

Anti-Racism: A Resource List

The discussions centering on racism and inclusion within the knitting and crochet community in 2019 meant that many of us took a necessary pause to reflect on the important matters at hand, to learn, and to make changes. The murder of George Floyd on 25th May 2020 and the prominence of the #blacklivesmatter movement surrounding his death has once again highlighted the very real effects racial prejudice has on the lives of BIPOC. We wanted to collate and share some of the resources which the Pom team have found helpful in the hope that they're of use to others.

Instead of progressing a few more centimeters on your WIP, why not put down your needles and access some of the links or suggested reading material below? We've put together a list of ways you can practice anti-racism, ranging from donating to initiatives which need financial support, to how to offer non-financial aid, to how to effect long term change. We encourage you to follow the links in this document, or to download it and tick off these suggestions as you access them (but don't stop when you get to the end, add your own)! This document is by no means exhaustive, so if this is the start of your anti-racism journey, then we urge you to think of these suggestions as a springboard to help you on your way.

Long Term Change

After the news cycles have finished their revolution and the black squares are making their way down everyone's grid never to be scrolled past again, the fight against racism must continue. Here are a few ways in which you can take responsibility and continue the work.

Educate Yourself

The education system in the UK and the US has failed People of Colour, from neglecting to mention their roles in slavery and colonisation to prioritising white authored literature. There's a wealth of online and print resources with which you can learn about these topics, along with different forms of racism, and ways in which you can help combat inequality on a personal scale and beyond. Talking to People of Colour about issues relating to race often demands a huge amount of emotional labour on

their part. Therefore, do not ask BIPOC to educate you, and if you access a resource then pay the creator(s) for their anti-racism work if there's an option to.

Literature

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race (2017) by Reni Eddo-Lodge

Based on a blog post Reni Eddo-Lodge published in 2014, this book discusses the history of racism in Britain, and the other facets of identity which intersect with race, such as gender and class.

Taking Up Space: A Black Girl's Manifesto For Change (2019) by Chelsea Kwakye and Oṛe Ogunbiyi

Drawing on their personal experiences and the stories of other Black women, Chelsea Kwakye and Oṛe Ogunbiyi discuss the barriers Black people face both to and within the UK's higher education system. To Black women they offer advice in navigating the university experience and space, to a white reader they offer an awareness of what that same experience looks like when you're a person of colour.

So You Want to Talk About Race (2018) by Ijeoma Olou

Each chapter centres on a topic relating to race and racism, such as police brutality, privilege, the BLM movement, and many more.

How to be an Anti-Racist (2019) by Ibram X. Kendi

A valuable education on the real history of racism in the United States and how it still survives to this day. On the author's website is a downloadable discussion guide for book clubs (or among a circle of friends).

Me and White Supremacy (2020) by Layla F. Saad

Galvanised by the popularity of her #meandwhitesupremacy challenge on Instagram, Layla F. Saad published a book of the same name. Her publication is a workbook which teaches its white reader how to recognise their own privilege and challenge it.

The Good Immigrant (2016) edited by Nikesh Shukla and Chimene Suleyman

This edited collection questions why People of Colour in the UK only become 'good immigrants' when they achieve something outstanding, such as winning a world title. The book consists of 21 stories which explore what it means and feels like to be Other within the UK.

Journals

Gal Dem - an online and print publication committed to sharing perspectives from women and non-binary people of colour. <https://gal-dem.com>

The Good Journal - four-part journal showcasing the work of writers and illustrators of colour.

<https://www.thegoodjournal.co.uk>

Articles

75 Things White People can do for Racial Injustice:

<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>

Three Black Women Tell Us How to Support the #blacklivesmatter movement that goes beyond posting an image on Instagram:

<https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/how-to-support-black-lives-matter>

How To Ally, by @wastefreemarie: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CA8FJhIhhRt/>

Sew Politik: why we need to understand sewing as a political act, and why it matters, by Roisin Taylor:

<https://www.giveherpockets.com/post/sew-politik-why-we-need-to-understand-sewing-as-a-political-act-and-why-it-matters>

About a Pink Sweater, by Sophie Cai:

<https://www.pompommag.com/about-a-pink-sweater-an-essay-by-sophia-cai/>

Learning and Unlearning: an interview with Emi Ito on cultural appropriation, by Pom Pom

Quarterly:

<https://www.pompommag.com/learning-and-unlearning-an-interview-with-emi-ito-on-cultural-appropriation/>

The Pom Team's Fave Books by Authors of Colour

A Small Place (1988) by Jamaica Kincaid

Americanah (2013) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Afropolitan: Notes from a Black Europe (2019) by Johny Pitts

Hunger (2017) by Roxane Gay

All About Love (2000) by bell hooks

The Bluest Eye (1970) by Toni Morrison

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) by Zora Neale Hurston

Girl, Woman, Other (2019) by Bernardine Evaristo

Beyond the Gender Binary (2020) by Alok Vaid-Menon

Follow Educational Instagram Accounts

It goes without saying that all the charities, authors, and publications we reference in this document are worth following if they have Instagram accounts, but here are a few bonus recommendations:

@brownhistory - this account posts personal anecdotes from people who identify as South Asian or of South Asian descent and reminds their followers of important (and often not talked about) historical moments in South Asian history.

