



# The Associates of the Society of the Sacred Heart US-C Province

## Bibliography / Resources

This list of books, podcasts, films, and YouTube videos is gathered from a number of resources that you will find listed at the end of this document. This is not a complete list of resources, but it's a start to help us to better understand systemic racism, and each one's role.

### NON-FICTION BOOKS

***An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*** (2019) - by Alex Kotlowitz

"Alex Kotlowitz, America's preeminent narrative journalist, has written a searing, profound, and profoundly human book about gun violence that plagues American cities. Everyone who cares about the future of our cities and of our country will come away deeply moved and with a deepened understanding of the long shadow cast by substandard schools, housing and job opportunities." - Sara Paretsky

***Automating Inequality: How High-Tech Tools Profile, Police and Punish the Poor\**** (2019) - by Virginia Eubanks

Algorithms are made by humans, so they are susceptible to human biases. From deciding which neighborhoods get policed to who gets welfare benefits, discrimination has gone digital. By scrutinizing statistical models and telling personal stories, Eubanks shows that machines do not correct racist systems — they only shift blame.

***Be the Bridge*** (2019) - by Latasha Morrison

Latasha Morrison is a leading advocate for racial reconciliation. She calls for Christians to move to a deeper understanding in the midst of a divisive culture. If you are looking for a book to start your journey of racial healing this may be a book you will want to read.

***Blackballed: The Black Vote and U.S. Democracy\**** (2014) - by Darryl Pinckney

As young Americans take to the streets to say Black Lives Matter, they're often told to vote. While voting is important, it's also important to remember how black political representation has been chipped away by voter ID laws, gerrymandering and felon disenfranchisement. *Blackballed* addresses the struggle for voting rights and for racial equality more broadly, drawing on Pinckney's own experiences as well as the writings of civil rights leaders to create a complicated picture of black political identity.

***Between the World and Me*** (2015) - by Ta-Nehisi Coates

"It is written as a letter to the author's teenage son about feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States." Wikipedia



***Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination\****

(1993) - by Alondra Nelson

The Black Panther Party is most remembered for its militant action, but health care was also a major pillar of its activism. The People's Free Medical Clinics tested for hypertension and assisted with housing and employment. Its outreach also brought attention to rampant discrimination within mainstream medicine. Nelson writes that the Black Panther Party understood health as a human right, echoing today's fight for universal health care. You can [read \*Body and Soul\* online for free](#).

***Color Compromise*** (2019) - by Jemar Tisby

This is a book that will help you to understand better the history of race and the American church. This book tells the story we have either ignored or do not know, of how people of faith have historically worked against racial justice.

***The Cross and the Lynching Tree*** (2011) - by James H. Cone

A conversation about race and religion in America. This book will give you a better understanding of Black American theology. James H. Cone was a Professor of Theology at Union Seminary.

***Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class\**** (2013) - by Ian Haney López

"Entitlement mentality." "Quotas." "Welfare queens." From Barry Goldwater to Bill Clinton to the Tea Party, politicians have relied on racially coded language to win over white voters and decimate social programs. Dog Whistle Politics makes the case that not only does this strategy endanger people of color, but it also hinders economic mobility for all Americans.

***The End of Policing\**** (2017) by Alex S. Vitale

In the wake of high-profile cases of police brutality, the same ideas for reform are trotted out — implicit bias training, body cameras, police-community dialogues. But Vitale argues that this fails to get to the root of the problem — policing itself. While calls to abolish the police are often met with skepticism, academics and activists have long-discussed alternatives to addressing homelessness, domestic disputes and substance abuse. *The End of Policing* is available now as [A free ebook](#). (You can read Code Switch editor extraordinaire Leah Donnella's conversation with Vitale [here](#).)

***From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America\**** (2016) - by Elizabeth Hinton

The origins of mass incarceration — which disproportionately puts black people behind bars — are often pinned on Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. But Hinton argues the incarcerating state was erected "by a consensus of liberals and conservatives who privileged punitive responses to urban problems as a reaction to the civil rights movement." The 1965 Law Enforcement Assistance Act, part of Lyndon Johnson's Great Society plan, led to today's police militarization. This account of history poses relevant questions for today's land of the free.



***In Search of our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*** (1983) - by Alice Walker

In this, her first collection of nonfiction, Alice Walker speaks out as a black woman, writer, mother, and feminist in thirty-six pieces ranging from the personal to the political. Among the contents are essays about other writers, accounts of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and the antinuclear movement of the 1980s, and a vivid memoir of a scarring childhood injury and her daughter's healing words.

