The Daily stands in solidarity with the Black community. Read our editors' statement.



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### **OP-EDS**

### Opinion: Letter to the President and Provost: Action items for achieving racial equity



(Photo: Fibonacci Blue)

By <u>Op-Ed</u> on June 19, 2020

Dear President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell,

I speak out of direct and particular anger at an academic conference, and a white woman says, "Tell me how you feel but don't say it too harshly or I cannot hear you." But is it my manner that keeps her from hearing, or the threat of a message that her life may change?

### - Audre Lorde

### ACTION ITEMS FOR ACHIEVING RACIAL EQUITY AT STANFORD

We, the Black student and postdoc community members in the Stanford University School of Medicine, are scared. We are exhausted. We don't feel safe on campus or in our communities. We have waited far too long for action. We have waited as our Black community members have faced continued harassment, discrimination and interactions whose outcomes include bodily harm. We have waited as countless student leaders beseeched the administration for change with no response and, in some cases, no acknowledgement. We have waited as the University pivoted the Long-Range Vision to contribute to recovery in response to the global pandemic, while virtually no action has been taken to address the "racism pandemic" present in our nation and on our campus. In this galvanizing moment, we feel the time for patience has passed. As an elite institution, we believe Stanford University has a duty and obligation to its Black community members to go beyond a statement. To address the backlog of student-led requests for racial equity on campus and truly embody the ideals outlined by the Presidential IDEAL initiative, we believe Stanford University must take immediate action.

We are in unwavering solidarity with and affirm the demands made by Stanford University Minority Medical Alliance (SUMMA), NOBCChE@Stanford, the coalition of Black student organizations gathered by the Stanford Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and the organizers and participants in the Rally for Racial Justice. To their uplifted voices, we, the Black student and postdoc members of the School of Medicine and our co-conspirators in liberation, add our own call for immediate action.

We ask for a financial commitment from Stanford University of at least \$25 million to be distributed according to the following demands, which were drafted and edited by SOM community members and approved by all signed organizations:

### Within 6 months (by Dec 2020)

1. Hold a University-wide town hall to solicit grievances and requests for actionable items to address and eliminate racial inequity from the broader Stanford community. A transparent record of the progress towards resolution of these grievances and actions should be documented and reviewed annually with the entire University.

- 2. *Make transparent and publicly available* an annual report regarding racism and discrimination on campus (e.g., Acts of Intolerance, Ombudsperson reports). Streamline the process of reporting "Acts of Intolerance" and centralize the reporting mechanism to a highly visible, easy to find location on the Stanford website. Protect the anonymity of those who speak out or identify acts of injustice or oppression. Ensure that survivors and whistleblowers are not subject to retaliation or any repercussions that threaten their place, funding, immigration status/clearance and/or position within the University. Ensure access to these reports for prospective students and trainees in a timely manner (i.e., before fellowships/appointments are accepted).
- 3. Affirm the protection of Black members of our community as they engage in nonviolent liberatory practices. Clearly state that members of our community who choose to take part in peaceful protests, regardless of their immigration status, will be supported and provide specific resources and assistance for groups that are more vulnerable. Apologize for previous messaging to the international students regarding protest attendance that was unnecessarily frightening.
- 4. Create and disseminate an annual campus-wide Climate Survey assessing racism, injustice, discrimination and oppression within the Stanford campus and by community members. Use these data as well as past grievances and issues catalogued by the Acts of Intolerance to create a formative strategic plan to be affirmed by the Black, Indigenous and marginalized Stanford community members.
- 5. Provide the Infrastructure for Improved Quality of Life and Well-Being of the Black Student Community. Well-being includes spiritual, mental, emotional and physical infrastructure that should be created within the University to support these activities. A financial commitment of \$3 million should be allocated to achieve this demand. Spiritual infrastructure includes items such as regular, continuous access to Black spiritual/religious leaders and services on campus as well as shuttle service (i.e., stop added to the Marguerite SE line) to off-campus gathering spaces (i.e., University AME Zion Church). Mental and emotional infrastructure should be applied systemically and include items such as hiring one Black therapist per five Black postdocs/post Ph.D. fellow/medical residents (as requested during Long-Range Planning). Mental and emotional infrastructure should also be accessible out-of-state given the global pandemic. Additionally, non-Black therapists at Stanford must complete training to address white privilege and white supremacy, particularly its impact and presence within the University. Physical well-being infrastructure should include items such as more Black fitness instructors, Black-owned restaurants (e.g., Coconuts, Jonathan's Fish & Fry and Black-owned food trucks on campus) and Black estheticians skilled in caring for and styling Black hair textures being present on campus.

