

Saturday, June 19 is Juneteenth.

As we mark Juneteenth, first and foremost, we celebrate Black leadership, Black joy, Black thought, and Black power. We must also embrace that anti-Black racism did not end with the emancipation of Black folks who were enslaved. Dynamics of violence we talk about every day within the context of interpersonal relationships, are replicated by the state and by other systems against Black communities. When we talk domestic violence, we see harm doers economically, emotionally, verbally, and physically hurt their partners. Our country, its government, culture, and systems replicate these tactics of abuse against Black communities. It is strategic. It is intentional. This is why the criminal justice system – through its courts, policing, and law creation – steals the autonomy, safety, and life from Black individuals in this country. We cannot talk about harmful (and healthy) power dynamics within relationships and exclude the relationship that systems have with Black survivors and Black communities. In order to create and support safe communities, we must strive to eradicate anti-Blackness and the violence of white supremacy. The movement to end domestic violence (and NRCDV) must listen to Black survivors, must follow the lead of Black women and femmes, must not ignore the dangerous entanglement with the criminal justice system that harms Black survivors and communities. We must lead with humanity and kindness to make room for expressions of pain and healing with compassion, support, and love

“Until we are all free, none of us are free.” – originally credited to Emma Lazarus

Below is a compilation of readings and resources from the NRCDV’s Communications Team and Racial Justice Initiative facilitators, that you can use to follow, support, give to, and learn from Black-led organizations centering healing and Black liberation.

What is Juneteenth?

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all enslaved peoples. It wasn't until June 19, 1865—two and a half years later—enslaved people in Galveston, Texas learned they had been freed. There weren't many union soldiers in the State of Texas during the Civil War to echo President Lincoln's proclamation. It wasn't until Union Major General Gordon Granger landed on Galveston Island in 1865 to enforce the executive order stating all enslaved people were granted their full liberty and personhood that enslaved Texans were made aware of their freedom. The day became known as Juneteenth by the freed slaves in Texas. It is also called Emancipation Day or Juneteenth Independence Day. [Read more about the historical legacy of Juneteenth.](#)

In 1980, Texas became the first state to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday. Tuesday, June 15, the U.S. [Senate approved a bill will make Juneteenth a public holiday](#), 41 years after Texas.

Additional articles and resources:

- [Juneteenth, explained](#)
- [From Juneteenth to the Tulsa massacre: What isn't taught in classrooms has a profound impact](#)
- [Juneteenth: Freedom At Last](#) (video)
- [What to Read, Watch, Listen to, and Learn from to Make the Most of Juneteenth](#)

- [The History Of Juneteenth](#) (podcast)
- [What is Juneteenth?](#) (video)

This Juneteenth, #1Thing you can do to begin or continue your commitment to dismantle anti-Blackness is follow, support, give to, and learn from Black-led organizations centering healing and Black liberation. Below is a great starter list compiled by NRCDV's Program and Prevention Team.

Domestic & Sexual Violence

- [Ujima](#)
- [Sasha Center](#) (Kalimah Johnson)
- [eleven24](#) (Tonjie Reese)
- [Healthy Actions Intervening Responsibly](#) (Jacqueline Miller)
- [Priceless Incite](#) (Annika Leonard)
- [The Safe Sisters Circle](#) (Alana Brown)
- [Girls for Gender Equity](#)
- [The Asha Project](#)
- [A Long Walk Home](#)
- [The Swan Center for Advocacy](#)
- **Reproductive Justice**
 - [Sister Song](#)
 - [National Birth Equity Collaborative](#)
- **Youth Engagement**
 - [eleven24](#) (Tonjie Reese)
 - [Healthy Actions Intervening Responsibly](#) (Jacqueline Miller)
 - [Priceless Incite](#) (Annika Leonard)
 - [Black Youth Project](#)
 - [S.O.U.L Sisters Leadership Collective](#)
- **Immigration**
 - [Black LGBT Migrant Project](#)
 - [Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#)
- **LGBTQ Advocacy**
 - [Black LGBT Migrant Project](#)
 - [S.O.U.L Sisters Leadership Collective](#)
 - [Black and Pink](#)
 - [For the Gwols](#)
- **Mental Health**
 - [BEAM](#)
 - [Sista Afya](#)
- **Food Security**
 - [The Okra Project](#)
- **Abolition**
 - [Black and Pink](#)
 - [Critical Resistance](#)
- **Black Community Healing & Liberation**
 - [Black Youth Project](#)

- [S.O.U.L Sisters Leadership Collective](#)
- [Black Feminist Future](#)
- [Black Women's Blueprint](#)
- [Black Resilience Fund](#)
- [Parenting for Liberation](#)
- [Black Alliance for Just Immigration \(BAJI\)](#)

Some things you could use on your own social:

- Today [tomorrow, Saturday] is #Juneteenth, which marks the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the U.S. Honoring today means celebrating Black power while drawing the connection between this country's past & present history of anti-Blackness. The liberation of Black communities is inseparable from survivor justice.
- Q: What's #Juneteenth, what's the history, how do I engage?
A: LEARN IT. LEARN IT NOW. LEARN IT IMMEDIATELY.
<https://bit.ly/3cL2JJO>
- Q: Why wasn't **#Juneteenth** taught in school?
A: Anti-Blackness.
Q: So what do I do about it?
A: Learn it. Learn it now.
And also... Donate to Black liberation orgs. Invest in transformative justice. Dismantle white supremacy. <https://nbcnews.to/3gz0muY>
- Today [tomorrow, Saturday] is #Juneteenth, which marks the emancipation of those who had been enslaved in the United States. Honoring today means celebrating Black power while drawing the connection between this country's past and present history of anti-Blackness. The liberation of Black communities is inseparable from survivor justice. #1Thing you can do to dismantle anti-Blackness is follow, support, give to, and learn from Black-led organizations centering healing and Black liberation.
- Today [tomorrow, Saturday] I honor #Juneteenth. First and foremost, I celebrate Black leadership, Black joy, Black thought, and Black power. I also acknowledge that anti-Black racism did not end with the emancipation of Black folks who were enslaved. In order to create and support safe communities, we must eradicate anti-Blackness and the violence of white supremacy. The movement to end domestic violence must listen to Black survivors, must follow the lead of Black women and femmes, must not ignore the dangerous entanglement with the criminal justice system that harms Black survivors and communities.

You can grab some graphics from [here](#).

Feel free to share this information and resources with your family and friends!

What is your #1Thing?

What is #1Thing that you can do recognize the contributions and sacrifices of Black people in your organization, community, the movement to end gender based violence, and/or this country?