



Trans Justice is Racial Justice Toolkit

TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY RESOURCES FOR INTERSECTIONAL SOLIDARITY

The struggle for trans liberation and thriving is a foundational part of the movement toward racial justice. Our ancestors and transestors have showed us that if we work for the flourishing of those oppressed by multiple systems of power and privilege, we will all get free. As Ibram X. Kendi argues, "To be antiracist is to reject not only the hierarchy of genders but of race-genders...To be antiracist is to level the different race-genders, is to root the inequities between equal race-genders in the policies of gender racism."¹ [Trans Day of Visibility \(March 31st\)](#) offers us the opportunity to make explicit these connections by centering the voices of BIPOC Trans, queer, and non-binary people and learning from their practices of intersectional justice-making how we all might join together to move toward the world of equity, love and compassion that God intends for us.

"We must live into the truth that achieving racial justice is not a step on our path to LGBTQ+ liberation -- it is the only way forward," [says activist Adam Carey](#). In the same way, we must live into the truth that trans justice is not a step on the way to racial justice, it, too, is the only way forward. As anti-trans legislation sweeps across the United States and legislators and elected officials target trans youth, we know that the impact of these unjust laws and policies will be experienced disproportionately by trans youth of color. So let us all commit and recommit to centering these most impacted people in our responses and efforts, while we each find ways of stepping up in solidarity with the beloved ones of the Holy One, in all our radiant and diverse glory.

¹¹ Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist* (New York: One World Press, 2019), 189.

Here are some tools for you and your community (especially if you are predominantly white/Euro-descended and/or predominantly cisgender) as you lean into antiracist practices for trans justice in honor of Transgender Day of Visibility (or really any day – the work of justice is for everyday!!).

1. Expand the imagination of your prayers and worship.

- The Black Trans Prayer Book <https://theblacktransprayerbook.org/>
- Trans Day of Resilience Art Project: <https://tdor.co/>
- Many Voices: A Black Church Movement for Gay and Transgender Justice: <https://www.manyvoices.org/resources/?/worship/>

2. Align your justice work with trans racial justice movement goals.

- Trans Agenda for Liberation <https://transgenderlawcenter.org/trans-agenda-for-liberation>
- National Trans Youth Council Nine Point Platform <https://ourtranstruth.org/ninepointplatform/>

3. Center, believe, and be informed by stories of trans youth from underrepresented cultural backgrounds.

- TRUTH Program Stories: <https://ourtranstruth.org/storytelling/our-stories/>
- 2020 Time to Thrive: Youth Panel on Intersection of Race, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity: <https://youtu.be/3iUzsz-A4Gsg>
- Trans Youth on What They Wish Lawmakers Behind Anti-Trans Bills Really Understood by Juniperangelica Gia Loving <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/trans-youth-what-they-wish-lawmakers-anti-trans-bills-understood>

4. Encounter and learn from voices at the intersections.

- Surviving Blackness and What It's Like to Be Transgender by Lee Mokobe: <https://youtu.be/kKeff-hDQQI> <https://youtu.be/S8DwxjDrNNM>
- Trans/Generation by Alok Vaid-Menon: <https://youtu.be/iLPwZZjMqyl>
- No Child Left Behind by Dominique Christina & Denice Frohman: <https://youtu.be/RHSqUyi6GUU>
- Biological Woman (after Maya Angelou) by Chrysanthemum Tran: <https://youtu.be/lhKFnr9Te6c>
- Black Trans* Lives Matter, TEDx CSU Talk by Dr. D-L Stewart: <https://youtu.be/bs67v5klQI4>
- A New Kind of Outlaw by D'orjay The Singing Shaman: <https://dorjaythesingingshaman.bandcamp.com/album/new-kind-of-outlaw>
- I Am Her by Shea Diamond: https://youtu.be/4_zOOnvB7K8

5. Cultivate regular spiritual practices that counter and dismantle white supremacy and gender inequity while forming you in the radically expansive love of God.