***Inclusivity: a Gospel Mandate*** (2015) - by Diarmuid O'Murchu

The strongest case yet for an inclusive church, the kind that was and has been, and lays bare its historical, theological, and spiritual roots. Diarmuid O'Murchu holds tight the millions on the margins as well as the outsiders who honor Jesus but feel they don't fit in because of alternative vision or minority status resulting from race, ethnicity, social standing or sexual orientation.

***Just Mercy*** (2017, book) (2019, movie) - by Bryan Stevenson

The true story about the Equal Justice Initiative and the importance of confronting injustice. You can watch the movie online for free.

***Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology\**** (2017) - by Deirdre Cooper Owens

The foundational knowledge of American gynecology relied on the exploitation of enslaved black women's bodies. In *Medical Bondage*, Cooper Owens centers the stories of black women that have been overshadowed by the "discoveries" of white male doctors who experimented on them. Baseless theories about black inferiority and higher pain tolerance [still permeate medical schools today](#).

***The New Jim Crow: Mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*** (2010) - by Michelle Alexander

"Michelle Alexander's brave and bold new book paints a haunting picture in which dreary felon garb, post-prison joblessness, and loss of voting rights now do the stigmatizing work once done by color-only water fountains and legally segregated schools. With dazzling candor, Alexander argues that we all pay the cost of the new Jim Crow." Lani Guinier, professor at Harvard Law School.

***No Crystal Stair: Womanist Spirituality*** (1997) - by Dr. Diana Hayes

Professor emeritus of Systemic Theology, Georgetown University, lays the foundation of womanist spirituality in the faith and struggles of African American women. Three Excerpts on YouTube as well (search: Dr. Diana Hayes).

***Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines*** (2015) – by Sandhya Rani Jha

Sandhya Rani Jha addresses the hot topic in a way that is rooted in real people's stories and that offers solid biblical grounding for thinking about race relations in America, reminding us that God calls us to build Beloved Community. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter provide starting points for reading groups.



***Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership\**** (2019) - by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

A finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in History, *Race for Profit* chronicles how the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 failed to stop racist, exploitative mortgage lending practices. Since the policy was supposed to be a balm to the 1960s uprisings — much like the ones we're seeing now — it serves as a reminder to remain vigilant when policymakers promise change.

***Reading While Black*** (2020) - by Esau McCaulley

This book is a blend of interpretation of biblical text, autobiography, black history and spirituality. This book will also give you a better understanding of Black American theology.

***River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*** (2019) - by Sister Helen Prejean

This is a book about understanding the realities of race relations and the white privileged, institutionally racist penal system shows the legacy of slavery.

***A Terrible Thing To Waste: Environmental Racism And Its Assault On The American Mind\**** (2019) - by Harriet A. Washington

From lead poisoning to toxic waste, Americans of color are disproportionately harmed by environmental hazards. This is detrimental to physical health — air pollution is linked with higher COVID-19 death rates, [according to Harvard researchers](#). But Washington also argues that environmental racism is causing cognitive decline in communities of color. A deconstruction of IQ and an indictment of EPA rollbacks, *A Terrible Thing To Waste* is a stirring read.

***Thea Bowman: In My Own Words*** (2015) – by Maurice Nutt, CSCR

Trailblazing African American sister who was the first black sister in her white community, the first black woman to address the US Conference of Bishops. Through song, dance, poetry, drama and storytelling she evangelized and catechized, communicating joy, freedom and pride. She used traditional black teaching techniques that were holistic, participatory, and reality focused that showed that music is a way we have of preserving history and teaching values. She spread the message that black is beautiful and that cross-cultural collaboration enriches both education and living. This book is compiled by Fr. Maurice Nutt, who is helping to advance the cause for canonization of Sr. Thea Bowman.

***The Third Option: Hope for a Racially Divided Nation*** (2018) - by Miles McPherson

Miles McPherson is the founder of The Rock Church in San Diego. In this book he argues that we must learn to see people as God sees them, and not by the color of their skin. If you are looking for a book to end racial division this may be a place to start.

***There Are No Children Here*** (1991) - by Alex Kotlowitz

The story of two boys growing up in the other America. “In this heartbreaking, yet strangely eloquent book, children of the ghetto, who long ago lost innocence, offer a stunning portrait of their aborted lives. Alex Kotlowitz is more than a fine investigative journalist, he is their friend. It would take a zombie not to be moved by this work. It can really make a difference.” - Studs Terkel



***The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*** (2010) – by Isabel Wilkerson

It is a beautiful and masterful account of the exodus of African Americans out of the South over several decades in the 20th Century in search of a better life in cities in the North and West. The research that went into this book is stunning, and Wilkerson is such a good storyteller, it reads like fiction.

