

# Paul Kivel's Newsletter

## December 2014



### A Note from Paul

Dear People,

We are in a historical moment when, at least temporarily, the curtain is drawn back on the ugly brutality of state sponsored white supremacy in the U.S. How long this moment lasts depends upon our actions. We have an opportunity to join and amplify the Black-led efforts to reveal and address the historical devastation that police violence, mass incarceration, and other aspects of racism create. We have an opportunity to add our voices and actions to the movement for racial justice.

This newsletter is based on the demands of African Americans in Ferguson, NYC and elsewhere who are reeling from the ongoing and longstanding callous disregard for Black lives.\* It begins with lists of those demands. The rest of the newsletter provides framing and action tools for white people to get involved in ways that are accountable to national and local Black leadership. I have found these resources to be inspiring and useful guidelines for my own involvement. I trust that you will as well.

Now is a time to be creative and bold, to take risks, to act accountably, and to prepare for sustained struggle for racial justice.

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*\* #BlackLivesMatter is a phrase coined by Alicia Garza with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi "as a call to action for Black people after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was post-humously placed on trial for his own murder and the killer, George Zimmerman, was not held accountable for the crime he committed. It was a response to the anti-Black racism that permeates our society and also, unfortunately, our movements.*

*Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. It is an affirmation of Black folks' contributions to this society, our humanity, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression." A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement by Alicia Garza, October 7, 2014. Available at <http://thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>.*

## **Black Lives Matter: A Compendium of Resources**

*Articles and events compiled by Paul Kivel. Follow links below for complete information from each organization or activist.*



## 1. #BlackLivesMatter: National Demands

"We will seek justice for Brown's family by petitioning for the immediate arrest of officer Darren Wilson..."

Full list of demands [here](#).

## 2. #BlackLivesMatter: Blog

A phenomenal place to stay tuned with the movement.

Read the blog [here](#).

## 3. Ferguson Action: Demands + Vision For a New America

"We Want an End to all Forms of Discrimination and the Full Recognition of our Human Rights..."

Read the demands in vision in their entirety [here](#).

## 4. Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ): Department of Justice Street-Action-Kit

"The Department of Justice (DOJ) is a critical target in the struggle against police brutality. The DOJ can sue local police departments and win consent decrees that force significant reform. The DOJ can also arrest cops who have brutalized and/or killed unarmed people on civil rights violation charges. Additionally, given the President's commitments recently, continuing to engage the federal government can keep the pressure on for executive orders that can win national policing reforms." -SURJ

Find the comprehensive street action kit [here](#).

## 5. Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ): Talking Points for Media

Included in #4 above, but worth calling out on its own, is this set of talking points for media also from SURJ.

*Find the talking points [here](#).*

## **6. Catalyst Project: 5 Ways For White People to Support Ferguson**

The Catalyst Project has listed five powerful ways you can show support immediately.

*See the list [here](#).*

## **7. Catalyst Project: Culture Shifts**

"Catalyst Project works to consciously create a culture that helps white people take strategic and effective anti-racist action as a part of multiracial movements. We think that white anti-racist organizing requires that we move away from competitive, individualist thinking, and instead support as many people as we can to be effective change agents, working in accountable relationships with people of color-led organizations. These shifts in organizing culture help create more sustainable and vibrant movements to win transformative change."

*Read about some of the specific shifts we can make [here](#).*

## **8. Franchesca Ramsey video: 5 Tips For Being an Ally**

*Click image to hear Franchesca Ramsey's 5 tips:*



5 Tips For Being An Ally

## **9. Stephanye Watts article: *It's Now up to Whites to Dismantle Racism***

"Black people have done everything we can do. Righting these wrongs rests on the shoulders of white people who get it ..." *Read the article [here](#).*

## **10. Ricardo Morales: Thoughts on Anti-racism**

Artist and activist Ricardo Levins Morales offers this powerful reminder about what this moment is really about:

"White people are taught that racism is a personal attribute, an attitude, maybe a set of habits. Anti-racist whites invest too much energy worrying about getting it right; about not slipping up and revealing their racial socialization; about saying the right things and knowing when to say nothing. It's not about that. It's about putting your shoulder to the wheel of history; about undermining the structural supports of a system of control that grinds us under, that keeps us divided even against ourselves and that extracts wealth, power and life from our communities like an oil company sucks it from the earth."

## **11. Gawker: *Unarmed People of Color Killed by Police 1999-2014***

Black Lives Matter can get abstract very quickly. Below is a list and individual profiles of just some of the hundreds of African Americans who have died from white violence recently.

*Click [here](#) to learn about each one of these people.*



*Image via [gawker.com](http://gawker.com)*

## **12. The Gathering For Justice: Demands**

JUSTICE LEAGUE NYC is a task force of juvenile and criminal justice advocates, artists and experts, and formerly incarcerated individuals, brought together under the banner of The Gathering for Justice, a social justice organization founded by Harry Belafonte in 2005. JUSTICE LEAGUE NYC is coordinating efforts in and around NYC in response to the non-indictment of Officer Daniel Pantaleo in the death of Eric Garner.

*Click [here](#) to take action immediately by signing onto their list of demands.*

## 13. Jews For Racial And Economic Justice: Mourner's Kaddish

Earlier this month Jews in NYC gathered to recite the Mourner's Kaddish. Twenty-seven of them were arrested - including four Rabbis.

*Click the image below to see more of this action.*



JFREJ Civil Disobedience - Thursday Dec. 4th 2014

## 14. Jewish Voice for Peace + Bend the Arc: National Chanukah Day of Action 12/16/2014

The Jewish Community continues to mobilize. *Find more information on the National day of action on the first night of Chanukah - including an action near you - [here](#).*

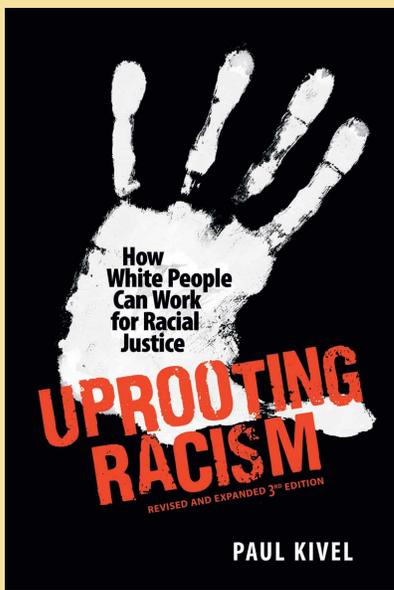


## 15. Bend Toward Justice: *Dear White Protestors*

"Dear white protestors: this is NOT about you. This IS about making Black Lives Matter."

*Read the rest of the letter [here](#).*

**Helpful Reading: *Uprooting Racism***



**UPROOTING RACISM: HOW WHITE PEOPLE CAN WORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. Third Edition.**

\$15.95 discounted price (regularly \$19.95)

- [Available here](#)

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*Uprooting Racism* explores the manifestations of racism in politics, work, community, and family life. It moves beyond the definition and unlearning of racism to address the many areas of privilege for white people, and suggests ways for individuals and groups to challenge the structures of racism. *Uprooting Racism* helps readers look at how we learn racism, what effects it has on our lives, its costs and benefits to white people, and what we can do about it.

Special features include exercises, questions, and suggestions to engage challenge assumptions and motivate the reader toward social action.

*Uprooting Racism* is a uniquely sensitive, wise, practical guide for white people struggling with their feelings about race. - **Howard Zinn, author of *A People's History of the United States***

***This and other titles available [here](#).***