

# **Black Lives Matter and Disability Resources**

*Trigger Warning: Police Brutality/Violence, Death/Illness, Racism.*

Black Lives Matter is a Disability Justice issue. Intersectionality and cross-movement solidarity are core tenets of Disability Justice from the individual to institutional level. [Experts estimate](#) anywhere from one-third to one-half of police killings are people with disabilities. Interrupting anti-Blackness and the multiple marginalizations of Black Disabled peoples is critical to undoing racism and ableism. These resources have been compiled from Rooted in Rights and One Out of Five to support learning about the intersections of BLM and Disability Justice.



*Note: This is a working document and it is important to offer students the most up to date information and resources to support their learning and action against racism and ableism in all its forms.*

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# **Black Lives Matter and Disability Resources**

## **We Can't Breathe: The Deaf & Disabled Margin of Police Brutality Project**

**Type:** Video and Toolkit

**Summary:** "We Can't Breathe: The Deaf & Disabled Margin of Police Brutality Project" includes a video and toolkit that can be utilized for educational training for disability organizations and agencies. The "We Can't Breathe" Video discusses the narratives of 5 people with disabilities on the margins that have been victimized by police brutality and other forms of systemic violence. The "We Can't Breathe" Toolkit addresses how state violence affects people with disabilities who are also women, people of color, and LGBTQ+.

**Activity Ideas:** Watch the video and use discussion questions from the website's toolkit. Utilize the glossary of terms to inform your conversation.

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## **Black Lives Matter and Disability**

**Type:** Resource list

**Summary:** This resource guide was added to "Black, Disabled, and Proud: College Students with Disabilities" website. The goal of the guide is to share resources about race and disability with police and security officers working with campuses and surrounding neighborhoods.

**Activity Ideas:** Explore the different resources on the page, specifically focusing on one topic covered in the guide such as: Race, Disability, and Black Lives Matter; Taking Care of Yourself; Police Brutality and Disability, Disability Resources for Black Lives Matter; Resources for Police and Security Officers about Disability and Race.

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## **The State of Black Immigrants**

**Type:** Report

**Summary:** A 52-page background report aiming to provide basic descriptive statistics regarding Black or African American immigrants based on the American Community Survey (ACS), the 2014 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and immigration data available on the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) website developed by Syracuse University.

**Activity Ideas:** Focus on one chapter or section as a class: Definitions; Current State of Black Immigrants in the US; Size and Growth of Black Immigrant Population; Characteristics of the Black Immigrant Population; Educational Background; Economic Snapshot; Immigration Status and Means of Entry; Access to Relief from Deportation.

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## Resources for Race, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Inclusion

**Type:** Resource list

**Summary:** Resource list of organizations, book recommendations, Black owned bookstores, and further reading and educational resources

**Activity Ideas:** Explore the bookstores and organizations specific to your state and neighboring state.

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## Skin, Tooth, and Bone: The Basis of Movement is Our People, A Disability Justice Primer [book](#) and digital [download](#)

**Type:** Book

**Summary:** The Disability Justice Primer offers concrete suggestions for moving beyond the socialization of ableism, such as mobilizing against police violence, how to commit to mixed ability organizing, and access suggestions for events. ([Sins Invalid](#))

**Activity Ideas:** Read excerpts (there are text and images to use) from the book as a whole class or have students do a jigsaw with multiple excerpts. Use “Skin, Tooth, and Bone” as a starting point to have students choose and research Disability Justice topics.

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## Black Disabled Woman Syllabus

**Type:** Syllabus

**Summary:** Vilissa Thompson of Ramp Your Voice! has created a compilation of books, essays/articles, speeches, music, and other bodies of work that accurately explains the diverse forms of Blackness that exists for Black women, and how the lives of Black disabled women meshed within that discourse.

**Activity Ideas:** Focus on one section as a class such as: Black Feminism/Womanism; The Black Disabled Body & Identity; Articles About Blackness, Feminism, &/or Disability; Books about Blackness in America; Fiction & Poetic Works; Audio/Video; Music.

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## Disability Visibility Project – Episode 78: Hate Crimes

**Type:** Podcast

**Summary:** This episode is about hate crimes with [Dr. Sachin Pavithran](#), the Director of Policy at the [Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) at Utah State University. Sachin is also a member of the [Access Board](#), an independent federal agency and President of the Board of AUCD ([Association of University Centers on Disabilities](#)). This episode is about his personal experiences. Please note: The episode contains discussions about hate, hate crimes, racism, racial profiling, police brutality, xenophobia, and violence.

**Activity Ideas:** Listen to the podcast and have a group discussion and/or writing prompt.

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## **[Disability Visibility Project – Leroy Moore Jr. and Keith Jones Interview](#)**

**Type:** Podcast

**Summary:** Keith Jones interviewed Leroy Moore Jr. for the Disability Visibility Project™ at StoryCorps San Francisco on July 20, 2016. In this clip, Leroy and Keith talk about their experiences being Black hip hop artists living with Cerebral Palsy. Keith and Leroy share about how they got involved in the New York hip hop scene in the late 1970s and how their love of hip hop plus the discrimination they face moved them to create Krip Hop Nation. Leroy and Keith also describe how they grew up and their experiences of police profiling.

**Activity Ideas:** Listen to the podcast and have a group discussion and/or writing prompt.

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## **[Free Library of Writing from Black Activists and Scholars](#)**

**Type:** Free library

**Summary:** Free library of written, audio, and video work of contemporary and historical Black scholars, activists, and leaders.

**Activity Ideas:** Focus on the works and teaching of a specific scholar. Read and explore their works as a class through multiple means (audio, video, writing).

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## **[Confronting the Whitewashing Of Disability: Interview with #DisabilityTooWhite Creator Vilissa Thompson](#)**

**Type:** Article

**Summary:** Interview about #DisabilityTooWhite and the impact of the hashtag.

**Activity Ideas:** Discussion on the power social media has to call out injustice and enact change in our society.

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## **[Disability Solidarity: Completing The ‘Vision For Black Lives’](#)**

**Type:** Article

**Summary:** Clear, concise article about the Harriet Tubman Collective, criticizing the lack of mention of disability in the Black Lives Matter movement platform.

**Activity Ideas:** Brainstorm and chart multiple methods of cross-movement solidarity.

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## **[Disabled Black History: Shining A Light on Disabled Black Authors & Their Work](#)**

**Type:** Blog

**Summary:** List of disabled Black authors and their work.

**Activity Ideas:** Create a reading list for your class featuring disabled Black authors. Choose an author to focus on and read their work as a whole class.

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## **[The Overlooked Reality of Police Violence Against Disabled Black Americans](#)**

**Type:** Podcast from The Takeaway

**Summary:** Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Tanisha Anderson, Deborah Danner, Ezell Ford, Alfred Olango, and Keith Lamont Scott were all Black and tragically killed by police. They also have one other thing in common: they were all disabled. To understand how police brutality affects the Black disabled community, The Takeaway spoke with [Haben Girma](#), disability rights advocate and author of "Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law," and [Vilissa Thompson](#), a social worker and disability rights activist.

**Activity Ideas:** Listen to the podcast and have a group discussion and/or writing prompt.

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## **[What is Police Violence? A Plain Language Booklet](#)**

**Type:** Booklet

**Summary:** Created by the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN), American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), and Green Mountain Self-Advocates, this is a plain language booklet about police violence, anti-Black racism, and ways to act. Written for and by people with disabilities to increase access to this important information.

**Activity Ideas:** Read the booklet as a class, explore the figures listed and the resources at the end of the booklet.