### Within 12 months (by June 2021)

- 6. Create a centralized Office of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with full-time, permanent, experienced and diverse staff to oversee and implement these demands in the form of a forthcoming central Action Plan. This office should be headed by a Chief Equity Officer, that has a history of radical action and critical resistance to achieve justice and equity within an Academic or Industry setting. This office should go beyond the IDEAL initiative and stand as a clear co-conspirator to justice and equity initiatives from marginalized trainees, staff and faculty. This office is tasked with the following responsibilities: 1) manage subsequent responses to annual Climate Surveys; 2) unify Black trainees and offer a centralized office for resources; and 3) receive 'mandatory reports' for discriminatory acts that can ensure anonymity for trainees, staff or faculty experiencing and reporting racial injustice.
- 7. Ensure that Black faculty and trainees are included in the development and leadership of diversity programs designed to serve our community (e.g., IDEAL). Ensure that Black trainees are financially compensated for the labor and service provided to the University. Concomitant with this financial compensation, recognize the unique contribution of this service during training with a Letter of Recommendation by the Provost to be provided to the student/trainee as they advance to the next stage in Academia or Industry. Black faculty will be recognized for their service through a Letter of Recommendation by the Provost and President to be included within their tenure portfolios. Staff or faculty leaders of Stanford-created diversity task forces and/or programs should have a track record of conducting successful equity work and should be required to engage in additional antiracist training outside of the University by nationally recognized programs run by Black or Indigenous thought leaders.
- 8. Publish and renew the commitment to a Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan annually to meaningfully address issues that arise locally. This includes reaffirming support through incentives when schools and departments hit targeted milestones to ensure decolonization is a constant process. Targeted training for those schools and departments that demonstrate inadequate racial inclusivity will be mandatory and include consequences as drastic as loss of space and/or funding support.
- 9. *Make mandatory regular and universal anti-racist training for the entire Stanford community*. This training should be at least 8 hours long and must go beyond traditional training (i.e., implicit bias and microaggression) already available and in use. Anti-racist training must be renewed annually. Any individual that is reported to have committed or been involved with racial injustice must complete an additional *unpaid* 40 hours of anti-racist training as

- a first warning. Dismissal from their position should be a tangible and real consequence for faculty and staff that repeatedly engage in or demonstrate intractable discrimination.
- 10. Design and maintain Standards of Equity and Cultural Diversity within each School and Department. There should be a minimum of two Black trainees AND two faculty members in each department and program. Provide transparent resources and support for those persons. Provide evidence of recruitment by departments and programs through mechanisms and organizations that center the marginalized students (e.g. recruitment at HBCUs and within racial affinity professional organizations or conferences). Require schools and departments to report **annually** the number of Black trainees and faculty members employed and outline the specific efforts made to retain these individuals.
- 11. *Departmentalize African and African American Studies (AAAS)*. We fully support and reiterate the demands stated and expanded upon in the <u>petition</u> to departmentalize the AAAS program. Ensure that this department is eligible for directed endowment funds and is capable of hiring faculty members.