@blackgirlknitclub - a community of black women and women of colour based in London. They host workshops on colonialism and West African textile history, and post a number of tutorials for skills such as hand knitting.

@thegreatunlearn - a monthly syllabus curated by Rachel Cargle, dedicated to unlearning that which is presented as factual and objective in American history books.

@booksfordiversity - a great resource for children's stories which represent cultures and people from all over the world.

Buy from PoC-Owned Businesses

BIPOC in Fiber have put together a directory of - you guessed it - BIPOC in fiber, including authors, dyers, and designers. When you're planning your next project, why not check out this directory first?

<https://bipocinfiber.com/people/#s=1>

Accountability

Please note that if you're going to use any of the templates below, we recommend that you re-word them slightly, as emails which have been copied and pasted can often be automatically sorted into the recipient's spam folder.

- Template for holding your employer accountable for racial injustice by Rachel Cargle:
<https://www.patreon.com/posts/37737054>
- Template to contact your representative re. police brutality:
<https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1z6P7fwyAgRYFD4YXu22YIIfCUSLDKxxyNzp2cU0eMkI/mobilebasic>
- Template for contacting your MP by @ZayZee00 (Twitter) re the sale of tear gas, riot shields and rubber bullets from the UK-US:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bYQQz_JLJ-O-ITskmOCrYSuMZDP8WVxwGXjDEtQrbr8/preview?pru=AAABcp6onVk*jyUttRheN-ilRZi_yd_8EA
- Template for contacting Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education, UK) and your local MP about diversifying the curriculum:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XHz8NJph6laVBFnuzhIzAzFTqjffT4-ucEt9EO6_Fw/edit
- Check out a brand's feed before you buy from them. Can you see many (or any!) black or brown faces? If not many, maybe question whether their black square was a shallow marketing strategy to keep themselves relevant.

Juneteenth

As many of you know, our two PPHQs are located in London and Austin. June 19th is an important day in Texan history. On this day in 1865, the last enslaved people in the US were informed of their freedom, two and a half years after emancipation was supposed to have been enacted and enforced. In other words, it represents the date on which enslaved people in the southern states found out they

were supposed to have been free over two years earlier. It is a day for celebration, but also for reverence and action.

- Author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson reads *Juneteenth* but replaces the word 'slave' with 'enslaved person':
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CBl8PRip41Q/?utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=ecd600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://www.instagram.com/p/CBl8PRip41Q/?utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=ecd600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=[UNIQID])
- 'Juneteenth: The Black Independence Day You Never Learned About in School', by @kahlil.greene:
[https://www.instagram.com/p/CBb0IEIHjg8/?utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=eed600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://www.instagram.com/p/CBb0IEIHjg8/?utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=eed600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=[UNIQID])
- Sign the petition to make Juneteenth a national holiday (via Black Lives Matter):
[https://actionnetwork.org/forms/2006_email_blm_juneteenth?source=em20_200618_JuneteenthEvent&link_id=9&can_id=319e6b609ad8649127b535b7c798e303&email_referrer=email_836880&email_subject=juneteenth-events-near-you&utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=eed600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=\[UNIQID\]](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/2006_email_blm_juneteenth?source=em20_200618_JuneteenthEvent&link_id=9&can_id=319e6b609ad8649127b535b7c798e303&email_referrer=email_836880&email_subject=juneteenth-events-near-you&utm_source=Pom+Pom+Newsletter+Subscribers&utm_campaign=eed600c02e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_01_30_10_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_fc15f0bb7c-eed600c02e-&mc_cid=eed600c02e&mc_eid=[UNIQID])
- At present, Juneteenth is not a national holiday, so ask your employer to give 19th June as a company holiday, or at the very least a paid holiday day for Black employees.

Offering Emotional Support

Not everyone is in a position to offer financial support to anti-racism initiatives. Here are a few ways in which you can show solidarity through anti-racist activity.

Signing Petitions

Tell Minneapolis City Council to Defund the Police: <https://www.reclaimtheblock.org/home>

Justice for Breonna Taylor: <https://www.change.org/p/andy-beshear-justice-for-breonna-taylor>.

