

# #BLACKLIVESMATTER @ Boatwright Memorial Library A Resource List

**#BLACKLIVESMATTER FAQ**

**What is #BlackLivesMatter?**  
Following the acquittal of George Zimmerman for the 2012 killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, activists Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza used the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter to address extra-judicial killings of black and brown people by law enforcement officials and vigilante citizens in the United States. The hashtag was quickly taken up by a new generation of civil rights activists across the country to name the movement against police brutality, mass incarceration, economic injustice, and other symptoms of institutionalized racism.

**What are some goals of the movement?**  
Although the movement has no centralized leadership and is made up of activist groups across American cities, a platform for the Movement for Black Lives was released in August 2016. The platform addresses decriminalization and humanization of black folks by addressing issues of mass incarceration and the militarization of law enforcement, reparations for centuries of oppression from slavery through the war on drugs, and community control of the legal and political forces which affect them. See the full platform at [policy.m4bl.org](http://policy.m4bl.org)

**Why not #AllLivesMatter?**  
Asserting that #BlackLivesMatter does not negate the value of non-black lives. It is a statement used to point to the repeated and continued failures of our government, legal system, and society to value the humanity and rights of black and brown people. #AllLivesMatter was born out of an attempt to silence #BlackLivesMatter, and it derails the conversation around the systemic injustices black and brown people face. As Alicia Garza put it: "Given the disproportionate impact state violence has on Black lives, we understand that when Black people in this country get free, the benefits will be wide reaching and transformative for society as a whole."

**Want to get involved?**  
#BlackLivesMatter has chapters in nearly every major city, search online for a group near you and attend and organizing meeting! Investigate your local laws and see if they address how police violence disproportionately affects black and brown communities and if your local government is addressing these concerns. Check out national campaigns at [policy.m4bl.org](http://policy.m4bl.org)

Materials for the Boatwright Memorial Library #BlackLivesMatter display were sourced from the following syllabi and readings lists:

- [#BlackLivesMatter Syllabus by Abigail Neely, Dartmouth University](#)
- [Black Lives Matter: Race, Resistance, and Populist Protest by Frank Leon Roberts, New York University](#)
- [We Gon' Be Alright: The Black Lives Matter Movement by Frank Leon Roberts, New York University](#)
- [The Complete Summer Reading Syllabus on Black Lives Matter by Selina Cheng, Quartz](#)
- [Black Lives Matter: Perspectives on Blackness, State Violence, and Resistance by Melissa Harris-Perry and Jaira J. Harrington, Wake Forest University](#)
- [#FergusonSyllabus by Marcia Chatelain, Dissent Magazine](#)

- ↪ [Black Lives \(Don't\) Matter, The C.O.U.P. \(Coalition of Underrecognized Peoples\)](#)
- ↪ [How to Teach Kids About What's Happening in Ferguson by Marcia Chatelain, The Atlantic](#)
- ↪ [Black Lives Matter: A Reading List, Left Bank Books](#)
- ↪ [The Black Lives Matter Film Syllabus by Antwaun Sargent, Tribeca Film](#)
- ↪ [#BlackLivesMatter: A Bibliography for the Revolution by BlackLivesMatter Nashville](#)
- ↪ [Ferguson Syllabus, Sociologists for Justice](#)
- ↪ [The Black Movement Syllabus organized by Antwann Michael](#)

The quote from Alicia Garza on the exhibit promotional postcard comes from: [A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement by Alicia Garza](#)