



Responding to Racial Injustice: Ways to Get Involved

This list can help you find organizations and causes that match your interests in volunteering, advocacy, and charitable giving.

Criminal Justice Reform

- [**Ella Baker Center for Human Rights**](#), which advances racial and economic justice by working to shift resources away from prisons and punishment and towards opportunities that make communities safer, healthier, and stronger. Communities of color face struggling schools, family separation, and a lack of opportunities as a direct result of being disproportionately policed and punished. The Ella Baker Center changes the conversation about public safety to be less focused on fear and punishment, and more focused on a living wage job, healthy food, and affordable childcare, healthcare, and housing and opportunity.
- [**The Gathering for Justice**](#), which was founded in 2005 by Harry Belafonte after he saw a news report of a five-year-old black girl being handcuffed and arrested in her Florida classroom for “being unruly.” Its mission is to build a movement to end child incarceration and dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline while working to eliminate the racial inequities that permeate the justice system.
- [**Vera Institute of Justice**](#), whose mission is to build justice systems that ensure fairness, promote safety, and strengthen communities. Vera fights for justice reform by tackling the most pressing injustices of our day: from the causes and consequences of mass incarceration, racial disparities, and the loss of public trust in law enforcement, to the unmet needs of the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those harmed by crime and violence. Vera works with governments to study problems that impede human dignity and justice, pilot solutions, engage diverse communities, and drive effective policy reforms.

Fair Elections

- [**Black Futures Lab**](#), created by Alicia Garza, co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, to make Black communities powerful in politics through a combination of technology and traditional organizing methods. Recent initiatives include the Black Census Project, the largest survey of Black people conducted in the U.S. since Reconstruction. Black Futures Lab works to understand the dynamics impacting Black communities, build capacity of the communities to govern, and engage and include Black people in decisions affecting their lives.
- [**Brennan Center for Justice**](#), inspired by Justice William J. Brennan’s commitment to a fair and inclusive democracy, support for the disadvantaged, an end to mass incarceration, and respect for individual rights and liberties. The Brennan Center pioneered automatic voter registration, crafted ballot initiatives to end partisan gerrymandering, litigates to end



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disenfranchisement, and uses research and advocacy to transform the debate over mass incarceration.

Freedom and Diversity of the Press

- [**The Ida B. Wells Society**](#), a nonprofit news organization that seeks to increase the ranks, retention, and profile of reporters and editors of color in the field of investigative reporting and to foster social justice journalism and accountability reporting about racial injustice. Its programs include training and professional development, as well as intensive fellowships to learn in-depth investigative reporting techniques from accomplished journalists. Co-founded by veteran Black journalists Nikole Hannah-Jones (2020 Pulitzer Prize Winner), Ron Nixon, and Topher Sanders.
- [**Maynard Institute**](#), founded by Bob Maynard, reporter and editor at the *Washington Post* who became the first African American owner of the *Oakland Tribune*. Approximately three-quarters of American newsroom employees are White, according to the Pew Research Center, and this lack of newsroom diversity is inextricably linked to the issue of well-rounded coverage. The Maynard Institute seeks to break the cycle of biased depictions in the media of people of color by training media managers, journalists, and correspondents from communities of color, creating content for nuanced coverage, and keeping media accountable through its Watchdog program.

Health Justice

- [**Black AIDS Institute**](#), which understands that health justice is racial justice. BAI works to end the Black HIV epidemic by addressing the social determinants of health, dismantling practices, systems, and institutions that lead to healthcare disparities and increasing access and ability for health service providers and institutions to serve Black people. BAI is revolutionizing the HIV service industry to allow Black people to live their fullest, healthiest lives with dignity, care, and respect.
- [**Black Mamas Matter Alliance**](#), which envisions a world in which Black women have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy. Black women in the U.S. die in childbirth at a rate three to four times that of white women. BMMA seeks to address this disparity by serving as a national voice and coordinating platform for initiatives to advance maternal health and rights.

[**Black Women's Health Imperative**](#), the first nonprofit created by Black women in the U.S. dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing physical, mental, and spiritual health and well-being of Black women and girls. It targets the most pressing health issues through national programs in health policy, education, research, knowledge, and leadership development and communications.