### Within 18 months (by Dec 2021)

- 12. Recruit and maintain 20% Black/African American (including US- and international-born) and 10% Indigenous students, postdocs, staff and faculty at Stanford. To assist in increasing recruitment of the aforementioned marginalized groups, we demand the removal of the standardized tests requirement (i.e., SAT and GRE) from the application process at undergraduate and graduate levels. Provide funding to support participation of these students in annual conferences which support marginalized student participation, like SUMMA, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) and the SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference. Ensure that past and future demographic data collected on faculty, staff, postdocs and students resolves monolithic reporting of "Black/African American." Specifically, participation of enslaved-descended African American (EDAA), African-American, Afro-Indigenous and Afro-Latinx participation should be collected and publicly reported.
- 13. Create an endowment intended for enslaved-descended African American students. Ensure at least \$5 million in financial support (e.g., scholarships and grants) for EDAA undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students in perpetuity. Financial support is commensurate with use of University resources to help people who believe themselves to be descendants of enslaved Africans trace and identify any potential familial roots. Endow one professorship in *each* School for a faculty member who identifies as an EDAA.
- 14. Commit to actions that ensure diversification of the research workforce with historically marginalized populations. Ensure that the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, VPGE and the

multiple Career Services Centers maintain staffing that provides a 2:1 ratio of Black staff to the marginalized graduate student and postdoc population. Ensure the Black staff hired are placed in positions of power and seniority. Commit to a 100% job placement rate for Black postdocs following completion of their last stage of training at Stanford University and ensure this achievement through new infrastructure and resources in the aforementioned offices. At the completion of their training, require Black graduate students and postdocs to complete a mandatory exit survey to follow their career trajectory and assess the quality of training and support received while at Stanford. Provide expert and specialized assistance for Black academics submitting equity- or diversity-specific grants (e.g., diversity K-awards, health disparities grants, administrative supplements, loan repayment programs). Create a PI waiver for Black postdocs and staff to support career development and address historical funding disparities.

- 15. Commit to increasing the annual funding support of the Black Community Service Center and Martin Luther King Jr. Institute by a minimum of \$1 million, each. Ensure that BCSC has the capacity (e.g., staff support and paid student fellowships) and support extension of their services to postdocs, visiting teaching fellows, medical school residents, Mellon fellows and any trainee within the post-PhD/pre-Faculty period of training.
- 16. Observe June 19th as a **paid** University-wide holiday. Disseminate anti-racist resources and training activities/modules in commemoration of this day to be contemplated and completed annually. Recognize and affirm the contributions by the descendants of the enslaved people to the legacy of Stanford University on this day.

We write this letter with full knowledge that future generations of Stanford students, postdocs, staff, faculty, alumni and the wider public will look back on this time and ask, "How did Stanford respond to the Black Lives Matter movement of 2020?" We believe that a just future is obtainable only through our collective action. We believe your leadership, President Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Drell, to be within the arc of a moral universe bending our institution towards justice and that you are willing to act on that belief in this revolutionary moment. Together, we can move towards making Stanford University a space in which Black students, postdocs, staff and faculty feel truly safe, supported and included.

We look forward to your response and committed action to affirm that on Stanford University's campus, Black Lives more than Matter.

In Righteous and Resounding Solidarity,

Stanford Black Postdoc Association (SBPA)

National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers at Stanford (NOBCChE@Stanford)

Stanford National Medical Association (SNMA)

Stanford University Minority Medical Alliance (SUMMA)

Stanford Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA)

Stanford Black Pre-Med Organization

Stanford Black Bioscience Organization (SBBO)

Biomedical Association for the Interest of Minority Students (BioAIMS)

The Blackprint: Building Black Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs

Society of Black Scientist and Engineers (SBSE)

Stanford First-Generation and/or Low-Income Partnership

Stanford African Students Association

Stanford Black Student Union

Stanford Black Pre-Law Society (BPLS)

Stanford University Postdoctoral Association (SURPAS) Leadership & Council

Stanford Latinx Postdoc Association (SLPA)

oSTEM and the LBGTQ+ postdocs

Stanford Native American Graduate Students (SNAGS)

Stanford Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)

Stanford Hermanas in STEM

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Black Engineering Graduate Student Association (BEGSA)

Stanford Black Business Student Association (BBSA)

Black in Computer Science at Stanford

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Op-Ed

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In the past, Atlas has advocated for reopening of schools and claimed that ...

