

Progressive Librarians Guild Resources on Black Lives Matter

The Progressive Librarians Guild stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and the global uprisings decrying the continued murders of Black people by police and white vigilantes.

Below, we highlight three categories of resources. First, selected statements issued by individuals and organizations of library and information workers. Second, resources to assist in becoming anti-racists personally, professionally, and within our communities. Third, resources focused specifically on demands to defund and demilitarize police forces and to abolish carceral practices and institutions.

Leading this offering of resources are statements from three Black colleagues reflecting the urgency of action and reflection in regard to anti-racist work:

Trevor Dawes wrote on June 4, “We can call out racist rhetoric, for example, and then in the next (or even the same) breath also say we must protect ‘free speech.’ What message does that send to the person against whom that rhetoric was directed? It says you don’t care! At least, that’s what it says to me. This is a very simple example of the type of change that can happen, but doesn’t. And it makes me angry. And it makes me sad.” <https://trevordawes.wordpress.com/2020/06/04/statements/>

Carolyn Lawrence wrote on June 5, “we all want to see action behind the words. I don’t want to feel like racism is something that is ‘trending’ but something that is handled with respect and dignity and not just pretty words.” <https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolyn-lawrence-aa1b28b5/>

Nicole Cooke wrote on June 19, “Just reading gives you the false confidence to doubt your BIPOC colleagues, instead of accepting the painful truths about their experiences. Just reading absolves you from

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doing the real work, and allows you to perhaps even resent or discount the hard work BIPOC are doing to safeguard their existence.” <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/83626-reading-is-only-a-step-on-the-path-to-anti-racism.html>

LIS Statements

American Library Association statement:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2020/06/alastatement-condemning-police-violence-against-bipoc-protesters-and>

Black Caucus of ALA:

<https://www.bcala.org/statement-condemning-increased-violence-and-racism-towards-black-americans-and-people-of-color>

Librarians, Curators and Archivists: an affiliate of the Association for the Study of African American Life & History:

<https://asalhip.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/statements-and-resources-in-support-of-the-black-lives-matter-protests/>

Librarian organizations and libraries:

<https://www.infodocket.com/2020/06/01/statements-from-library-organizations-re-racism-and-increased-violence/>

We Here: <https://www.wehere.space/news/black-lives-matter>

Anti-Racist Resources

Anti-Racism Resources for All Ages, by Nicole Cooke (2020):

<https://padlet.com/nicolethe librarian/nbasekqoazt336co>

Anti-racist work in libraries: <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/article/racial-healing-resources-library-workers-and-scholars>

Critical Writing on Race in LIS:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CpoTYqagGg4rOnnNgY-TEuyePXDDjpEWefkBRLpn204/edit#heading=h.k93idxb3btqv>

In Pursuit of Antiracist Social Justice: Denaturalizing Whiteness in the Academic Library, by Freeda Brook et al. (2015):

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/610078>

Reading is Only a Step on the Path to Anti-Racism, by Nicole

Cooke (2020): <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/83626-reading-is-only-a-step-on-the-path-to-anti-racism.html>

School libraries and anti-racism, by Jennifer Sturge (2020):

<https://knowledgequest.aasl.org/school-libraries-and-antiracism/>

Resources on Police Defunding & Prison Abolition

PLG's contribution to the many resource lists compiled by librarians regarding racism at this historic moment focuses on the history of police violence, prison abolition, and the defunding of police. PLG encourages library and archive workers across the United States to become informed about what "defunding" and "abolition" mean to advocates of these movements. We further encourage our colleagues to take this information out into their communities. Our libraries can help communities delve more deeply into these issues than can the mainstream media.

The History of Policing

Critical Resistance Policing Timeline:

<http://criticalresistance.org/policing-timeline/>

History and Current Manifestations of Policing, Violence & Resistance (Pamphlet Series):

<https://policeviolence.wordpress.com/historical-moments/>

MPD 150: A People's Guide to Evaluating Policing:

<https://www.mpd150.com/report-old/timeline/>

Where do Police Come From?

<https://scalawagmagazine.org/2016/09/where-do-police-come-from/>

LibGuides, Reading Lists, and Syllabi

Black Lives Matter: Systemic Racism and Activism Lib Guide

(Princeton University): <https://libguides.princeton.edu/BlackLivesMatter-SystemicRacismAndActivism>

Black Lives Matter: Policing and Incarceration Lib Guide

(Princeton University): <https://libguides.princeton.edu/BlackLivesMatter-PolicingAndIncarceration>

Prison Abolition Syllabus 2.0:

<https://www.aaihs.org/prison-abolition-syllabus-2-0/>

A Reading List on Policing, Rebellion, and the Criminalization of Blackness: <https://www.radicalhistoryreview.org/abusablepast/reading-towards-abolition-a-reading-list-on-policing-rebellion-and-the-criminalization-of-blackness/>

Resources and Reports

8 to Abolition Resources: <https://www.8toabolition.com/>

The end goal of these reforms is not to create better, friendlier, or more community-oriented police or prisons. Instead, we hope to build toward a society without police or prisons, where communities are equipped to provide for their safety and well-being.

Chart: Reformist reforms vs. abolitionist steps in policing:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59ead8f9692e-bee25b72f17f/t/5b65cd58758d46d34254f22c/1533398363539/CR_NoCops_reform_vs_abolition_CRside.pdf

Developed by Critical Resistance.

Critical Resistance Abolish Policing Resources:

<http://criticalresistance.org/abolish-policing/>

As an abolitionist organization, Critical Resistance supports abolitionist reforms to dismantle the systems of policing and works to create viable alternatives in our communities.

Database for Police Abolition: <https://www.d4pa.org/>

The Database for Police Abolition (D4PA) is a database-in-progress aiming to track nationwide proposals to defund, disarm, and disempower police departments, and to empower alternatives to policing.

Interrupting Criminalization:

<https://www.interruptingcriminalization.com/>

The project aims to interrupt and end the growing criminalization and incarceration of women and LGBTQ people of color for criminalized acts related to public order, poverty, child welfare, drug use, survival and self-defense, including criminalization and incarceration of survivors of violence.

MPD 150: <https://www.mpd150.com/resources/>

MPD150 is a participatory, horizontally-organized effort by local organizers, researchers, artists and activists. It is not the project of any organization. We stand on the shoulders of the work that many organizations have been doing for years and welcome the support of everyone who agrees with our approach. We hope that the process we are developing will help organizers in other cities to establish practical abolitionist strategies.