



# **The Big Unequitable Picture: Criminal Justice, Education, and Voting Rights**

## *Race & Criminal Justice*

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“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.”

~ Angela Y. Davis

# Training Goals

- Explain anti-racist;
- Examine historical & contemporary manifestations of racism within the criminal justice system;
- Discuss the intersection of racism & criminal justice;
- Develop strategies to engage in restorative conversations; and
- Identify appropriate ways to address racism within the criminal justice system

# Overview

- Historical context: Criminal Justice System
- Contemporary Criminal Justice System
- Anti-racism & the Criminal Justice System
- A Call to Action

# Anti-Racist

- *To be antiracist is to think nothing is behaviorally wrong or right -- inferior or superior -- with any of the racial groups. Whenever the antiracist sees individuals behaving positively or negatively, the antiracist sees exactly that: individuals behaving positively or negatively, not representatives of whole races...Behavior is something humans do, not races do.*
  - *Ibram X. Kendi, How to Be an Anti-Racist*

# Brief History: Criminal Justice System

- Deeply rooted in *systemic racism*- any measure that produces or sustains racial inequity between racial groups
- Three main branches:
  - Police (slave patrols, excluded from policing; toxic legacy of mistrust)
  - Courts – (racist decisions by courts)
  - Corrections (convict lease system)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment – slavery illegal except as punishment for criminality

# Contemporary Criminal Justice System

- Intersection of racism & criminal justice
- Racial disparities
- “Race-neutral” policies- *do not specifically refer to a particular race or ethnic group, but has disparate impact*
- Impact of the War on Drugs
  - Draconian laws

# Contemporary Criminal Justice System

- Mass incarceration
  - Disproportionate minority confinement
  - Privatization
  - Profitable
- Militarization of police
  - Protect & serve
  - Law & order



# Anti-racism & Criminal Justice

- *Anti-racism* is a powerful collection of antiracist policies that lead to racial equity and are substantiated by antiracist ideas.
- *How does it look?*
  - Criminal justice reform
    - Anti-racism training
    - Anti-racist policies
    - Racial impact statements
      - Assess proposed criminal justice reform bills for racial impact
      - Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights- MD

# A Call to Action

- What can you do?
  - Advocate
  - Support criminal justice reform efforts
  - Acknowledge your privilege
  - Engage in uncomfortable conversations
  - Do the work

# A Call to Action

- What can you do?
  - Be intentional with your language
  - Allyship

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# Questions?