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GM · 2 months ago · edited

So to recap/translate:

- undermine that mission. And we will do so in the middle of the biggest budget crunch since the are, at best, purely dissipative, or, which is more likely to happen in practice, will actively advancing knowledge by doing research and teaching, and divert them to various activities, that 1930s, when hiring is frozen and all discretionary expenditure is forbidden. 1. We will take valuable resources away from the core mission of the university, which is
- totally in love with showing off how woke they are; which alone should give everyone a huge hand in hand (whether it is a coincidence or not, but major predatory corporations these days are corporatize the institution, because administrative creep and corporatization have been going on society). Which will again be at the expense of the positions in research. It will also help further tuition is so high, which in turn, ironically, is not at all helping poor black people to get ahead in is a trend that has been unfolding over many decades in universities, and is a major reason why various "studies" programs, and who would otherwise be completely unemployable because people's minds). This will, of course, be greatly beneficial for the people who graduated from the reason to rethink the whole thing, but for some reason that thought has never crossed most 2. We will grow the cancer that is university administration even more (BTW, administrative creep

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Ben Sukromny → GM · 2 months ago

No you're missing the point. These are good ideas. If you disagree with them, you are racist. Duh.



papayapulp -> Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago · edited

Send'em off to the reeducation camp!



Rush'N Collusion → Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

being serious. expressions, people will have difficulties understanding whether you joking or Don't make jokes online, without hearing your tone or seeing your facial



Ran Silkramny A Riich'N Calliction . 9 months and



"Don't make jokes online." Who said I was joking?

> < Reply · Share



# Rush'N Collusion → Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

Reply • Share •

You're racist then...

> <



# Ben Sukromny → Rush'N Collusion · 2 months ago

No you.



# Rush'N Collusion → Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

good ideas - you are! So you're the one who is racist here I am not the one who thinks that race based discrimination policies are



## MethAndFentanyl • 2 months ago

virtue-signaling tools may be admitted. Only then will we have justice! George Floyd University. The SAT requirement must be permanently removed so more dumb. Floyd. The Stanford clock tower must permanently read 8:46. The University must be re-named This letter does not go far enough! All campus statues must be replaced by statues of George

21 ^ | V · Reply · Share ·



## Alex → MethAndFentanyl · 2 months ago

be an Anti-racist by Ibram X. Kendi. Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in The Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander, How to A Black Women's History of the United States by Diana Berry and Kali Gross, The New US. Here are some suggested resources: Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X Kendi, the demands above (if taken literally). Please educate yourself on anti-Black racism in the This is a) extremely ignorant, b) not funny, c) actually a decent list of suggestions to add to

GRE, as these tests are biased against Black students white superiority. Stanford should certainly remove the SAT requirement in addition to the And to harp on your last point - the SAT was created by a eugenicist in attempt to prove

> 5 · Reply · Share ·



Ben Sukromny → Alex · 2 months ago

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### Rollie • 2 months ago

"Any individual that is reported to have committed or been involved with racial injustice must complete an additional unpaid 40 hours of anti-racist training as a first warning."

cost and trouble of due process because, you know, the presumption of innocence is for ...reported..." So accusation alone shall equal guilt? Great. The university can then save all the

chumps.



## Sword of Apollo · 2 months ago

standardized tests requirement..." recruitment of the aforementioned marginalized groups, we demand the removal of the 10% Indigenous students, postdocs, staff and faculty at Stanford. To assist in increasing "Recruit and maintain 20% Black/African American (including US- and international-born) and

graduated from Stanford) that's a good way to do it.... If you want to make people afraid of having black doctors and nurses, (especially those who



### charlesriver · 2 months ago

In short, convert Stanford to a re-education camp.



### Liberty · 2 months ago

This is depressing and shameful. 1984 is here.