- Pray daily the [Lord's Prayer for Trans Awareness](#) (written by Rev. Kim Sorrells, primarily geared for cisgender people).

Our Mother and Father, our beloved parent, in whom we move and breathe and have our being,

The hallowing of your name shines forth in the diversity of your children.

May your peace and love, justice and equality, inclusion and belonging reign here on earth as in heaven.

Grant that our transgender loved ones might have their daily needs met—that they might find gainful employment without discrimination; that they might have access to medical care without fear; that they might have their rights and lives protected, and that they might find a loving community to belong to and call their own.

Forgive us for the ways that we have fallen short and failed your transgender children. Forgive us of the times we turned away, or did not care; for the times we laughed or judged their unique expression of your image; for the times we have misspoken, asked too much, or failed to hear

As we forgive those who might have failed us.

Lead us away from the temptation to be complacent in the face of injustice. But instead give us courage to stand up and stand with your beloved children. For your love and justice is to be made manifest now and forever. Amen.

- Say/pray/sing this Celebration of Gender Expansive Identities Chant by trans and racial justice advocate Rae Strozso. Add identities to any section as needed.

Gender expansive identities and bodies are beloved by God. (3 times)

Transgender, transsexual, trans masculine, trans feminine, trans women, trans men, FTM, MTF, agender, non-binary, feminine of center, masculine of center, gender queer, gender fluid, gender neutral, gender non-conforming, bi-gender, passing and nonpassing, third gender, two spirit, intersex bodies and identities are beloved by God.
(Only once)

Intersections of identity are basically good.

African-American, Chicano, Latinx, African, White, Native, Filipino, Assyrian, Iranian, mixed race, Chinese, Japanese, Hawaiian, able bodied, visually impaired, legally blind, hearing impaired, neurologically diverse, immigrant, documented and undocumented, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, non-Christian, Muslim identities are beloved by God.
(Only once)

All Gender expansive identities and bodies are beloved by God.
Gender expansive children are beloved by God.
All genders and bodies are beloved by God. (3 times)
My gender identity is beloved by God. (3 times)
My body is beloved by God. (3 times)

- Offer the Imprecatory Prayer to the Transestors by jay dodd (see below) as part of your daily practice and take moments to learn more about trans and gender expansive ancestors and leaders (you could even check out the [Transgender Heroes Coloring book](#)).

Here are some websites to explore as starting places:

- <http://tettertransoralhistory.umn.edu/>
- <https://hellogiggles.com/lifestyle/trans-women-learning-history-class/>
- <https://www.yesmagazine.org/social-justice/2021/06/07/trans-history-gender-diversity>

To The Trans Ancestors & Elders who have guided us here:

We honor your legacy with new celebrations.

May our bodies persist, let them shine whole & well.

May our minds calibrate to the call of the universe.

Let our protest songs transfigure to peace hymns.

Let our cultural knowledge produce nourishment.

May our homes bustle warm with abundant love.

May our communities flourish despite borders.

Let our love quake open any lingering shackle.

Let our joy obliterate any festering contempt.

As we bind each other closer,
we manifest futures more possible.²

² From Trans People Exist in the Future: Art and Poetry Celebrating Trans Resilience (November 2020). Curated by Forward Together's Trans Day of Resilience art project; Kemi Alabi, Writing Director; Micah Bazant, Art Director. This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#).



6. Take action to support trans youth and adults.

- Work to support trans justice and racial equity in sports: <https://www.transathlete.com/take-action>
- Find out about legislation happening in your state or in states where you can impact others to speak out: <https://transequality.org/state-action-center>
- Support trans-led organizations in their work for justice: <https://www.transjusticefundingproject.org/>
- Check out and respond to a recent UCC [Call for Solidarity and Action for Trans and Nonbinary People](#).

For more information contact:

Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister for Racial Justice Lovev@ucc.org
Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, Join the Movement Curator fennemas@ucc.org

Join the Movement toward Racial Justice today!

<https://jointhemovementucc.org/>