SUSTAINING THE MOVEMENT For Social Justice



Dear AAPF Family, Friends, **Partners**, and **Allies**:

As we arrive at the end of another year marked by pandemic and political crisis, we hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones well.

For our team at the African American Policy Forum, this year has been about pushing forward and sticking to our liberatory mission in the face of backlash and retrenchment. We often say that if you can't name a problem, you can't fix it. You can't fight for racial justice and gender equality if you can't see, speak, or learn about racial injustice and gender inequality. That's why, since 1996, our organization has dedicated itself to developing expansive frameworks and strategies to meet the challenges of true justice. We have always known, however, that by speaking out about institutional and structural discrimination, by dealing with issues of race, gender, and inequality in the manner that we do, by speaking truth to power, we will face tremendous opposition. And indeed, over the past year, our education and a high providence

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and advocacy work has faced a wave of disinformation and propaganda, as opponents of a genuine multiracial democracy seek to legislate anti-racist ideas out of the public arena. Because

of your confidence in our mission, however, we have been able to expand the reach of our major campaigns and programs in this prolonged moment of crisis. We have taken substantial steps forward in our work through the #SayHerName and #TruthBeTold campaigns, as well as the Young Scholars Program, the Under the Blacklight series, Black Girls Matter Initiative, and the Critical Race Theory Summer School. Because of your support, we have ramped up our efforts to share our analytical frameworks, train the next generation of thinkers and activists, and resist efforts to dismantle our core contributions to society.

In the following pages, we reflect on all that AAPF has accomplished through our campaigns, programs, and initiatives in 2021.

> With gratitude, AAPF















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SAYHERNAME CAMPAIGN: "MORE THAN A HASHTAG"

In 2020, the mass response to high-profile police killings brought previously unseen levels of attention to #SayHerName and the issue of Black women's susceptibility to state violence. As a result, AAPF's responsibility for 2021 was inextricably intertwined with building on this momentum. We pressed for intersectional justice, to strengthen the #SayHerName campaign's infrastructure for advocacy and support, and to turn words into transformative action on behalf of Black women, girls, and femmes.

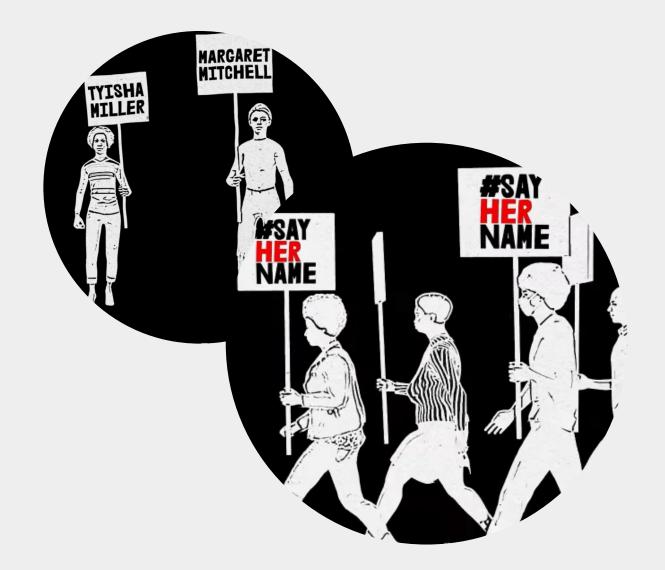
To achieve these goals, AAPF launched a #SayHerName Advocate program in early 2021. #SayHerName Advocates commit to bear witness to the intersectional conditions of Black women's lives and educate themselves on the structural forces that render Black women uniquely vulnerable to state violence. They amplify the voices and demands of Black women, activate support networks around them, and bolster the #SayHerName Campaign and its Mothers Network. Moreover, AAPF has expanded partnerships that amplify the #SayHerName campaign's intersectional analysis of police violence for new audiences. One such initiative was a partnership with YouTube that elevated #SayHerName and published a video playlist across YouTube's content and social media channels. To educate and mobilize new supporters brought to the campaign through partnerships like this one, we have hosted #SayHerName information sessions. In March 2021, we held the first of these sessions featuring the members of the #SayHerName Mothers Network.