## Lailoken Scathach · 2 months ago

mass hysteria needs to be checked and reversed. These people are delusional - stop giving in to their pointless demands. This moral panic and



# fredgill → Lailoken Scathach · 25 days ago · edited

virtue deserted college administrators 50 years ago. It takes courage to stand up to a mob, especially one as well-financed as BLM. That



### mogden • 2 months ago

seriously. These demands are absurd. Any organization that signed on to them can no longer be taken



## Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

asian people will need to resign. You will need to ask white people and asian people to voluntarily To get 20% African American and 10% indigenous post docs, faculty, and staff, white people and



## Paul Simons · 2 months ago

entitlement and a demand for more entitlement. Wow. From an "educated" person. This isn't a word in this diatribe that isn't dripping with

C



## Fatwa Arbuckle · 2 months ago

When Leland Stanford, Jr. was 12, he was rude to a black Southern Pacific porter.

# BURN THE WHOLE RACIST PLACE TO THE GROUND!

5 A V · Reply · Share



## Alex → Fatwa Arbuckle · 2 months ago

address as governor. Do not trivialize these racist actions and the very reasonable and these troops. He also vowed to protect California from the "dregs of Asia" in his inaugural necessary demands articulated above. Native Americans in California and approved legislation increasing compensation for Leland Stanford was a staunch white supremacist. He fielded a US army operation to kill

^ | ∨ 1 · Reply · Share



## Ben Sukromny → Alex · 2 months ago

Reasonable! lol





### amylclark • 2 months ago

Gee, is that all?

5 ^ | V · Reply · Share ·



## Clark → amylclark · 2 months ago

Berry and Kali Gross, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in The Age of Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi, A Black Women's History of the United States by Diana Please educate yourself on this matter. Here are some resources: Stamped from the Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander These demands are not nearly enough to correct centuries of anti-Black racism in the US



## Ben Sukromny → Clark · 2 months ago

Haha.

1 ^ | < · Reply · Share ·



# Que Saisje → Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

Clark and his or her many alter egos are very creative with these messages.





### slm · 2 months ago

power!' You preachers of equality, thus from you the tyrant-madness of impotence cries for "Equality"shall be the name of virtue; and we shall raise outcry against everything that has 'equality': your secret tyrant-appetite disguises itself in words of virtue. -Nietzsche



### Kylie → slm · 2 months ago

Rodney; Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi; Racism Without Racists by of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander; How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, by Walter are some resources to get you started: The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in The Age appear intelligent. Perhaps instead you could educate yourself on anti-Black racism. Here Eduardo Billa-Silva Your comment suggests you've taken Philosophy 101 and have an unfettered desire to

^ | ∨ 2 · Reply · Share



## Ben Sukromny → Kylie · 2 months ago

Same exact list of books again from a different user...

1 ^ | V · Reply · Share



Justin → Ben Sukromny · 2 months ago

noticed the repeated comments. Looks like someone is trying to sell books. Maybe it's a spam bot? I've

2 ^ | V · Reply · Share ·



### anon · 2 months ago

only 1-2% of the US population is native american? (via 2010 census)

5 ^ | V · Reply · Share



## Ben Sukromny → anon · 2 months ago

injustice. There is nothing too extreme You don't understand equity. It's not about proportionality. It's about correcting historical

∧ | ∨ 4 · Reply · Share ›



## V.Lind → Ben Sukromny · a month ago

Read Harrison Bergeron by Vonnegut.

Reply · Share ·



## SouthernCinderella · 2 months ago

world. They are SO fortunate just to be able to attend a college like Stanford. I am actually capable of figuring this out for themselves. It's painfully obvious they had a privileged upbringing truly is. This is absolutely pathetic! These kids would learn a good lesson by discontinuing their many fortunate people complaining so much over having it so good...EVER! embarrassed for them. It would seem their parents failed them. SO very sad. I've never see so fortunate than they...and there are plenty of people FAR worse off! It's sad that they aren't whining and actually taking the time and making the effort to actually HELP people who are less Community volunteer work would go a long way in introducing them to REAL life in the REAL Talk about a bunch of privileged, spoiled brats who have NO idea what oppression or hardship



