnold's resources (books and people to follow)
- Rachel Ricketts' anti-racism resources
- Resources for White People to Learn and Talk About Race and Racism
- Save the Tears: White Woman's Guide by Tatiana Mac
- Showing Up For Racial Justice's educational toolkits
- The [White] Shift on Instagram
- "Why is this happening?" an introduction to police brutality from 100 Year Hoodie
- Zinn Education Project's teaching materials

The Sno-Isle Sierra Club Group is appreciative of the work of the Seattle Times, The Sno-Isle and Seattle Public Library System, the National Sierra Club, The New York Times, NYU and many other organizations for their efforts to collect and publish these resources.

Perhaps the best way to conclude this list, which will continue to grow as we share information and experiences as a nation, is by a quote from one of the hosts of *Pod Save The People* after describing being spit on by a wealthy white male in high school due to her activist work:

My 'why' will forever remain the love I have for my people and my absolute soul-consuming obsession with justice. Justice is divine ordinance. It is what Cornell West calls "what love looks like in public."

I decided at 15 not to obsess over the destruction I stand against. I obsess about what I stand for. About the wildest dreams of my ancestors. About radical imagination. About a freedom so thick it can't be destroyed. About a Blackness so beautiful it cannot be erased.

As the old poem says: "He tried to bury me. He did not know I was a seed." They will try to bury us, so let's be seeds.

To suggest additions or corrections to this list, please email the **Sno-Isle Sierra Club group**.