

Books recommended about racial justice and reconciliation
Presbyterian Women, Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2021

BOOKS

Children: 31 children's books to support conversations about race, racism and inclusion from a school principal.

https://www.smores.com/exhg3-resources-for-students-families?fbclid=IwAR0eeYokrQ0QSGEqU_HCf-zcNpz6Fb92WEPZun4t5GXkrzeXkQc8VsNDpXg

ABCs of Diversity, Helping Kids (and Ourselves) Embrace Our Differences, by Carolyn Helsel and Y. Joy Harris-Smith.

Author Helsel is a professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a Presbyterian minister.

For Christian readers:

Anxious to Talk about it, Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism, by Carolyn Helsel. Covenant Presbyterian's Koinonia class as well as the Presbyterian Women read this in 2020 — meaningful and thought-provoking discussions! DISCUSSION GUIDE ATTACHED.

https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/36740080-anxious-to-talk-about-it?ac=1&from_search=true&qid=lpCksSomk1&rank=1

Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation, by LaTasha Morrison. <https://www.christianbook.com/bridge-pursuing-gods-heart-racial-reconciliation/latasha-morrison>. See also online *BeTheBridge* podcasts and blog.

White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity, by Robert P. Jones. Drawing on history, public opinion surveys, and personal experience, Jones delivers a provocative examination of the unholy relationship between American Christianity and white supremacy, issuing an urgent call for

white Christians to reckon with this legacy for the sake of themselves, their Christian faith, and the country.

America's Original Sin, Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America, by Jill Wallis, activist, pastor, and founder of "Sojourners," a Christian social justice organization.

https://sojo.net/?gclid=CjwKCAjwhOyJBhA4EiwAEcJdcfjKHuL4Sot6QoQO1t3kRQcDixaBfOanijHzHszwccBrRBzysEsC2BoCcW8QAvD_BwE

Recommended Resources for Justice and Peace Concerns, National Presbyterian Women website-- <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/JP-resources-full-page-FA-05252021.pdf>

General readers

Anti-racist book list published by the Statesman:

https://www.austin360.com/lifestyle/20200529/books-on-anti-racism-that-you-can-read-right-now?utm_source=SND&utm_medium=Twitter&utm_campaign=austin360&utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Austin%20American-Statesman%20mystatesman-extras%202020-05-30&utm_content=GCOX_AUS&utm_term=060420

Between the World and Me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25489625-between-the-world-and-me>

Also, excellent Article on this

book: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/07/tanehisi-coates-between-the-world-and-me/397619/>

We Were Eight Years in Power, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Eight excellent essays Coates wrote in *The Atlantic* magazine about the racial struggle during the Obama Administration.

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated American -- by Richard Rothstein

CASTE, The Origins of Our Discontent, by Isabel Wilkerson (Pulitzer-Prize-winning author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*, about the Great Migration of Black people from the South during the 20th century). This deeply researched book explores how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings based on a person's appearance, i.e. one's skin color.

Frederick Douglass, Prophet of Freedom, by David W. Blight. An amazing and exhaustive study of Douglass.

Good White Racist? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice, by Kerry Connelly

How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi, New York Times Best Seller. (Free audio Books [Here](#))

No Innocent Bystanders: Becoming an Ally in the Struggle for Justice, by Shannon Craigo-Snell and Christopher Doucot

Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race, by Debby Irving. For 25 years, Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. Then, in 2009, one “aha!” moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.

FROM HERE TO EQUALITY—Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century, by William A. Darity Jr. & A. Kirsten Mullen, addresses the causes of the great wealth disparity between whites and blacks in this country and the call to do something about it. Early chapters provide a clear history of the causes and the book concludes with the authors' recommended solution.

The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander. The author argues that “we have not ended racial caste in America; we

have merely redesigned it.” By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness.