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VIEW

Vermont Information Exchange for Women

Newsletter



June 4, 2020

We are heartbroken and outraged by the killings of George Floyd, David McAtee, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, Tony McDade, and so many others, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and friends, and to the Black community who have suffered so much loss at a result of white supremacy and systemic racism. We stand with Black Lives Matter and the protesters calling for justice. Dismantling white supremacy culture and systematic racism is up to all of us, and we are committed to making our feminism intersectional. That's why we are joining with a group of our organizational partners in an internal process to engage in a long-term, comprehensive exploration of racial justice in our work. Furthermore, we will continue to implore policymakers and the administration to appoint more people of color to our state's commissions, boards, and taskforces, including VCW, in addition to finding ways to support people of color running-for, and elected-to office; representation matters.

RACIAL EQUITY IS GENDER EQUITY

This edition of the VIEW contains the voices of black women, anti-racist tools and resources you can use, and news about what Vermont is doing to combat systemic racism.

Vermont Projects and Organizations to Follow and Support

- [Black Lives Matter Of Greater Burlington](#)
- [Black Lives Matter Vermont](#)
- [Community Voices for Immigrant Rights](#)
- [I am a Vermonter](#)
- [Justice For All](#)
- [Lost River Racial Justice](#)
- [Loving Day Vermont](#)
- [Migrant Justice](#)
- [Rise Upper Valley](#)
- [Rutland Area NAACP](#)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice:
 - [Burlington](#)
 - [Central Vermont](#)
 - [Middlebury](#)
 - [Upper Valley](#)
- [The Root Social Justice Center](#)
- [Vermont African American Heritage Trail](#)
- [Vermont Ethnic Studies Coalition](#)
- [Vermont Human Rights Commission](#)
- [Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity](#)
- [Vermont Racial Justice Alliance](#)
- [Vermonters for Justice in Palestine](#)

Learn more about racial justice work happening in Vermont by [watching the Peace & Justice Center's recent online](#) panel discussion. Panelists included representatives from organizations and groups that are doing racial justice work in Vermont.

Panelists gave an overview of what their group does and how you can get involved.

Buy from businesses owned by people of color

[People of Color Owned Vermont Businesses document](#) created by Christine Dolan

30-day anti-racism challenge, created by Tilly Krishna of Essex, a Peace & Justice Center member

[The 30 day challenge](#) offers an action step to take every day this month of June.

Racism - & anti-racism - in Vermont | VPR

[Yesterday, VPR's Jane Lindholm spoke with](#) Xusana Davis, Vermont's Executive Director for Racial Equity; Erin Maguire, director of equity, diversity, and inclusion at the Essex Westford School District; Christie Nold, a social studies teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington; Tabitha Moore, president of the Rutland Area NAACP in Vermont; Mark Hughes, co-founder and executive director of Justice For All and a member of Burlington's police commission; and Rajnii Eddins, a poet, author, facilitator and educator about race, racism, and anti-racism in Vermont.

Remember, no one is coming to save us by Roxane Gay | NY Times

"Eventually, doctors will find a coronavirus vaccine, but black people will continue to wait, despite the futility of hope, for a cure for racism. We will live with the knowledge that a hashtag is not a vaccine for white supremacy. We live with the knowledge that, still, no one is coming to save us. The rest of the world yearns to get back to normal. [For black people, normal is the very thing from which we yearn to be free.](#)"

A timeline of events that led up to the 2020 'Fed Up'-rising by Michael Harriot | The Root

[Without the proper context, it is impossible to understand the mushroom cloud of uprisings](#) that are exploding across the country in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others.

What the George Floyd protests reveal about policing in the U.S. | WBUR's On Point

Protests erupt against police brutality and use of force. In many cities, police are responding with even more force. [On Point looks at why it's happening and what it means about policing in America.](#)

Why so many police are handling the protests wrong | The Marshall Project

[Disproportionate use of force can turn a peaceful protest violent](#), research shows.

How to be anti-racist with Ibram X. Kendi & Jemele Hill | Aspen Ideas

"The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it — and then dismantle it," writes professor Ibram X. Kendi. That is the essence of antiracism: the action that must follow both emotional and intellectual awareness of racism. [Kendi sits down with journalist Jemele Hill to explore what an antiracist society might look like](#), how we can play an active role in building it, and what being an antiracist in your own context might mean.

10 Habits of someone who doesn't know they're anti-black by Cicely Blain | Stratagem

“White supremacy, and therefore anti-Blackness, are the waters we swim in. Anti-Blackness is our lexicon and only extensive, intentional, deep, deliberate, transformative, life-long work can make that change, even a little bit. So, while you may perceive yourself as distanced from the violent murders of Black folks, [the complicity of every non-Black person in anti-Blackness amounts to the sum total of an anti-Black world.](#)”

75 things white people can do for racial justice by Corinne Shutack | Medium

A continually updated article listing [75 concrete things white people can do for racial justice.](#)

Six simple ways white women can be feminist allies to Black communities by Tynisha Meidl and Anna Czarnik-Neimeyer| Ms. Magazine

“Our cross-racial authorship recognizes the solidarity struggle between Black feminists and white feminists—that we must be in this together. As a result of our friendship and feminist work, we have settled on [six simple ways that white women can be feminist allies.](#)”

Anti-racism resources for white people

A [public document sharing anti-racism resources for white people](#), compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein.

