

Standing in Solidarity with the Movement For Black Lives

- <https://bioneers.org/standing-in-solidarity-zmaz2006>



Bioneers stands in solidarity with Black communities and allies who are collectively rising up in resistance to systemic racism and state-sanctioned violence against Black lives. The unforgivable murder of George Floyd and so many others is not evidence of a broken system as much as the direct legacy of a nation built on colonization, genocide and slavery, evidence of a system working as initially designed. It is well past time for change and it is incumbent upon us all to work to dismantle white supremacy towards a just and equitable society.

“The city I live in has been alive with resistance. People have been in the streets. Hundreds have been arrested. And thousands now have faced tear gas, rubber bullets, and police violence while protesting.”

These are the words of activist Arielle Klagsbrun, not in response to the protests taking place in recent weeks, but in response to the Ferguson protests that took place nearly six years ago. Despite the relentless efforts of activists and organizers within the movement to dismantle systemic racism, it is all too clear that progress toward racial justice has been painfully slow at the cost of innocent human lives.

Thousands of individuals and organizations have been pouring their hearts and souls into this work for so long. As professor, scholar (and Bioneers board member) John A. Powell suggests in a recent essay for the Othering and Belonging Institute, "...fissures are beginning to appear in the system. And when cracks start to show, we have to keep on hammering."

This week, we lift up and highlight voices within our community for clarity and guidance as we seek to tear down the systems that have allowed — and encouraged — systemic racism and violence to persist.



"We have created a system that overrelies on law enforcement and prioritizes their money, their budget, their needs over everything else," says Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter and Reform L.A. Jails.

"I think these protests are massive in a way that we haven't seen them in years, for a number of reasons. Number one, we've had to live under four years of a Trump regime that has completely devastated communities financially, spiritually, emotionally. And number two, we have dealt with years of police brutality, police violence and police terror, with no accountability whatsoever. And this generation is tired. Enough is enough."



We're in a Moment of Collective Trauma. But There are Glimmers of Hope.

In this recent essay, professor John A. Powell acknowledges “the profound grief and trauma being experienced particularly in Black communities which, after centuries of struggle for freedom and equality, have seen the struggle move with fits and starts.”

But he says we must acknowledge our pain and embrace our hope at the same time, and let our care for the world guide us to create a better one together.

[Read more here.](#)

Backlash Moment: Converging at the Crossroads of Identity and Justice | Kimberlé Crenshaw

When Donald Trump rode a wave of white anxiety into the White House, it was part of a backlash to the Obama presidency, one that revealed an increasingly explicit white nationalism and revived an overtly exclusionary agenda: roll back rights and protections for people of color, immigrants, Muslims, women, and gay and transgender people. Then came the backlash to the backlash: a rapidly spreading awakening that all these peoples, movements and struggles are actually connected in one story. Visionary law professor and change-maker Kimberlé Crenshaw shows that it's only at the crossroads of our many identities that we will find a story big enough to embrace the diversity and complexity of our globalized 21st century world.

[Listen to the episode here.](#)

Arielle Klagsbrun – Open Letter from Ferguson Protestors and Allies | Bioneers

In this video from the Bioneers archive, a leader of the “Take Back Saint Louis” campaign, which seeks to remove tax incentives to corporations profiting from climate change, reads “An American Horror Story — Open Letter from Ferguson Protestors and Allies.” Unfortunately, this message still resonates today.

[Watch here.](#)

Voices to Follow

As Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) share their lived experiences of oppression and discrimination — as well as their wisdom for moving forward to dismantle the systems that perpetuate it — the value of *listening* to these voices right now cannot be overstated. Here are a few of so many inspiring BIPOC organizers and leaders that you should be paying attention to.

- [Patrisse Cullors](#), best known for being a co-founding partner of the Black Lives Matter movement, also wrote the *New York Times* best-selling book, “When They Call You a Terrorist.”
- [Kimberlé Crenshaw](#) is the executive director of the African American Policy forum and the host of their podcast, Intersectionality Matters!
- [The Audre Lorde Project](#) is a community organizing center for LGBT and gender non-conforming people of color.
- [Code Switch](#) is an NPR podcast hosted by a multi-racial, multi-generational team of journalists. Their episodes span overlapping themes of race, ethnicity and culture, how they play out in our lives and communities, and how all of this is shifting.
- [PolicyLink](#) is a national research and action institute advancing racial and economic equity by Lifting Up What Works®.
- [Dr. Rupa Marya](#) is a doctor, professor and leading activist whose work connects medicine with social justice.
- [The Othering & Belonging Institute](#) at UC Berkeley, directed by professor John A. Powell, advances research, policy, & communications in order to realize a world where all belong.
- [Anti-Racist Research Policy Center](#) convenes varied specialists to figure out novel and practical ways to understand, explain, and solve seemingly intractable problems of racial inequity and injustice.

- [The Southern Poverty Law Center](#), founded in 1971, combats hate, intolerance, and discrimination through education and litigation.
 - [Repairers of the Breach](#) is a nonprofit organization that seeks to build a moral agenda rooted in a framework that uplifts our deepest moral and constitutional values to redeem the heart and soul of our country.
 - [Color of Change](#) is an online racial justice organization that designs campaigns powerful enough to end practices that unfairly hold Black people back, & champion solutions that move us all forward.
 - [Maya Wiley](#) is a legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, as well as a University professor at the New School in NYC.
 - [Dream Corps](#) closes prison doors and opens doors of opportunity. This nonprofit organization brings people together across racial, social, and partisan lines to create a future with freedom and dignity for all.
 - [White Awake](#) is a network of people combatting white supremacy by focusing on educational resources and spiritual practices designed to engage people who've been socially categorized as "white" in the creation of a just and sustainable society.
 - [Showing Up for Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#) is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice.
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What We're Tracking:

- From Democracy Now!: "[‘America’s Moment of Reckoning’: Cornel West Says Nationwide Uprising Is Sign of ‘Empire Imploding’](#)" | As thousands from coast to coast took to the streets this weekend to protest the state-sanctioned killing of Black people, and the nation faces its largest public health crisis in generations and the highest unemployment rate since the Great Depression, professor Cornel West calls the U.S. a "predatory capitalist civilization obsessed with money, money, money."
- From MSNBC: "[Nikole Hannah-Jones: Black Americans are ‘demanding their full citizenship’](#)" | Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times Magazine* reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones and *New Yorker* staff writer Jelani Cobb discuss policing's roots in slave patrols and enforcement of white supremacy during Reconstruction.
- From LA Times: "[Op-Ed: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: Don't understand the protests? What you're seeing is people pushed to the edge](#)" | Kareem Abdul-Jabbar notes that "black protesters in the age of Trump and coronavirus are people pushed to the edge, not because they want bars and nail salons open, but because they want to live. To breathe."
- From the *New Yorker* archives: "[Letter from a Region in My Mind](#)" | This essay by James Baldwin opens with a thematic quote from 1962: "Whatever white people do not know about Negroes reveals, precisely and inexorably, what they do not know about themselves."