Black Lives Matter: whiteness and racial justice learning for Quakers reading list

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Supported by Britain Yearly Meeting, Woodbrooke and Northern Friends Peace Board staff

Please note: this reading list is not exhaustive. It focuses on shorter articles and videos rather than books due to the nature of a week-by-week course.

Most are about 5-10 minutes reads, and they are almost all free to view. Please consider how these resources are freely available when making donations to racial justice organisations.

## Pre-session 1: introduction

**Required reading**

*The system isn't broken – it was built this way.* Quakers need to challenge themselves to dismantle their own prejudices and become anti-racist in word and deed, say Quakers Sophie Bevan and Elliott Burcham. <https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/the-system-isn-t-broken-it-was-built-this-way>

*White Fragility*. Article and videos (recommend the TEDX talk) by Robin DiAngelo <https://libjournal.uncg.edu/ijcp/article/viewFile/249/116> and <https://robindiangelo.com/media/>

*AFSC condemns police killing of George Floyd and police violence against protesters*. <https://www.afsc.org/newsroom/afsc-condemns-police-killing-george-floyd-and-police-violence-against-protesters>

*Anti-racism requires more than passive sympathy* by Joshua Virasami<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jun/08/non-racist-isnt-enough-action-george-floyd-death>

*Owning power and privilege toolkit* provides guidance about exploring this yourself and as part of a group discussion. <https://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/owning-power-and-privilege-2nd-edition-october-2018> (PDF)

*There Is Hope.* Author chat with Gabbreell James <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctCui_Bf-TA> (9 minutes)

Read Gabbreell's article in the October 2014 issue of Friends Journal: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/hope/>

**Extended reading and films**

**Books**

*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan Cullors

*Natives* by Akala

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

*White Fragility* by Robin Di-Angelo

**Films**

*The House I Live In* (2012) \*Netflix\*

*13th* on Netflix

*The Hard Stop* [Police killing of Mark Duggan] George Amponsah / 2015 / 85 mins. Available on [Amazon Prime](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.eeab142b-a751-f69d-993d-619b7e33644c?autoplay=1) and the [BFI Player](https://player.bfi.org.uk/rentals/film/watch-the-hard-stop-2015-online).

*Unarmed Black Male* James Jones / 2016 / 88 mins. Available via [James Jones' website](https://www.jonesfilms.net/unarmed-black-male).

*Black Sheep* Ed Perkins / 2018 / 27 mins. Watch on the [Guardian website](https://www.theguardian.com/news/ng-interactive/2018/oct/26/black-sheep-the-black-teenager-who-made-friends-with-racists-video).

*Generation Revolution* Usayd Younis & Cassie Quarless / 2016. Watch on [iTunes](https://click.justwatch.com/a?r=https%3A%2F%2Fitunes.apple.com%2Fgb%2Fmovie%2Fgeneration-revolution-2016%2Fid1290378643%3Fuo%3D4%26at%3D1000l3V2&cx=&uct_country=GB&sid=46b216b3-c20f-496d-aab8-d01eb43a61e1), [Amazon Prime](https://click.justwatch.com/a?r=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.co.uk%2Fgp%2Fvideo%2Fdetail%2Famzn1.dv.gti.64af7773-a004-fc0f-d928-340796ea2578%3Fcamp%3D1634%26creativeASIN%3DB0766DZ7ZP%26ie%3DUTF8%26linkCode%3Dxm2%26tag%3Djust016-21&cx=&uct_country=GB&sid=46b216b3-c20f-496d-aab8-d01eb43a61e1), [Google Play](https://click.justwatch.com/a?r=https%3A%2F%2Fplay.google.com%2Fstore%2Fmovies%2Fdetails%2FGeneration_Revolution%3Fgl%3DGB%26hl%3Den%26id%3DRj8JkxRxzvc&cx=&uct_country=GB&sid=46b216b3-c20f-496d-aab8-d01eb43a61e1), [YouTube](https://click.justwatch.com/a?r=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DRj8JkxRxzvc&cx=&uct_country=GB&sid=46b216b3-c20f-496d-aab8-d01eb43a61e1) or the [BFI Player](https://click.justwatch.com/a?r=https%3A%2F%2Fplayer.bfi.org.uk%2Frentals%2Ffilm%2Fwatch-generation-revolution-2016-online&cx=&uct_country=GB&sid=46b216b3-c20f-496d-aab8-d01eb43a61e1).