An anti-racist action guide by Zyahna Bryant | Teen Vogue

"There is an overwhelming expectation that Black activists & organizers will say something profound about Black death, but what I have to offer is not some profound truth but [a simple request: Take action.](#)"

Scaffolded anti-racism resources by Anna Stamborski, Nikki Zimmermann, & Bailie Gregory

This is a [working document for scaffolding anti-racism resources](#). The goal is to facilitate growth for white folks to become allies, and eventually accomplices for anti-racist work.

Fighting for an anti-racist future together by Jordan Brooks | Forbes

"To members of the Black community our hearts are broken for and with you. As you grieve and process your pain, you are seen and heard. We are listening and will support you in any and every way that we can. Take care of yourselves, and let us know how we can take care of you.

To non-Black allies: if you haven't done so already, please join us in taking immediate action for the Black community. Dismantling racism is the job of those of us who have privilege. [Let's get to work.](#)"

26 ways to be in the struggle beyond the streets

Created in response to police brutality in Ferguson, this piece is still relevant and offers [26 ways to get involved beyond attending rallies and protests](#).

Dear White Women, A letter reminding modern white feminist of their relationship with black women throughout history by Rachel E. Cargle

"It is evident through conversation that there is a gap in understanding of the realities black women face in this fight. Our feminisms still aren't lining up. The social, political and economic advancement of women has mostly benefited a specific sector of the gender: white women.'

So here in this space I want to hold a mirror, just for a moment to remind you of what your white skin holds when it comes into this ongoing discussion of

intersectionality and feminist theory. But I also want you to use this mirror I'm holding to peek beyond your own reflection. [I want you to consider and quite frankly internalize the history of the ways white and black women relate and how that very distinct relationship is reflected in society, specifically social justice and civil rights today.](#)"

Make direct payments to Black Vermonters

[\(Re\)Distribute Wealth Directly to Black People in Vermont](#) document tended by Moirha Smith, Jas Wheeler, and Candace Taylor

The unbearable grief of Black mothers By A. Rochaun Meadows-Fernandez | Vox

"As Black mothers, we are living in an especially troublesome time — sandwiched between the current public health threat of Covid-19 and the longtime reality of police brutality. [We are trapped in a double-bind of racism.](#)

While there's an influx of "pandemic grief guides," none are useful in teaching Black children that the virus is terrifying, but that racism is the public health crisis more likely to kill you. There are no instructions about where Black mothers are supposed to place their fears and sorrow."

Dear White People. This is what we want you to do by Kandise Le Blanc | Inside the Kandi Dish

"I want you to remember [Tony McDade](#) during Pride. I want you to remember [Ahmaud Abrey](#) during Independence Day. I want you to remember [George Floyd](#) when you vote in November. I want you to remember [Amy Cooper](#) at your Christmas dinner. I want you to remember [Breonna Taylor](#) when you hear a knock on your door. I want you to remember [Trayvon Martin](#) every time you see a bag of Skittles. [I want you to know that this reconditioning is a necessary lifelong endeavor.](#)"

Where to donate to help people fighting for racial justice by Elizabeth Yuko | Lifehacker

“More than a week after George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis, demonstrations around the country continue in the name of racial justice. [Here’s how to donate money to a cause that is actively working to fight police brutality and racial injustice.](#)”

Race & ethnicity resources | Teaching Tolerance

[Resources to cultivate positive identity formation, encourage students to confront racial and ethnic injustice, and prepare them to live and work together in a diverse world.](#) These resources can help you facilitate discussions about race and guide students through lessons on white privilege, economic inequality, mass incarceration, the complexities of identity, and more.

Talking race with young children | NPR

In addition to Jeanette Betancourt, senior vice president for Social Impact at Sesame Workshop, NPR spoke to Beverly Daniel Tatum, author of *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race* about [how to talk with children about race.](#)

Your kids aren't too young to talk about race: resource roundup by Katrina Michie | Pretty Good

[Resources for parents, caregivers, and teachers who want to talk to kids about race.](#)

Buying Black, rebooted by Anthonia Akitunde | NY Times

“By buying black, consumers are consciously disengaging from the viral cycle of corporate ignorance, public outrage and corporate apology. And in the face of

today's fraught politics and overt racism, it marks a return to a form of [economic protest from another time in America's not-so-distant history.](#)"

Vermont Medical Society pronounces systemic racism a public health threat | Vermont Business Magazine

"The VMS stands with the Vermont State Police, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and the American Academy of Pediatrics in Vermont (AAPVT) in denouncing not only police brutality against Black people, but in recognizing that racism and violence against people of color is unacceptable, unwarranted and a detriment to our country. [The continued discrimination against people of color has deep lasting health impacts, as well as divisive social impacts.](#) We cannot have a healthy nation if we continue to marginalize and harm any sector of our population.

Upcoming Events

Racial Justice Roundtable with Lt. Gov. Zuckerman

[TODAY, Thursday, June 4, 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.](#)

Hidden In Plain Sight: The Truth About Systemic Racism | Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

[TODAY, Thursday, June 4, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.](#)

#KIDLIT Community Rally for Black Lives | The Brown Book Shelf

[TODAY, Thursday, June 4, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.](#)

Honor Their Names | Montpelier Youth Organizers Noel Riby-Williams, MaryAnn Songhurst, and Mandy AbuAziz

[Saturday, June 6, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.](#)

Town Hall Addressing Racism | CNN & Sesame Street

[Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m.](#)

Use of Force: How Much is Enough and How Do We Know It? | Vermont Racial Justice Alliance

[Monday, June 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.](#)



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The Vermont Commission on Women (VCW) is a non-partisan state agency advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. Sixteen volunteer commissioners, along with representatives from organizations concerned with women's issues, guide VCW's public education, coalition building, and advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit us at <http://women.vermont.gov>.

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