In September, we welcomed the release of "Say Her Name (Hell You Talmbout)," a single by Janelle Monáe, featuring 15 amazing Black woman artists and activists including Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Mj Rodriguez, and AAPF Co-founder Kimberlé Crewnshaw. The 17-minute single, which uplifts the names of 61 Black women killed by police, was the product of over a year of collaboration between AAPF, Janelle Monáe, and Wondaland. It has garnered millions of streams, and the accompanying lyric video has garnered hundreds of thousands of unique views since the song's release. Finally, on December 13, we brought a year of action and growth to a close by marking the campaign's seventh anniversary with a public gathering of reflection and restoration.

So as we move into a new year and reflect on #SayHerName's progress, we also commit to honor Cassandra's memory by redoubling our efforts to resist police brutality against Black women.

Now, we eagerly await the release of a new book, #SayHerName: Black Women's Stories of Police Violence and Public Silence, written by AAPF, edited by Kimberlé Crenshaw, and published by Haymarket Books. The book – a powerful story of Black feminist practice, community-building, empowerment, and Black feminist reckoning – is available for preorder now.

Despite the progress made by #SayHerName, 2021 was also a year of loss and heartbreak for AAPF and the Mothers Network. In September, our community mourned the passing of Cassandra Johnson, the mother of Tanisha Anderson and a beloved member of the Mother's Network since 2016. As with another mother of the movement whom we lost too soon, Vicky McAdory, we believe Cassie's loss is an



example of how the grief and trauma stemming from the police killings of loved ones compound physical health ailments— a devastating factor in the untold story of police violence.

The tragic loss of Cassandra Johnson highlights how urgent it is for us to rally behind strategies of sustenance and care to assist families who lose their daughters to police violence. So as we move into a new year and reflect on #SayHerName's progress, we also commit to honoring Cassandra's memory by redoubling our efforts to resist police brutality.



#TRUTHBETOLD: "THE FIGHT CONTINUES"

When the Trump administration issued Executive Order 13950 in September 2020, banning the use of "divisive concepts" like systemic racism and sexism from federal agencies and grant recipients, AAPF recognized the Order for what it was: the first move of an aggressive backlash to the protests and mass demands for racial justice made in the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. We saw the Order—and the legislative acts it portended—as an existential threat to projects for social justice in the quest for a truly multiracial democracy.

Now, across the country, justice-minded educators and advocates-especially those in vulnerable K-12 public school settings-face a full-fledged assault on their ability to teach the truth about America's racial history. Over the last year, we have watched a multi-pronged campaign of disinformation and dangerous legislation extend its tendrils from the federal government to state and local entities. The infrastructure behind these attacks includes a coordinated system of right-wing propagandists, think tanks, and lawyers- all financed by wealthy conservative foundations and funders. What's more, this attack makes up just one piece of a broader strategy to suppress voting rights, democratic participation, dissent, and protest- all measures that threaten the continued functioning of America's emerging multiracial democracy. AAPF's #TruthBeTold campaign is galvanizing a diverse coalition of stakeholders to resist and defeat these assaults on social justice.

#TruthBeTold is a bold, multi-front campaign. Building upon a key strategic convening organized in partnership with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in June 2021, #TruthBeTold has established five working groups of stakeholders and allies. In these groups, academics, DEI professionals, educators, funders, students, strategists, and other stakeholders work collaboratively to protect and promote social justice in sites of conflict. This year, #TruthBeTold has engaged more than 250 community-based and national advocacy organizations while launching national days of action to #TeachTruth. The campaign has also sponsored key initiatives to support academic freedom through the teaching of Critical Race Theory and educating the public about the consequences of banning books. In October, we organized a National Critical Race Theory Teach-In, held in honor of George Floyd's birthday. And, most recently, our team traveled to Tennessee to support social studies teacher Matthew Hawn, who had been fired for introducing conversations about white supremacy and white privilege to his students. AAPF produced a video which documented Hawn's reinstatement appeal hearing and the support from the community for teaching truth.

In collaboration with its educational and legal partners, AAPF has produced toolkits, messaging guides, "Know Your Rights" documents, media training videos, and other essential tools for resisting the attempt to turn back the clock on racial justice. AAPF and its partners have also conducted original focus group research and polling with an eye toward crafting *affirmative* strategies that we can share with our allies to turn the tide.

