Racial Justice Advocates & Organizations

Institute for the Study of Crime & Justice
Racial Justice Project
This slideshow profiles some of the many organizations and individuals who engage in work to raise awareness and promote racial justice.
Equal Justice Initiative

- Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson, author of Just Mercy
- Their mission is to end mass incarceration, unfair sentences, and to protect the human rights of vulnerable people in America
- Provides legal representation for:
  - Wrongful convictions
  - Unfairly sentenced
  - Abused in prisons/jails
- Learn more at https://eji.org/
American Civil Liberties Union

• Founded in 1920 after the “Palmer Raids” that led to thousands of people arrested without warrants and detained without charges
• Their mission is to fight for civil liberties as guaranteed by the United States Constitution
• They address issues such as:
  • Capital Punishment
  • Criminal Law Reform
  • Juvenile Justice
  • Racial Justice
  • Prisoners’ Rights
  • LGBTQ Rights
  • Immigrants’ Rights
• To learn more: https://www.aclu.org/
Color Of Change

• Established in 2005 and consists of seven million members
• The largest online racial justice organization in the world
• Mission is to guide people in addressing racial injustices
• Raises money for people who have experienced racial injustices
• Focus on four areas including:
  • Economic Justice
  • Criminal Justice
  • Media Justice
  • Power and Voice

• To learn more: https://colorofchange.org/
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

- Founded in February 1909 in response to ongoing violence against Blacks in the U.S., notably the deadly riot in Springfield, IL

- Mission is to ensure equality for all and to eliminate race-based discrimination

- NAACP focuses on 6 areas:
  - Criminal Justice
  - Health
  - Environmental & Climate Change
  - Media Diversity
  - Education
  - Economic Discrimination

- Learn more at: https://www.naacp.org/
The Innocence Project

• Founded in 1992 by Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck who had exonerated many individuals through DNA testing

• Their mission is to free innocent people who are incarcerated and to address these injustices through reform

• Areas of focus for the Innocence Project are:
  • Exonerate the innocent
  • Improve case law
  • Reform policies
  • Support exonerees
  • Educate through science & research

• To learn more: https://innocenceproject.org/
Dr. Marquita Taylor  
Leadership Engineer, Assistant Director, Founder, Professor

• Obtained a Doctorate in Leadership for the Advancement of Learning and Service, and a certificate in Race and Equity.

• With the NAACP, Taylor conducts qualitative and quantitative research in areas of entrepreneurship and human development.

• Fights for inclusivity and equity in education among diverse groups, specifically underserved populations and women.

Founded The Woman Doctor

• A nonprofit organization which works to inspire women and girls to pursue terminal degrees in higher education.

• To learn more: https://www.thewomandoc.com/
Bryan Stevenson
Lawyer, Social Justice Activist, Executive Director, & Founder

Author of *Just Mercy*

Founder of Equal Justice Initiative

Professor, New York University School of Law

**Causes & Cases:**

Successfully argued multiple U.S. Supreme Court Cases

Focuses on death row cases, unfair sentencing cases, and cases dealing with mentally ill and children, including:

- Roper v. Simmons
- Miller v. Alabama
- Montgomery v. Louisiana
- To learn more: [https://eji.org/bryan-stevenson/](https://eji.org/bryan-stevenson/)
Eboni K. Williams  
(Attorney, TV Host, Podcaster, Author)

- Host & Executive Producer, REVOLT Black News
- Advocate for racial and social injustice.
- Known for analysis of Legal and Culture Headlines.
- Uses platforms to inform the public of cases and law.

Board of Directors for Safe Horizon
- Victims' assistance organization
- To learn more: [https://www.ebonikwilliams.com/](https://www.ebonikwilliams.com/)
Kimberle Crenshaw
Director, Founder, Professor, Lawyer, Civil Rights Advocate, & Scholar

• Professor at UCLA and Columbia University. Crenshaw

• Leader of the Why We Can’t Wait campaign and involved with many racial justice gender interventions.

Organizations Leadership

To learn more:
https://www.law.columbia.edu/faculty/kimberle-w-crenshaw
W. Kamau Bell
ACLU Artist Ambassador for Racial Justice & Sociopolitical Comedian

Work Experience
• Comedian
• Host of Emmy Award winning CNN docuseries United Shades of America with W. Kamau Bell
• Netflix special Private School Negro

Example of Causes:
• In 2018, Bell used the Emmys as a platform to speak out against the Family Separation crisis.
Colin Kaepernick
Football Player, Civil Rights Advocate, Philanthropist, & Founder

- Played for the 49ers until he was released for peacefully protesting the national anthem.
- Refused to express admiration for a country that deliberately persecutes black citizens.

**Affiliations & Causes**
- Know Your Rights Camp: educates black youth on American History, Legal Rights and empowerment
- Donates to Mothers Against Police Brutality, Million Dollar Pledge, as well as multiple organizations located in oppressed regions.
- To learn more: https://www.knowyourrightscamp.com/
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