Racial injustice pervades American life, affecting our economic, political, and criminal legal systems as well as our culture. To build a justice system that responds to the needs of all communities, prosecutors should root their policies and practice in knowledge of our history of racial injustice and its pernicious legacy.

This collection suggests a range of informational resources—including literature, journalism, film, television, public speeches, music, visual arts, and other works—with which criminal justice practitioners can enhance their understanding of the past and present state of racism in the United States. These resources are offered as possible starting points for prosecutors and the communities they serve to consider their roles in rectifying racial injustice and building a criminal legal system that serves us all.

At an early age I learned that people make mistakes, and you have to decide if their mistakes are bigger than your love for them.

—Angie Thomas, The Hate U Give

FICTION & LITERATURE

If Beale Street Could Talk  James Baldwin
An American Marriage  Tayari Jones
Antiracist Baby  Ibram X. Kendi
To Kill A Mockingbird  Harper Lee
The Bluest Eye  Toni Morrison
Beloved  Toni Morrison
Small Great Things  Jodi Picoult
The Hate U Give  Angie Thomas
NON-FICTION & AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The New Jim Crow
White Rage
The Fire Next Time
Rise of the Warrior Cop
Blindspot
Prisoners of Politics
American Prison
Charged
Slavery By Another Name
How It Feels To Be A Problem?
Chokehold: Policing Black Men
All God’s Children
Invisible Punishment
Between the World and Me
When They Call You A Terrorist
Arbitrary Justice
Policing the Black Man
White Fragility
Locking Up Our Own
On the Run
Killers of the Flower Moon
Racism on Trial
A Colony in a Nation
From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace
A Perilous Path

Usual Cruelty
How to Be an Antiracist
Stamped from the Beginning
Devil in the Grove
Heavy
They Can’t Kill Us All
An American Genocide
The Meaning of Life

Michelle Alexander
Carol Anderson
James Baldwin
Radley Balko
Mahzarin R. Banaji
Rachel Barkow
Shane Bauer
Emily Bazelon
Douglas Blackmon
Moustafa Bayoumi
Paul Butler
Fox Butterworth
 Medina Chesney-Lind
Ta-Nehisi Coates
Patrisse Cullors
Angela J. Davis
Angela J. Davis
Robin DiAngelo
James Forman Jr.
Alice Goffman
David Grann
Ian Haney Lopez
Chris Hayes
Elizabeth Hinton

Jeff Hobbs
Sherrilyn Ifill, Loretta Lynch, Bryan Stevenson & Anthony Thompson
Alec Karakatsanis
Ibram X. Kendi
Ibram X. Kendi
Gilbert King
Kiese Layman
Wesley Lowery
Benjamin Madley
Marc Mauer & Ashley Nelis

So You Want to Talk About Race
The History of White People
Locked In
The Color of Law
Until We Reckon
How We Fight White Supremacy
Just Mercy
The Warmth of Other Suns
White Like Me

Ijeoma Oluo
Nell Irvin Painter
John Pfaff
Richard Rothstein
Danielle Sered
Akiba Solomon & Kenyra Rankin
Bryan Stevenson
Isabel Wilkerson
Tim Wise
We came here to get away from false promises,
from dictators in our neighborhoods,
who wore blue suits and broke our doors down
—Jimmy Santiago Baca, Immigrants in Our Own Land

### POETRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Still I Rise</td>
<td>Maya Angelou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felon</td>
<td>Dwayne Reginald Betts</td>
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<td>Won’t You Celebrate with Me</td>
<td>Lucille Clifton</td>
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<td>What the Dead Know By Heart</td>
<td>Donte Collins</td>
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<td>A Small Needful Fact</td>
<td>Ross Gay</td>
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<td>I, Too</td>
<td>Langston Hughes</td>
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<td>Immigrants in Our Own Land</td>
<td>Jimmy Santiago Baca</td>
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### MUSIC

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<tr>
<th>Song/Video</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Lemonade” [Album]</td>
<td>Beyoncé</td>
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<td>“Formation” [Video]</td>
<td>Beyoncé</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Letter to the Free”</td>
<td>Common feat. Bilal</td>
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<td>“A Change is Gonna Come”</td>
<td>Sam Cooke</td>
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<td>“Fight the Power”</td>
<td>Public Enemy</td>
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<td>“Strange Fruit”</td>
<td>Billie Holiday</td>
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<td>“The Blacker the Berry”</td>
<td>Kendrick Lamar</td>
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<td>“Freedom”</td>
<td>Anthony Ramos</td>
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<td>“A Seat at The Table” [Album]</td>
<td>Solange</td>
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<tr>
<td>“The Revolution Will Not Be Televised”</td>
<td>Gil Scott-Heron</td>
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### LECTURES & SHORT VIDEOS

- A Girl Like Me [YouTube]
- Inside the Memorial to Victims of Lynching [60 Minutes]
- The Human Stories Behind Mass Incarceration [TED]
- We Are Witnesses [The Marshall Project]
- We Need to Talk About an Injustice: Bryan Stevenson [TED]
FILM, TV, & DOCUMENTARIES

7 Seconds (2018)
13th (2016)
After Innocence (2007)
American Son (2019)
Beloved (1998)
Burn Motherf*cker Burn! (2017)
Children of the Camps (2003)
Dear White People [Film & TV Series] (2017)
Fruitvale Station (2013)
Get Out (2017)
I Am Not Your Negro (2016)
LA92 (2017)
Mississippi Burning (1988)
Mudbound (2017)
Rosewood (1997)
Selma (2014)
Slavery By Another Name (2012)
We Shall Remain (2009)
When They See Us (2019)
White Like Me (2013)
Whose Streets? (2017)
The Central Park Five (2012)
The Zoot Suit Riots [PBS] (2002)

The past is a life sentence, a blunt instrument aimed at tomorrow.

— Claudia Rankine, Citizen: An American Lyric

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, & REPORTS

The Brutal History of Anti-Latino Discrimination in America
Race and Prosecution
Erin Blakemore

John Chisholm, Angela J. Davis & David Noble

Letter from a Birmingham Jail
Speech on the Removal of Confederate Monuments
in New Orleans
Law Enforcement is Still Used as a Colonial Tool in Indian Country
Claudia Rankine

Brando Simeo Starkey

Julian Nosiecat

The 1619 Project
Discrimination in America
The New York Times

NPR & Harvard School of Public Health

The Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (IIP) provides a collaborative national platform that brings together prosecutors, policy experts, and the communities they serve to promote data-driven strategies, cutting-edge scholarship, and innovative thinking. The IIP is dedicated to shaping a criminal justice system that promotes community-centered standards of safety, fairness, and dignity.

Find out more about the IIP and our work at prosecution.org. Please share any suggested additions to this list by visiting www.prosecution.org/recommended-reading.

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