SOCIAL JUSTICE MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

This list of resources has been compiled by the Public Interest Leadership Board and other students at the University of Miami School of Law. These are recommendations designed to engage and promote awareness.

This is an ongoing list. To submit a recommendation, or connect with HOPE, please email umhope@law.miami.edu.

Movies & Documentaries:

- **13th**
  - This critically-acclaimed documentary derives its title from the 13th Amendment, which banned slavery—except as punishment for a crime. Director Ava DuVernay enlists the expertise of scholars, activists, ex-convicts, and politicians to connect the dots straight to today’s mass incarceration system, which disproportionately criminalizes African-Americans.

- **The Hate U Give**
  - Based on a bestselling novel, *The Hate U Give* tells the story of a teenager who finds herself in a position to change the conversation on race and police brutality when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her unarmed childhood best friend at the hands of a police officer.

- **Fruitvale Station**
  - Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize for dramatic feature and the Audience Award for U.S. dramatic film at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, *Fruitvale Station* follows the true story of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident shot by BART officers in cold blood at the Fruitvale subway stop on New Year’s Day 2009. Oscar’s life and tragic death would shake the Bay Area – and the entire nation – to its very core.

- **Selma**
  - This film tells the story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition ending in the epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.
Central Park Five/When They See Us on Netflix
  ○ This film from award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns tells the story of the five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem who were wrongly convicted of raping a white woman in New York City’s Central Park in 1989. It chronicles the Central Park Jogger case, for the first time from the perspective of these five teenagers whose lives were upended by this miscarriage of justice. The 2019 miniseries on Netflix provides an insightful dramatization of the events.

Time: The Kalief Browder Story
  ○ This Netflix documentary recounts the story of Kalief Browder, a Bronx high school student who was imprisoned for three years, two of them in solitary confinement, on Rikers Island, without being convicted of a crime. He was accused at 16 of stealing a backpack, and his family was unable to afford his bail, set at $900.

Eyes on the Prize: American Civil Rights Years
  ○ *Eyes on the Prize* tells the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement that changed the fabric of American life, and embodied a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt today. Winner of numerous awards, *Eyes on the Prize* is one of the most critically acclaimed documentaries on civil rights in America.

Books

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander
  ○ A call to action for all those concerned with racial justice. Heralded as an important tool for anyone concerned with understanding and dismantling the still ever-present threat of racism.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
  ○ Stevenson's story is one of working to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society--the poor, the wrongly convicted, and those whose lives have been marked by discrimination and marginalization.

How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
  ○ Ibram X. Kendi’s concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America--but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. Instead of working with the policies and system we have in place, Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it.
• Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Y. Davis
  ○ In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world. Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine.

• White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
  ○ A New York Times best-selling book exploring the counterproductive reactions white people have when their assumptions about race are challenged, and how these reactions maintain racial inequality.

• The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin
  ○ A national bestseller when it first appeared in 1963, *The Fire Next Time* galvanized the nation and gave passionate voice to the emerging civil rights movement. At once a powerful evocation of James Baldwin's early life in Harlem and a disturbing examination of the consequences of racial injustice, the book is an intensely personal and provocative document. It consists of two "letters," written on the occasion of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation, that exhort Americans, both black and white, to attack the terrible legacy of racism.

• So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
  ○ In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Ijeoma Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to "model minorities" in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism, and how they infect almost every aspect of American life.

• The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson
  ○ In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Pulitzer Prize--winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

• Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond
  ○ Princeton sociologist and MacArthur "Genius" Matthew Desmond follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems.
• Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
  o *Between the World and Me* is Ta-Nehisi Coates’s attempt to answer the biggest questions of race and American history in a letter to his adolescent son. Coates shares with his son—and readers—the story of his awakening to the truth about his place in the world through a series of revelatory experiences, from Howard University to Civil War battlefields, from the South Side of Chicago to Paris, from his childhood home to the living rooms of mothers whose children’s lives were taken as American plunder.

• Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement by John Lewis
  o As Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congressman John Lewis was at the epicenter of the civil rights movement. Arrested more than forty times, he was one of its youngest and most courageous leaders. Writing with charm, warmth, and honesty, Lewis moves from the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins as he reflects on the era to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where he led more than five hundred marchers on what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

• Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela
  o Nelson Mandela’s moving autobiography in which he tells the extraordinary story of his life in South Africa from his birth in 1918 to his inauguration as president in 1994. Much of the book was written secretly while he was imprisoned for 27 years.

• March by John Lewis
  o *March* is a vivid first-hand account of Civil Rights leader and American Icon John Lewis’ lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation. Rooted in Lewis’ personal story, it also reflects on the highs and lows of the broader civil rights movement.

• White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide by Carol Anderson
  o From the Civil War to our combustible present, *White Rage* reframes our continuing conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America. Anderson pulls back the veil that has long covered actions made in the name of protecting democracy, fiscal responsibility, or protection against fraud, rendering visible the long lineage of white rage. Compelling and dramatic in the unimpeachable history it relates, *White Rage* will add an important new dimension to the national conversation about race in America.

• The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein
  o Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with
undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.

**Podcasts**

- **1619 (New York Times)**
  - An audio series on how slavery has transformed America, connecting past and present through the oldest form of storytelling.

- **Code Switch (NPR)**
  - NPR's podcast that seeks to illuminate the ways that race shapes our society through fearless conversations about race.

- **Intersectionality Matters (AAPF)**
  - Hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw, an American civil rights advocate and a leading scholar of critical race theory with the goal of bringing intersectionality to life.

- **Pod for the Cause (CivilRights.org)**
  - Pod for the Cause aims to expanding the conversation on critical civil and human rights challenges of our day: census, justice reform, policing, education, fighting hate & bias, judicial nominations, fair courts, voting rights, media & tech, economic security, immigration, and human rights.

REVIEWS ENHANCED WITH INFORMATION FROM AMAZON.COM.

**Ted Talks**

How to Deconstruct Racism One Headline at a Time


We Need to Talk about an Injustice


How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them