***White Fragility*** (2018) - by Robin DiAngelo, with forward by Michael Eric Dyson

This is an eye-opening analysis of how white people often unwittingly get in the way of meaningful cross-racial dialogue because of their own unexamined tangle of emotions, leading to behaviors that serve to protect or reinstate racial inequality. This book shows us how white people can engage more constructively. Here is a link to a Krista Tippitt [ON BEING](#) segment with Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, and Resmaa Menakem, a trauma specialist in Minneapolis. It is about racism and white supremacy, very important, quite challenging, and worthy of our attention.

***Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? And Other Conversations***

***About Race***\* (1997) - by Beverly Daniel Tatum (there are several YouTube videos with Dr. Tatum)

Written by clinical psychologist, Dr. Beverly Tatum, this classic text on the psychology of racism was re-released with new content in 2017, 20 years after its original publication. By providing straight talk on self-segregation and inequality in schools, Tatum shows the importance — and possibility — of cross-racial dialogues starting young.

***Whistling Vivaldi*** (2010) - by Claude Steele

A summary of Steele's groundbreaking research on group identity and the ways in which stereotypes can undermine the performance of the people they target.

***Womanist Justice, Womanist Hope*** (1993) - by Emilie M. Townes

Recovers the life of Ida Welles-Barnett (1862-1931) and the historical context from which her perspective can be a resource for contemporary womanist social ethic. Written by Dr. Emilie Townes, African American Christian ethicist and theologian, Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School (c.f., search YouTube for several videos with Dr. Townes).

## **BOOKS, POETRY AND PLAYS – FICTION**

***Annie John***\*\* (1985) - by Jamaica Kincaid

"Kincaid's *Annie John* (1985) was, is and will no doubt remain for me an essential text. It's not only a great novel powered by an unshakable sense of what the sentence — like a stethoscope — can discover within the human heart, it's also a poignant map to a world that forms an essential part of who I am. Like Kincaid, I'm American but by way of Antigua, and it's difficult to put into words what it's like to read the small place where you're from — a place so small that it sometimes doesn't even appear on a map — dipped in amber by a great writer." — Rowan Ricardo Phillips, author of the poetry collections [The Ground](#) (2012) and [Heaven](#) (2015).



***A Raisin in the Sun*\*\*** (1959) - by Lorraine Hansberry

“Before I saw Hansberry’s play *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) onstage, I watched the [1961] movie with Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee. I was knocked out by the range of characters and her ability to bring the Younger family to life.” — Nelson George, author of the novels *One Woman Short* (2000), *The Plot Against Hip Hop* (2011) and *To Funk and Die in LA* (2017).

***Beloved*\*\*** (1987) - by Toni Morrison

“Morrison’s prose in *Beloved* is astounding, and the subject matter intense. She managed to elevate the experiences of enslaved Africans and their descendants into a different kind of consideration; one in which these characters were given flesh, love and spirit, operating as actual human beings rather than creations of the white imagination. And what a dilemma the book poses: Should you murder your own children to spare them the degradation, dehumanization, humiliation, and violence of that which is antebellum slavery? Are you ready to bear the ghostly weight of that decision? And what happens if you think you are, but you aren’t really? The book is pure brilliance and a razor-sharp indictment of the country.” — Robert Jones Jr., author of the forthcoming novel *The Prophets* (2019 or 2020).

***Bloodchild and Other Stories*\*\*** (the revised edition, published in 2005) — “by my one-time student Octavia E. Butler, and especially her story “Amnesty” (2004), contained in that volume.

“Several people, including the late editor David Hartwell and myself, felt this was among the most important stories written and published by anyone in the science fiction field to date. I think certainly it is among Butler’s finest works, and its image of possible interspecies cooperation and help is a great example of how differences might be overcome.” — Samuel R. Delany, author of the *Return to Nevèrÿon* series (1979-87) and the novel *Dark Reflections* (2007) and *Bloodchild and Other Stories* (1995, 2005) by Octavia E. Butler

***Cannibal*\*\*** (2016) - by Safiya Sinclair

“Sinclair’s debut book is a devastating and beautiful renegotiation — on her terms — of the English language. She’s interested in the many violences English and those who spoke it perpetrated either against themselves or especially against the black and brown peoples they colonized, and pushes into this history in all her work, be it poetry or prose. Yet all the while one hears — at least it’s clear to my ear — her still relishing in that English, making a new queendom of it, if only for its own lush, if sick, beauty. In this way, Sinclair stunts; she is a bougainvillea, demanding space for the “savage” and “feminine” to speak.” — Rickey Laurentiis, author of the poetry collection *Boy With Thorn* (2015).