## Pre-session 2: Decentring whiteness

**The experiences of people of colour, black and brown folks – including Quakers**

**Reading list**

*Stand Up* 2 mins 50 second song with visuals from the Douglas Family: <https://www.facebook.com/thedglsfamily/videos/vb.110582426971976/264551277950380/?type=2&theater>

*There is no shortcut to a world without racism.* Kékéli Kpognon from the Quaker Council for European Affairs <https://qceablog.wordpress.com/2020/06/03/there-is-no-shortcut-to-a-world-without-racism/>

*Why we should never forget: Black Lives Matter and the importance of collective remembrance* Chine McDonald from Christian Aid reflects on why the news from the US is so resonant for black Britons. <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/comment/2020/06/02/george-floyd>

*No Justice, No Peace: Religion and Racism* A BBC4 radio programme, chaired by Chine McDonald: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jw1b>

*Teenage victim of racist attack at London BLM protest says police treated him as suspect* Channel 4 News – video (11.5 minutes) <https://www.channel4.com/news/teenage-victim-of-racist-attack-at-london-blm-protest-says-police-treated-him-as-suspect>

*Intersectionality* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intersectionality> – read this for an overview

*BAME, refugee and migrant custody deaths in the UK*, Institute of Race Relations <http://www.irr.org.uk/news/bame-refugee-and-migrant-custody-deaths-in-the-uk/>

*Collective Expulsion: The case against Britain’s mass deportation charter flights* (2017) <https://corporatewatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Collective-Expulsion-report.pdf> (longer read – this was such a useful, exposing and shocking document that during the Stansted 15 action we took multiple copies of this report with us to ensure it would be part of our evidence in court)

*Environmental justice means racial justice, say activists*. Article and 6 minute video on the Guardian website <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/18/environmental-justice-means-racial-justice-say-activists>

*Race and Privilege in Europe* from the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) (longer read) <http://www.qcea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Race-and-Privilege-1.pdf>

## Pre-session 3: What is white supremacy? Where is privilege located? How can we redistribute it?

**Reading**

*Reflections from Greenbelt – Beyoncé and white Quaker discomfort.* Blog by Mark Russ, Woodbrooke Tutor for Nurturing Friends and Meetings, and supporting tutor on this course: <https://jollyquaker.com/2016/09/04/reflections-from-greenbelt-beyonce-and-white-quaker-discomfort/>

*The Maturation of a White Ally* -[*Mushim Patricia Ikeda*](http://www.mushimikeda.com/)<https://whiteawake.org/2016/05/16/the-maturation-of-a-white-ally/>

*White Supremacy Culture* - Showing Up for Racial Justice <https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture.html>

*White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack* by Peggy McIntosh, published in Peace and Freedomy July/August 1989 *(American-context but very relevant)* <https://psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf>

## Pre-session 4: What can be done? Faith in action for racial justice

**Core**

*Woman who called police over black birdwatcher is charged* on the Guardian website <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/06/amy-cooper-charged-black-birdwatcher-new-york> - watch the video and read the article

*Epistle of Black, white, Asian and mixed-heritage Friends, 1991* [*https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/29-15/*](https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/29-15/)

# *4 ways to hold courageous conversations*. Article by Lisa Cumming, my Turning the Tide GB colleague <https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/4-ways-to-hold-courageous-conversations>

**Extended reading/watching**

*Mapping Our Roles in Social Change Ecosystems* (2020), by Deepa Iyer <https://buildingmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Final-Mapping-Ecosystem-Guide-CC-BY-NC-SA-4.0-Handles.pdf>

Answer these questions (written by Nii Addo Abrahams, M.A., M. Div. / Twitter & Instagram [@\_nickyflash\_](https://twitter.com/_nickyflash_))

* Does your solidarity last longer than a news cycle?
* Does your solidarity make you lose sleep at night?
* Does your solidarity put you in danger?
* Does your solidarity cost you relationships?
* Does your solidarity take away time from other things you could be doing?
* Does your solidarity change the way you spend your money?
* Does your solidarity make you a disruptive presence in white spaces?
* Does your solidarity challenge your country’s values?
* Does your solidarity make you think you’re not racist?
* Does your solidarity change how you read your Bible?
* Does your solidarity change how you preach?
* Does your solidarity happen when no one is looking?
* Does your solidarity ever cause you to speak out when no one wants to listen?
* Does your solidarity ever cause you to shut up when you want to say something?
* Does your solidarity change the way you vote?
* Does your solidarity cause you to denounce our current president?
* Does your solidarity include cis-het Black women?
* Does your solidarity include Black queer and trans folks?
* Does your solidarity make you suspicious of predominantly white institutions?
* Does your solidarity cause you to believe in costly reparations?
* Does your solidarity assuage your white guilt?
* Does your solidarity have room for Black rage?