We are proud of what #TruthBeTold has accomplished over the past year. We are reframing a miscast discourse, setting the agenda, and organizing the resistance to corrosive assaults on truth, justice, and democracy. Yet we also know that these assaults are not going to let up. So, we must vigilantly defend the ideals of racial justice and public education against the forces now threatening the prospects for a more inclusive America. The fight continues.

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UNDER THE BLACKLIGHT: "CRITICAL Conversations in a year of crisis"

This year, the Under the Blacklight series concluded its first season of conversations addressing COVID-19 and structural racism. The series started its second season with a bang. Working from its original mission to explore the implications of the pandemic, Under the Blacklight has expanded its scope, delivering timely and thought-provoking breakdowns of our most pressing political and social issues. We've conducted an engaging and provocative series of online discussions around a wide range of topics utilizing an intersectional prism, including the McCarthyite crackdown on Critical Race Theory, the status of Black women in America, and the unresolved racial dynamics at the core of America's political origin story.

In the last year, the series has welcomed acclaimed scholars, theorists, and activists, including Bryan Stevenson, Alexis McGill Johnson, Jill Abramson, Carol Anderson and Viet Thanh Nguyen. With thousands of regular viewers across the globe, *Under the Blacklight* provides a free critical forum for everyone engaged in the fight for a more just and equitable world. In recognition of the series' distinctive voice in the online media sphere, *Under the Blacklight* is a Webby Award Honoree in the category of *Virtual & Remote: Public Service & Activism.* The past year of the series has been crucial, not only in consolidating the series' original

Under the Blacklight has expanded its scope, delivering timely and thought-provoking breakdowns of our most pressing political and social issues mission, but also in using its unique voice and vantage point to analyze under-discussed topics and to reach new audiences. Some key highlights from this year include:

Episode 21: <u>"If Hindsight is 2020 Why Are We Still</u> <u>Not Saved?</u>", featuring Carol Anderson, David Blight, Anoa Changa, and Joe Lowndes.

Episode 23: <u>"The Story of Us</u>", featuring Bryan Stevenson, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Ruha Benjamin, and David Blight.

Episode 26: <u>"Educators Ungagged"</u>, featuring Lilly Amechi, Stacey Davis Gates, Amy Donofrio, Matthew Hawn, Brittany Hogan, Dr. James Whitfield, and Leah Watson.

As we continue to expand *Under the Blacklight*'s mission and reach in the year ahead, we eagerly embrace the key challenge before us: developing the critical analytical and strategic tools necessary to sustain and preserve our multiracial democracy.



INTERSECTIONALITY MATTERS!: **"BRINGING INTERSECTIONALITY TO LIFE"**

For the third year in a row, our Intersectionality Matters! podcast has brought the concept of intersectionality to life by exploring the hidden dimensions of today's most pressing issues, from COVID-19, to the #SayHerName campaign, to the war on civil rights, and the global rise of fascism. The podcast, hosted by AAPF Co-founder and Executive Director Kimberlé Crenshaw, features vital conversations with leading activists, artists, and scholars, ushering listeners toward deeper and more nuanced understandings of politics, social movements, and this current historical moment.

The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Soundcloud, and is in the top 5% of all podcasts in listenership, garnering more than 580.000 listens in 2021. The pioneering work of Intersectionality Matters! elevates

intersectional perspectives that are otherwise silenced by the artificial boundaries embraced by an array of different political constituencies and movements. For example, episode 42, "Educators Ungagged: Teaching Truth in the Era of Racial Backlash," centers the voices of the teachers, administrators, and students now in the crosshairs of the nationwide backlash against Critical Race Theory and the teaching of America's actual racial history in schools. Episode 41, "Believing Her: The Clarence Thomas/ Anita Hill Hearings at 30," revisits the landmark Thomas/Hill hear-

ings of 1991 through a collage of archival audio recordings, a conversation with Hill, and reflections from Crenshaw and AAPF Co-Founder Luke Charles Harris. Through in-depth discussions like these Intersectionality Matters! has proven an indispensable source of insight and solidarity during a time of backlash and retrenchment.