***Coal*\*\*** (1976) by Audre Lorde

Lorde writes: “I / is the total black, being spoken / from the earth’s inside.” “And there, I was born afresh in that little hovel of a cottage during the early 2000s in an overly hot summer in Austin, Tex., the ladybugs sticking to the windows, the raccoons fighting the stray cats in the dry creek bed just to the west of my bedroom wall. Over and over, I read “Coal” to myself, out loud, to the mosquitoes, to the stray cats that would come up from their fighting; I read the poem to anyone who would listen because it spoke of the dark — “blackness” — as a kind of opening, as that which speaks, as that which makes love. I had never seen a poem take such possession of its ontological and epistemological self.” — Roger Reeves, author of the poetry collection *King Me* (2013).



***Corregidora*\*\*** (1975) - by Gayl Jones

“I love the brilliant, bluesy use of vernacular, its unflinching treatment of sex, its haunting, ambiguous blending of characters and the way that it’s a deeply American novel that is also international in its scope.” — Jamel Brinkley, author of the short story collection [A Lucky Man](#) (2018).

***Gorilla, My Love*\*\*** (1972) - by Toni Cade Bambara

“What I love most is its unabashed celebration of blackness. Her preface about writing about family is classic: ‘It does no good to write autobiographical fiction cause the minute the book hits the stand here comes your mama screaming how could you and sigh in death where is thy sting and she snatches you up out your bed to grill you about what was going down back there in Brooklyn ...’ Notice, if you will, that there are no apostrophes in place of the missing g’s of her gerunds. I’d bet her decision to forgo them was a political one, for Bambara was, without doubt, a political artist — as we all are, if we’re telling the truth.” — Mitchell S. Jackson, author of the novel [The Residue Years](#) (2013) and the forthcoming memoir [Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family](#) (2019).

***Intimate Apparel*\*\*** (2004) - by Lynn Nottage

“I’m really in awe of Nottage’s and of the poetry embedded in it. Nottage’s hand is as subtle as her heart is passionate; she illuminates a forgotten corner of history, as if by its own light. It is crafted in such a way that the simplest of actions become revelations of love, loss, aspiration and heartbreak.” — Nathan Alan Davis, author of the plays [Nat Turner in Jerusalem](#) (2017) and [Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea](#) (2017).

***Magical Negro*\*\*** (2019) - by Morgan Parker

“With two books coming out next year ([Magical Negro](#) and [Who Put This Song On?](#)), 2019 justly belongs to Parker. Her poems shred me with their intelligence, dark humor, and black-hearted vision. Parker is one of this generation’s best minds, able to hold herself and her world, which includes all of us, up to impossible lights, revealing every last bit of our hopes, failings, possibilities and raptures.” — Danez Smith, author of the poetry collections [\[Insert\] Boy](#) (2014) and [Don’t Call Us Dead](#) (2017).

***Sing, Unburied, Sing*\*\*** (2017) - by Jesmyn Ward

“It is a remarkable novel — a book that stands in conversation with all these iconic strands of American literature and yet is in no way defined by them. The book is wiser, more attuned to the ways race and class, violence and poverty have shaped and continue to shape this country than just about anything else I’ve encountered. There is also this fierce, irrepressible dignity and all these complicated, fraught gestures of love and attempts at love that make it hard to let this book go.” — Dinaw Mengestu, author of the novels [The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears](#) (2007), [How to Read the Air](#) (2010) and [All Our Names](#) (2014).

***Their Eyes Were Watching God*\*\*** (1937) - by Zora Neale Hurston

“I love how Hurston plays by her own rules on the page. Some people hate phonetic spelling in prose, but I’m fine with it. I was inspired and emboldened the first time I came across [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#) (1937). Her voice is so irreverent and full of hard-earned knowledge.” — Marcus Burke, author of the novel [Team Seven](#) (2014).



***The Third Life of Grange Copeland\*\**** (1970) - by Alice Walker

"[This book] taught me something incredible and essential: The cruelest of us are often victims, too. The book showed me that the world can make monsters out of the best of us, and in doing so helped me see that maybe there aren't monsters at all. Only humans consumed, swept up and eaten by their own fear, their own pain. It taught me that getting a reader to love a character and hate a character are both huge, worthy tasks. Getting us to feel both things about the same character, that's magic." — Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, author of the novel *Friday Black* (2018).