Update: take further action and continue to fight for Breonna at

<https://action.justiceforbreonna.org/sign/BreonnaWasEssential/d>

Justice for Tony McDade: <https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-tony-mcdade>

Battle Racism by Updating GCSE Reading Lists:

<https://www.change.org/p/department-of-education-battle-racism-by-updating-reading-lists-at-gcse>

Listen to Media by BIPOC creators

Zoe Amira has created a video of art by Black creators. 100% of the ad revenue generated from the video will be donated towards a BLM-related charity, depending on which cause has the greatest need at the time of donation. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCgLa25fDHM>

Show Up for your BIPOC Friends

Supporting Black Friends During This Time, by Good Night Out Campaign:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CA7YRklHp-T/>

Challenge Racism

How To Talk To Your Family About Racism, by @jenerous:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CA-eKNfpmJu/>

How South Asians can help make a change to stand with the Black community, by @farahdhukai:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CA_DCaFpNA9/

Talking to Kids About Racial Stereotypes, by Media Smarts:

https://mediasmarts.ca/sites/mediasmarts/files/pdfs/tipsheet/TipSheet_TalkingKidsRacialStereotypes.pdf

Talking to Kids About Discrimination, by the American Psychological Association:

<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/kids-discrimination>

A Template of Responses to Racist Comments, by @shityoushouldcareabout:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CCX53mGgOx2/>

Why Reverse Racism Does Not Exist, by @chnge: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CCXU5t2grsM/>

Black Lives Matter

<https://blacklivesmatter.com>

#blacklivesmatter was founded in 2010 after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. This global organisation seeks to eradicate white supremacy by combating acts of violence inflicted on Black communities and creating space for Black joy and imagination. Their website is full of resources, important petitions, and videos to keep you up to date with contemporary issues black communities are facing.

Offering Financial Support

There are so many organisations out there doing fantastic, meaningful, and necessary ant-racist work. One way you can show support is to donate to them, if you're able.

Help Minnesota

North Star Collective, Reclaim the Block, and Black Visions Collective no longer need financial support by their own admission. They ask people who are looking to make donations to direct their good will [here](#).

We Love Lake Street

<https://www.welovelakestreet.com/?fbclid=IwAR1meGOvXyEelc7N5eYKl958TEHS2MVhYfv466YYoruepVrFev6cmfYotsc>

Lake Street Council will donate all funds received to helping rebuild Lake Street (the site of the riots in Minneapolis), starting with small, independent businesses and nonprofits.

US-Based Organisations

The Color of Change

<https://colorofchange.org>

They lead campaigns that build real power for Black communities, challenge injustice and hold corporations and political leaders accountable, and conduct vital research into systemic inequality.

Campaign Zero

<https://www.joincampaignzero.org/#vision>

Working towards a society without police violence, Campaign Zero offers 10 policy solutions and a large amount of information on issues such as broken windows policing, fair police union contracts, and demilitarisation.

The National Black Justice Coalition

<http://nbjc.org>

NBJC is a civil rights organisation dedicated to the empowerment of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and same gender loving (LGBTQA/SGL) people, including people living with HIV/AIDs. Their mission is to end racism, homophobia, and LGBTQA/SGL bias and stigma by focussing on federal policy.

The Movement for Black Lives

<https://m4bl.org>

The movement is made up of hundreds of organisations that coordinate actions, messages and campaigns. They support Black-led rapid response efforts and long-term strategy, policy, and infrastructure investments in the movement ecosystem.

National Bail Out

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/freeblackmamas2020>

A Black-led and Black-centred organisation working to build community-based support for Black people and end systems of pretrial detention and ultimately mass incarceration.

Austin Justice Coalition

<https://austinjustice.org>

The Austin Justice Coalition (AJC) serves people who are historically and systematically impacted by gentrification, segregation, over policing, a lack of educational and employment opportunities, and other institutional forms of racism in Austin, Texas.

UK-Based Organisations

Resourcing Racial Justice

<https://resourcingracialjustice.org>

They are committed to establishing a UK-wide fund to assist individuals and other organisations who are working towards racial justice. At present, their funds are being directed towards initiatives which help redress the disproportionate amount of PoC affected by COVID-19.

BME Cancer Communities

<https://www.bmecancer.com/index.php/services>

BMECC organise and host awareness events of the most common cancers affecting BME communities and develop specific BME cancer resources.

Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust

<https://www.stephenlawrence.org.uk>

Founded after the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993, the charitable trust supports young people (13-30) from disadvantaged backgrounds by helping them strive for ambitious careers, and they ensure businesses are inclusive of diverse talent.

SARI (Stand up Against Racism and Inequality)

<https://www.sariweb.org.uk>

SARI provides support for victims of any type of hate crime, including racism, faith-based, disablist, homophobic, transphobic, age-based or gender-based.

Stop Hate UK

<https://www.stophateuk.org>

A national organisation working to challenge all forms of hate crime and discrimination. One of the many services they provide is helplines specific to which form of hate crime you've been a victim of.

Show Racism the Red Card

<https://www.theredcard.org>

An educational anti-racism organisation, who provide workshops, resources, and training sessions with the purpose of tackling racism in UK society.

Runnymede

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/about.html>

A charity which seeks to challenge racial inequality in Britain by researching and intervening in policy making and practice, and engaging with decision makers.

The Black Curriculum

<https://www.theblackcurriculum.com/the-team>

They describe themselves as a “social enterprise working to teach and support the teaching of black history all year round” both inside and outside schools. They deliver programmes, provide teacher training, and mobilise young people to facilitate social change.