

TRANSFORM

“THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE”

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

4-Week Anti-Racism Challenge (ARC)

WEEK 1: October 1 - 7, 2021

Complete at least 3 activities this week. Use the ARC Tracking tool below to monitor your progress.

- ❖ **PREPARE:** If you haven't already, so that you can easily relay your opinions on important topics, locate and store contact info for all your elected and appointed officials, including
 - Governor
 - US Senators
 - US Representatives
 - State Senator
 - State Representative
 - Mayor
 - Metro Council Member
 - Police Chief

Choose from the following:

- ❖ **LISTEN / WATCH:** John Oliver's Housing Discrimination segment
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0J49_9lwc&t=6s
- ❖ **VISIT:** Visit the “West of Ninth” exhibit at the Frazier Museum
Exhibition opens Sept. 18th and runs through the summer of 2022.
<https://bit.ly/3F3hRyJ>

- ❖ **ADVOCATE:** Louisville Urban League President and CEO, Sadiqa Reynolds, has said that the greatest crisis facing the Black community is the lack of affordable housing -- including rental housing. Metro Council is deciding right now how much of the Federal American Rescue Plan dollars to spend on housing. Even if you have sent a message before, please email your councilperson now urging them to make affordable housing the top spending priority. Use the form below:
<https://louhomeless.org/tell-metro-council-to-fund-housing-now/>

- ❖ **JOURNAL:** Regarding the racists in your life (we all have them): how have you responded to their racist words and actions? How have you kept silent, thinking it was not worth the hassle of rocking the boat? How have you seen it as your responsibility to address it with them since you have more influence over them due to your friendship? How have you spoken up (or not) because you're committed to healing for those who've been oppressed--rather than protecting the oppressor? What could/should you say that has not been said?

- ❖ **WATCH:** *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of our Nation's Divide*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBYUET24K1c>

- ❖ **READ:** Essay, "Dear Black Woman Boss"
<https://reflectivemeded.substack.com/p/dear-black-woman-boss>

- ❖ **ADVOCATE:** We must support Violence Prevention in our city. Learn about and donate to the efforts of one of these organizations.
--No More Red Dots
<https://www.nmrd.info/>
--Game Changers, founded by Christopher 2X
<https://2xgamechangers.org/>

- ❖ **SUPPORT:** *Freedom Reads*, an organization that provides books to imprisoned persons to "support their efforts to deepen and envision their lives in new ways." Founded by Reginald Dwayne Betts who was incarcerated and, at 16 years old, put in solitary confinement for 14 months. When he called out, "I need books," someone slid a copy of *The Black Poets* under his cell door, changing his life and trajectory. He finished high school in solitary and, on release 8 years later, completed a B.A., an MFA, and went on to Yale Law School--then to remarkable

literary success as a poet. He and his team now send books in order to “open minds and change lives” of persons living in prison.

Link: <https://freedomreads.org/>

- ❖ **LEARN/READ:** Reginald Dwayne Betts is also a member of the Bail Project’s Board of Directors. He has just been awarded a MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship in recognition of his life’s work “promoting the humanity and rights of individuals who are or have been incarcerated.” His latest collection is “Felon.” This poem appears there.

For a Bail Denied (*Listen to it on [Spotify](#)*)

by Reginald Dwayne Betts

for A.S.

I won’t tell you how it ended, &
his mother won’t, either, but beside
me she stood & some things neither

of us could know, & now, all is lost;
lost is all in what came after—the kid,
& we should call him kid, call him a

child, his face smooth & without history
of a razor, he shuffled – ghostly – into
court, & let’s just call it a cauldron, &

admit his nappy head made him blacker
than whatever pistol he’d held,
whatever solitary awaited; the prosecutor’s

bald head was black or brown (but
when has brown not been akin to Black
here? to abyss?) & does it matter,

Black lives, when all he said of Black
boys was that they kill? – the child beside
his mother & his mother beside me &

I am not his father, just a public
defender, near starving, here, where the
state turns men, women, children into

numbers, seeking something more useful
than a guilty plea & this boy beside
me's withering, on the brink of life &

broken, & it's all possible, because the
judge spoke & the kid says
—*I did it I mean I did it I mean Jesus*—

someone wailed & the boy's mother yells:
*This ain't justice. You can't throw my son
into that fucking ocean.* She meant jail.

& we was powerless to stop it.
& too damn tired to be beautiful.

- ❖ **CREATE** your own anti-racism activity. If you like, please share it with us so we can pass the idea on to others.
- ❖ **CONNECT:** Invite a friend to the 4-week ARC by either joining our Facebook page (#WhiteWomenListenLearnAct) or send an email to dikerrigan@whitewomenlistenlearnact.com to be added to the email list.

Thank you for your commitment. You inspire us.

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Use the link below to copy or download the ARC Tracking Tool:
<https://bit.ly/3uq4wf7>