***The Twelve Tribes of Hattie\*\**** (2012) - by Ayana Mathis

"When I first read *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* (2012) and saw how deeply Mathis had submerged herself into the study of complex relationships between mothers and their children, I knew I wanted to work with her. Having grown up as an only child, the novel speaks to so many questions I've had, for years, about large, northern, African-American families with Southern roots." — De'Shawn Charles Winslow, author of the novel *In West Mills* (2019).

***The Water Dancer*** (2019) - by Ta-Nehisi Coates

A surrealist story set in the time of slavery; this book establishes Coates as a "first-rate novelist (San Francisco Chronicle)." It is beautifully, poetically, graphically written.

## ARTICLES

***"Lenny Duncan, Lutheran pastor, calls on Christianity to Revolutionize"***

Diana Hayes - Prof of Systemic Theology Georgetown University, National Catholic Reporter, November 2019 on Lenny Duncan, a black preacher.

## FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES

***Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise\**** (2018)

In this two-part series, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. chronicles the last 50 years of black history through a personal lens. Released days after the 2016 election, some themes of the documentary took on a deeper meaning amid Donald Trump's win. "Think of the civil rights movement to the present as a second Reconstruction — a 50-year Reconstruction — that ended last night," Gates said [in an interview with Salon](#).

***Cracking the Code*** (2018)

A documentary that all the RSCJs watched about unconscious bias that might be a resource for us.

***I Am Not Your Negro\**** (2017)

Narrated by the words of James Baldwin with the voice of Samuel L. Jackson, *I Am Not Your Negro* connects the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter. Although Baldwin died nearly 30 years before the film's release, his observations about racial conflict are as incisive today as they were when he made them.





### **LA 92\*** (2017)

LA 92 is about the Los Angeles rebellion that occurred in response to the police beating of Rodney King. The film is entirely comprised of archival footage — no talking heads needed. It's chilling to watch the unrest of nearly 30 years ago, as young people still take to the streets and shout, "No justice, no peace."

### **Teach Us All\*** (2017)

Over 60 years after Brown v. Board of Education, American schools are still segregated. Teach Us All explains why that is — school choice, residential segregation, biased admissions processes — and talks with advocates working for change. Interspersing interviews from two Little Rock Nine members, the documentary asks how far we've really come.

### **Whose Streets?\*** (2017)

The 2014 killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, MO, was one of the deaths that sparked the Black Lives Matter movement. Frustrated by media coverage of unrest in Ferguson, co-directors Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis documented how locals felt about police in riot gear filling their neighborhoods with tear gas. As one resident says, "They don't tell you the fact that the police showed up to a peaceful candlelight vigil...and boxed them in and forced them onto a QuikTrip lot."

### **13th\*** (1999)

The U.S. imprisons more people than any other country in the world, and [a third of U.S. prisoners are black](#). In this infuriating documentary, director Ava DuVernay argues that mass incarceration, Jim Crow and slavery are "the three major racialized systems of control adopted in the United States to date."

## **YOUTUBE VIDEOS**

### ***Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man*** – by Emmanuel Acho, NFL player.

There are currently seven videos. He answers questions that have been asked of him by his white friends.

## **PODCASTS**

### ***Code Switch***

This NPR podcast began in 2016 and is hosted by journalists of color who tackle the subject of race head-on. They explore how race impacts every part of society from politics and pop culture to history and sports and everything in between.

### ***The Diversity Gap*** - by Bethaney Wilkinson, multiple seasons.

"When it comes to diversity, good intentions are only the beginning."



**Floodlines\*** - from The Atlantic

An audio documentary about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Floodlines is told from the perspective of four New Orleanians still living with the consequences of governmental neglect. As COVID-19 disproportionately infects and kills Americans of color, the story feels especially relevant. "As a person of color, you always have it in the back of your mind that the government really doesn't care about you," said self-described Katrina overcomer, Alice Craft-Kerney.

**Intersectionality Matters!\*** - from The African American Policy Forum

Hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw, a leading, critical, race theorist who coined the term "intersectionality," this podcast brings the academic term to life. Each episode brings together lively political organizers, journalists and writers. [This recent episode](#) on COVID-19 in prisons and other areas of confinement is a must-listen.