THE CRITICAL RACE THEORY SUMMER SCHOOL: *"FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE FIGHTS BACK"*

With the war on racial justice raging around us this year, we redoubled our commitment to equipping our community with the critical strategies and insights that must be developed and refined in order to contest and dismantle social inequalities. The 2021 Critical Race Theory Summer School built upon the inaugural 2020 session, nearly doubling its size and venturing in ambitious new directions. In the face of a coordinated campaign of racial backlash targeting the very foundations of CRT, the Summer School drew more than 700 participants while bringing together a faculty six times the size of the inaugural group.

Titled "Forbidden Knowledge Fights Back:

CRITICAL RACE THEOR SUMMER SCHOOL

"Forbidden Knowledge" Fights Back.

Urbiaden nnowieage rignis pac Unleashing the Transformative Power of Critical Race Theory

Unleashing the Transformative Power of Critical Race Theory," the week-long program offered 90 different sessions across 17 different thematic channels. The carefully-curated channels emphasized the intersections of Critical Race Theory, social-justice organizing, and intellectual inquiry. Each day included a general plenary session and nearly twenty breakout sessions led by professors, authors, justice practitioners, and journalists. The focus of these sessions ranged from Afrofuturism and reproductive justice to the rise of fascism and xenophobic nativism to CRT in faith-based communities. The Critical Race Theory Summer School boldly framed new agendas for reform and ambitious social reconstruction in the face of concerted forces or repression and backlash- offering in the process a desperately-needed roadmap for future campaigns for justice and equity.

CRENSHAW

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM: "TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES"

Drawing on vital traditions of fellowship and direct training, the AAPF team designed the 2021 Summer Fellowship Program to provide qualified students with first-hand experience in our work as a nonprofit think tank and clearinghouse for coalition-building. This year, out of hundreds of qualified applicants, AAPF selected 13 fellows across a range of disciplines to gain insight into community organizing, research, and policy analysis. We chose these fellows to embed them within the project teams for the #SayHerName campaign, #TruthBeTold, the Critical Race Theory Summer School, Black Girls Matter, and AAPF's digital and social media arms.

Over an intensive nine-week course, fellows engaged in project-based assignments specific to their skills and interests. They worked fulltime, taking part in regular planning and brainstorming sessions with the AAPF team, preparing communications for outreach and internal distribution, and assisting in the production of AAPF events, retreats, and public-facing programming. Their work was instrumental to the success of the Critical Race Theory Summer School, the Young Scholars Program, the #TruthBeTold working groups, AAPF media appearances, and so much more! We can't wait to see them continue fighting for justice and equity in their academic and activist career paths. Even better, a few fellows have stuck around and joined our team full-time!



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BLACK GIRLS MATTER: "TOWARDS VISIBILITY AND SECURITY FOR BLACK GIRLS"

Since its inception, the Black Girls Matter Initiative has foregrounded the intersectional experience of Black girls in America's schools, with a special emphasis on how the existing structural inequities in our educational system often render their academic and social vulnerabilities invisible. Our past work includes the landmark Black Girls Matter research report, which highlighted the disproportionate rates of punishment and policing that Black girls endure. This initiative also sponsored a landmark series of Breaking the Silence Town Halls in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, DC, Baltimore, Miami, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Oakland, Greensboro, and Canton, OH.

In 2021, our team continued to build on this campaign, with a new array of initiatives to bring Black girls out of the margins and into the center of public policy discourses. We worked closely with community leaders to develop and advance local agendas for gender-inclusive racial justice programming. We added new team members this year to better coordinate and extend the reach of our work while also expanding the Young Scholars Program, highlighting emerging new policy priorities, and researching an updated edition of the Black Girls Matter report. We look forward to resuming our town hall programming in 2022 and continuing to highlight the intersectional needs and experiences of Black girls amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM: "INTERSECTIONAL RESEARCH, LEADERSHIP, AND ADVOCACY IN ACTION!"