4 ^ | V · Reply · Share

# Bree → SouthernCinderella · 2 months ago

This is extremely ironic and reflects that you have no understanding of the barriers

steps for dismantling it: Historically White Universities and Plantation Politics: Anti-2018; Advice to White Allies: Insights from Faculty of Color. Boutte & Jackson, 2014; What Blackness and Higher Education in the Black Lives Matter Era. Darcy II, Edwards, & Davis, supposed privilege, you could educate yourself on anti-Black racism in academia and imposed on Black students in higher education. Perhaps instead of calling out their Academia Do Better. Jasmine Roberts; Ten simple rules for building an anti-racist lab Black Scientists Want from their Colleagues and Institutions. Virginia Gewin; White Opinion: Letter to the President and Provost: Action items for achieving racial equity - The Stanford Daily



Tom · 2 months ago

Whoever wrote this was hallucinating at the time. These demands are insane.

4 ^ | ~ · Reply · Share ·



Que Saisje → Tom · 2 months ago

Black Lives Matter!



V.Lind → Que Saisje · a month ago

so worked up about their farcical demands. Everyone knows, or bloody well should, that black lives matter, But BLM DOES NOT. Take a look at at its website and see what they are really after before you get

noses of a black member of the community. Chinese-style re-education centres if they even are accused of getting up the anarchistic force that wants to chuck white people out of jobs or send them off to But it has quickly been co-opted, or has morphed, into a destructive and black Americans have endured for far too long at the hands of their police forces Black Lives Matter began as a sincere and spontaneous outpouring over the abuse

disproportionate. economic as well as the medical and social effects of Covid-19, are ludicrous,, and These financial demands, at a time when the entire country is reeling from the

listening. the other. BLM has yet to demonstrate that it is familiar with the concept of exercise their own demands: for good faith dialogues and for each side to listen to It's about time institutions stopped bending over to every demand and started to

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share



Que Saisje → V.Lind · 22 days ago

BLM is a criminal movement.

∧ | ∨ · Reply · Share ›



Bree → Tom · 2 months ago

Strongly disagree. If these demands seem 'insane', it is because we have become far too comfortable with white supremacy in academia



## Que Saisje → Bree · 2 months ago

BLM should just burn the place down!



## papayapulp · 2 months ago · edited

version of that, then your list is a pretty good start. Just be warned, Evergreen is mostly famous for its spacious parking lot these days. Hey, anyone remember Evergreen State College up in Washington? If you want a Stanford-sized



# Ben Sukromny → papayapulp · 2 months ago

I am happy for Stanford to burn to the ground as long as it is after I have graduated.



## Que Saisje · 2 months ago · edited

should be St. George Floyd University. Why didn't they demand renaming the university? Leland Stanford was a racist! The new name

"Black Lives more than Matter."

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4 ^ | V · Reply · Share
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## Alex → Que Saisje · 2 months ago

you not even type that in your own words? necessary demands articulated above. Also, why is Black Lives Matter in quotes? address as governor. Do not trivialize these racist actions and the very reasonable and these troops. He also vowed to protect California from the "dregs of Asia" in his inaugural Native Americans in California and approved legislation increasing compensation for Leland Stanford was a staunch white supremacist. He fielded a US army operation to kill





### Big Al • 2 months ago

Anything to get out of having to do homework...



# SouthernCinderella → Big Al · 2 months ago

They will demand colleges do away with that next and just hand over their degrees



# Clare → SouthernCinderella · 2 months ago

academia today? Why are you trivializing this list of urgently needed demands? Who is "they"? Are you not also outraged by the anti-Black racism pervasive in





## Lane → Big Al · 2 months ago

Opinion: Letter to the President and Provost: Action items for achieving racial equity - The Stanford Daily

Your ignorant comment indicates you are posting here rather than doing your own homework of learning about anti-black racism in the US. Here are some suggestions for getting started: Stamped from the Beginning by Ibram X. Kendi, A Black Women's History of the United States by Diana Berry and Kali Gross, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in The Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander

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