Look up and read around:

* upstander / bystander intervention
* anti-raids network
* your local migrant centre
* reparations
* visiting detention centres
* legal observing
* Grenfell campaign
* Northern Police Monitoring Project, and Desmond Ziggy Mombeyarara
* Netpol
* INQUEST <https://www.inquest.org.uk/>
* Mikey Powell Foundation
* Sanctuary Meetings <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration>
* On mistaking privilege for blessing <https://twitter.com/ericbarreto/status/955495064532324353>

## Pre-session 5: Where am I led? Commitment and accountability for solidarity

**Core reading**

# *Undoing Racism Group* in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting <https://urginpym.wordpress.com/priorities-and-plan-of-action/>

*The Outgoing Epistle of the 2020 Virtual Pre-Gathering of Friends of Color and their Families* <https://www.fgcquaker.org/news/outgoing-epistle-2020-virtual-pre-gathering-friends-color-and-their-families>

*Mapping Our Roles in Social Change Ecosystems* (2020), by Deepa Iyer

<https://buildingmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Final-Mapping-Ecosystem-Guide-CC-BY-NC-SA-4.0-Handles.pdf>

*Movement Ecology* introduction by Ayni Institute <https://ayni.institute/movementecology/>

**Extended reading**

*Interrupting a racist joke* with former Senior Pastor of Life Church (formerly Abundant Life Church) in Bradford <https://www.facebook.com/PaulScanlonUK/videos/vb.379215118819003/2462367867387455/?type=2&theater>

Upstander/active bystander introduction from American Friends Service Committee <https://www.afsc.org/bystanderintervention> and online training: <https://www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/bystander_intervention_final.pdf>

*Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo Lodge <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vJZdeSqfFY> (video: 12 min)

*The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House* by Audre Lorde, 1984 <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/audre-lorde-the-master-s-tools-will-never-dismantle-the-master-s-house.a4.pdf> (and everything by Audre Lorde)

## Post workshop reading suggestions

(This is not an exhaustive list. Suggestions were given by participants of the workshops)

Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye (2018) Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice

Harold D Weaver (2018) Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights

*Slavery in the Quaker World* (2019) Katharine Gerbner article in Friends Journal <https://www.friendsjournal.org/slavery-in-the-quaker-world/>

Black and British: A Forgotten History – book and documentary series <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b082x0h6/black-and-british-a-forgotten-history> and other David Olusoga programmes and writings

Anthony Reddie (2020) Is God Colour-Blind?: Insights from Black Theology for Christian Faith and Ministry.

Devon W Carbado (2020) Time on Two Crosses: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin

Akala (2019) Natives: Race and class in the ruins of empire

Afua Hirsch (2018) Brit(ish): On race, identity and belonging

Miranda Kauffman (2018) Black Tudors

Nikesh Shukla (2017) The Good Immigrant

Sabrina Mahfouz (2017) Things I would tell you, British Muslim Women write.

Amelia Gentleman (2019) The Windrush Betrayal: Exposing the hostile environment

Sitting in Limbo – drama about the Windrush scandal (BBC) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p08g29ff/sitting-in-limbo>

Ann Dummett (1973): A Portrait of English Racism, Penguin  
  
Michael Dummett (2001): Immigration and Refugees   
  
Robert Moore (1975): Racism and Black Resistance in Britain, Pluto press  
He has written other books including Slamming the Door with Tina Wallace, about the reception of Ugandan Asian refugees.    
  
Bernard Coard (1971): How West Indian Children are made educationally subnormal in the British school system, New Beacon.   
  
Gus John and Derek Humphry (1971):  Because they're Black, Penguin.    
  
Nigel File and Chris Power: Black Settlers in Britain 1555 to 1958.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland racial justice resources: <https://ctbi.org.uk/category/witnessing-together/racial-justice/page/3/>

Stop and search sources: [Stop Watch](https://www.stop-watch.org/get-informed/factsheet/section-60), [The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/law/video/2020/jul/07/does-stop-and-search-in-the-uk-need-to-change-video-explainer) , [4FRONT](https://www.4frontproject.org/resources?pgid=kavbu6lr-96782723-a362-11ea-8c85-12879e2400f0)

About Race podcast with Reni Eddo-Lodge <https://www.aboutracepodcast.com/>

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Small Island by Andrea Levy

Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie

Further reading list: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrAq4iBNb4nVIcTsLcNlW8zjaQXBLkWayL8EaPlh0bc/edit>