**An Invitation to Brave Space** - by Rev. Jennifer Bailey (co- founder of The People's Supper and founder and executive Inclusivity director of Faith Matters Network) and Lennon Flowers (Co-founder of The People's Supper and co-founder and director of The Dinner Party; Ashoka Fellow and an Aspen Ideas Scholar).

Each of the podcasters founded non-traditional organizations that are attending to human needs which their world did not know how to deal with. They are also millennials. On October 17, 2018 Flowers and Bailey issued an invitation not to safe space but to brave space. Womanist theology is a religious conceptual framework which reconsiders and revises the traditions, practices, scripture and biblical interpretation with a special lens to empower and liberate African American women in America.

**Pod Save the People** - by DeRay Mckesson

This podcast started in 2017 and explores news, culture, social justice and politics.

**Reclaiming my Theology** - by Brandi Miller

This podcast looks at the consequences of white supremacy in the church and its theology.

**Throughline\*** - from NPR

Every week at Throughline, our pals Rund Abdelfatah and Ramtin Arablouei "go back in time to understand the present." To understand the history of systemic racism in America, we recommend [American Police](#), [Mass Incarceration](#) and [Milliken v. Bradley](#).

**Truth's Table** - Three women theologians, Michelle Higgins, Ekemini Uwan and Christian Edsonson.

"Midwives of culture for grace and truth."

**1619\*** - from The New York Times

"In August of 1619, a ship carrying more than 20 enslaved Africans arrived in the English colony of Virginia. America was not yet America, but this was the moment it began." Hosted by recent Pulitzer Prize winner Nikole Hannah-Jones, the 1619 audio series chronicles how black people have been central to building American democracy, music, wealth and more.



## ***The following resources are from an editorial by Michelle Alexander***

- New York Times, Monday June 8, 2020.

There are many excellent books, articles and films that can help to put our racial moment in context. A good place to start if you are new to racial justice history and advocacy is Ibram X. Kendi's [trio of books](#), *How to Be an Antiracist*, *Stamped From the Beginning*, and *Stamped*, his young adult book co-authored with Jason Reynolds. [Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor's](#) book *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation* and Ava Duvernay's film [13th](#) are especially relevant now. And Andrea Ritchie's book *Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color* is essential reading, given the comparatively little attention that police killings of black women typically receive. Paul Butler's book *Chokehold* is an excellent exploration of police violence against black men — past and present. The documentary *Whose Streets?*, depicting the aftermath of Michael Brown's murder and the uprisings in Ferguson, MO, will open your eyes to the tragedies and triumphs of that period, as well as "blatant racism and hypocrisy on display from the powers that be," in the words of a writer in [Rolling Stone Magazine](#).

No matter your race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, or background, you have much to gain by deepening your understanding of how we got to this place. I recommend reading classics like James Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time," Angela Davis's "Women, Race and Class" and the autobiography of Frederick Douglass, as well as books like "The Radical King," which feature writings and speeches of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that the mainstream media are inclined to ignore.



## **ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

Entries that are marked with \* are from the following NPR recommendation: *This List of Books, Films and Podcasts About Racism Is A Start, Not A Panacea*.

The books listed with \*\* were recommended by the New York Times as written by black women who, with their peers, are producing literature that is essential to how we understand the United States and its place in the world right now.

Entries with no asterisk were recommended by members of the Associates Leadership Team.

To help people be better allies, lists of antiracist books, films and podcasts are being published in droves. There's never a bad time to learn, but such a list can become erroneously prescriptive, a balm to centuries-old lacerations that cut deeper than the individual reader. [As Lauren Michele Jackson wrote for Vulture](#), "The word [anti-racism] and its nominal equivalent, 'anti-racist,' suggests something of a vanity project, where the goal is no longer to learn more about race, power, and capital, but to spring closer to the enlightened order of the antiracist."

So, with that in mind, we've compiled this list of books, films, and podcasts about systemic racism, acknowledging that they are just books, films and podcasts. You will find research on how racism permeates everything from the criminal justice system to health care. We hope you spend some time with these resources (and that you listen to **Code Switch** — [here's a list of episodes](#) to get you started). Information is power — you decide what you do with it. This is from NPR - Copyright 2020 NPR. To see more, visit [NPR](#).

***This document was prepared in the Summer of 2020 by the Associates Leadership Team.***

Peggy Gorman, *co-chair*

Jan Dunn, *rscj*

Kristi Laughlin

Angela Scott

Lori Wilson, *co-chair*

Mary Kay Hunyady, *rscj*

Katie Roeck

Sergio Vasquez

