

CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT RACIAL JUSTICE

June 2, 2020 | UMKC University Libraries' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

We have compiled a list of some ways that you can support racial justice and ask that you engage in as many of these acts of solidarity as possible.

EDUCATE YOURSELF, CHALLENGE YOURSELF, CHALLENGE EACH OTHER

All White colleagues should read at least one of the following selected articles and schedule a chat with 1-2 other White colleagues to talk about systemic racism, your participation in perpetuating this system, and actions you will take to make anti-racism part of your lived values. Prioritize it and schedule something ASAP.

- [Do you really want to help?](#) / Joel A Brown
- [For our white friends desiring to be allies](#) / Courtney Ariel
- [Becoming trustworthy white allies](#) / Melanie S. Morrison
- [How white people can be better allies to the Black community](#) / Jackie Saffert
- [African Americans are traumatized. We need white allies to step up the fight against racism](#) / Michael Paul Williams

LISTEN/FOLLOW and LEARN

If you are White, listen to your Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) colleagues. Many are active on a variety of social media platforms. Read the articles they post. See who they are following and follow them. You don't have to engage in these posts. Just read to understand. Recognize that each day that BIPOC "show up" to work, they do so under the trauma of a culture that actively dehumanizes their community groups. Consider how white supremacy culture and messaging have contributed to your own values and biases.

ATTEND TO YOUR EMOTIONS

Especially to our BIPOC colleagues-- breathe, cry, scream in your car, take time off, talk with your circle, set your boundaries, engage in self-care. Take the space you need and connect with whom you need to in order to process.

For our White colleagues who might feel defensive, angry, frustrated, or sad - don't be afraid to engage with these emotions. Think about why you have these feelings in response to these events. This discomfort can signal an important moment for learning and growth. Consider [watching Robin DiAngelo being interviewed about white fragility](#), or reading [her book](#).

DONATE

Many groups are organizing, supporting protesters, and advocating for systemic change. If you are able, make a monetary donation to organizations that support this cause, such as:

- One Struggle KC: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/it-aint-over-legal-fund>
- KC Solidarity Bail Fund: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8px1uqffn7>
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ): <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/surj>

- Black Lives Matter: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019
- Minnesota Freedom Fund: <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/donate>

PROTEST, SIGN A PETITION, or CALL YOUR POLITICIANS

- [Petition for KCPD Accountability](#)
- Contact Mayor Quinton Lucas
 - mayorq@kcmo.gov
 - Facebook: [quinton.lucas](#)
 - Twitter: [@MayorLucasKC](#)
 - 816-513-3500
- Contact your senators:
https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- Contact your representative: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

Keep going. Build your knowledge so that you can continue to engage in more meaningful anti-racist practice. Here are additional resources:

- Ibram X. Kendi's "[The Anti-Racist Reading List](#)"
- [UMKC University Libraries DEI Reading List](#)
- Nicole Cooke's [Anti-Racism Resources for all ages](#)
- [Kansas City Public Library Anti-Racism Reading List: "This Week in the News: #BlackLivesMatter in Kansas City"](#) - includes links to local and national news coverage, podcasts and other web resources, and books
- AnOther magazine: [An Ongoing List of Ways to Join the Anti-Racist Fight](#)