

In fulfillment of our dedication to providing the most useful information to our patrons on topics of public interest, Penn Yan Public Library offers the list of resources included below. We hope that this provides a helpful overview of the issue of racial justice in the United States. Our antiracist statement, which we adopted in June, can be found here: <http://www.pypl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Anti-racism-Statement-6-20.pdf>

The links embedded below offer a very broad overview of current events and thinking around the movement for racial justice in America. We invite you to begin or continue your education on this topic with these resources.

- **Details of high-profile cases of violence against Black people**
 - [Daniel Prude](#), whose death and subsequent questions have resulted in recent unrest in Rochester (USA Today).
 - [Names, faces, and details](#) about other cases, from Eric Garner to George Floyd (CBC). This is far from an exhaustive list.
- **On calls for police accountability**
 - Recent events have seen renewed calls for reform in policing. The non-partisan Congressional Research Service prepared this [summary of some of the police accountability measures](#) under consideration at the federal level.
 - At the grassroots level, some activists have advocated for the so-called “defunding” of police as a means of mitigating violence. Here is a summary of some of [what that really means](#) (Brookings Institution).
 - Journalist Jelani Cobb explores police reform through the lens of a troubled department that has been grappling with change in this PBS *Frontline* documentary, [“Policing the Police 2020.”](#)
- **Relevant background information: inequities exist**
 - An interview with the [founders of BLM](#) (TED) offers context on the origins and goals of the movement.
 - The case is sometimes made that Black people are the victims of police violence because they are responsible for over 50% of violent crime in America; however, according to the latest statistics compiled by the [FBI](#) and [Department of Justice](#), that is not the case. However, it is true that Black people, especially Black men, are killed by police at a [disproportionate rate compared to other groups](#).
 - Police violence is only one facet of the circumstances fueling unrest around the country; the BLM movement and related protests are a reaction to lived experiences that indicate the prevalence of systemic inequity in society. To name just a few examples: differences in [educational outcomes](#) (TED); [wage disparities](#) (Pew Research); and contrast in [maternal mortality](#) (CDC).
- **Recognizing the underlying problems: systemic racism**
 - [“Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”](#) is an accessible piece of writing to help begin to understand the concept of privilege and the different ways it benefits us.
 - [Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla F. Saad, which is available through the Southern Tier Library System in a variety of formats, digs deep into everyday expressions of white supremacy and offers a framework for self-reflection to help you see the ways we all participate in this system, and how we can modify our actions and outlook.
- **Becoming a part of the solution: being an antiracist ally**
 - [This webinar](#) from the Power Shift Project of the Freedom Forum Institute provides ten strategies to be an ally; [this page](#) summarizes each strategy.