In the summer of 2021, the AAPF Young Scholars Program (YSP) welcomed a new cohort. In a six-week research-intensive course, participants learned how to design, conduct, and analyze research that centered on the lived experiences of Black girls. Nearly twenty young scholars, ranging in age from 17-22 and representing the U.S., Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Puerto Rico, and other nations, participated in the research and leadership program. In conjunction with young scholar ambassadors (second-year participants), this new class of scholars helped advance an intersectional approach to racial and gender justice research and policy advocacy. They highlighted social justice issues that affect the quality of life of Black girls, with a special focus on Black girls' perceptions of leadership, their use of art as activism, their mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Black adolescent mothers' experiences in schools and families.

After the conclusion of the program's first phase, we're very grateful to continue our work with Young Scholars with a year-round programming commitment. This longer-term program is devoted to developing Black girls' leadership capacity, educational and career development, and exploring opportunities for peer mentoring. Upcoming phases of the program will launch a youth leadership council empowering Black girls to center their racial and gender justice concerns in new programs and outreach initiatives.

The young scholars involved in the program are leaders at their high schools and universities. We are honored to aid them in honing their skills to conduct research, extend assistance to Black girls, and organize for social justice in their school communities. As they build on their experiences at AAPF, many are now exploring educational and career opportunities in law, policy, advocacy, women's studies, and other fields in academia. All of our young scholars reported interest in continuing their education in learning more about Black feminism, Critical Race Theory, and research through an intersectional prism.



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HER DREAM DEFERRED: **"ARTIVISM ON FULL DISPLAY"**

Every year at the end of March, in honor of Women's History Month and the UN's International Decade for People of African Descent, AAPF hosts Her Dream Deferred, a weeklong series of activities focused on elevating the concerns that confront Black women and girls. Despite the challenges of gathering virtually this year, Her Dream Deferred was jam-packed with insightful, critical, and creative events examining the institutional failures that plague Black women and girls in their homes, schools, and communities. We kicked off the week by bringing together healthcare practitioners and researchers to illuminate the experiences of Black women in the US healthcare system. The next day, we convened a panel of athletes and activists to discuss the history of activism by Black women athletes and the power of collective action. We then held a three-day mini-film festival to present



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a slate of documentaries by and about Black women.

The festival screened Coded Bias, a film that exposes racial prejudices and threats to civil liberties in the realm of artificial intelligence; A Love Song For Latasha, a short documentary that celebrates the life of Latasha Harlins, a 15-year-old Black girl slain during the 1991 LA riots; and Still I Rise, a hard-hitting documentary that examines the impact of sex trafficking on Black women across America. We followed up each screening with a talkback discussion bringing together the film's creators, subjects, and cultural commentators. Finally, the week wrapped up by curating a "space for ritual healing," which brought participants together in healing ceremonies, mindfulness practices, and other mental wellness activities.



As the forces of racial justice and democratic civic life face a fierce and coordinated national backlash, AAPF has recognized the urgent need for a daily publication to serve as a truth-telling clearinghouse. The bad-faith ideologues targeting critical race theory, principled dissent, and honest encounters with our racial past have exploited a sensation-driven and unaccountable media system to create a climate of moral panic around the ideals of public education and democratic citizenship. In order to combat the McCarthyite takeover of our school boards, legislatures, and classrooms, AAPF will be launching a news-and-commentary website, *The Forum*, early next year.

The Forum's mission is to document and directly engage both the race crisis and the democracy crisis in the twenty-first century—and to show that they are one and the same. This endeavor entails shedding light on the political and economic forces stoking the present campaign of retrenchment. But more than that, it means exploring the deeper historical roots of today's race-and-democracy crisis. Knowledge is the most potent weapon we have to defeat a moral panic grounded in the fear of learning—and *The Forum* will be a reliable daily mainstay in the quest for that knowledge. It will combat the militant disinformation campaign against Critical Race Theory and the teaching of our true racial history with a daily roster of news and commentary. We have already assembled a top-notch roster of editorial talent for the publication. Editor-inchief Chris Lehmann, who formerly edited The New *Republic* and *The Baffler*, is a distinguished essayist, author and critic, with a strong background in history. politics, and literature. Consulting editor Kirsten Savali West, of iOne Digital Media and Essence, will bring a wide range of expertise and interests to the site, from religion and feminism to poetry and racial justice. Art Director Lindsay Ballant, formerly of The New Republic, The Baffler, Foreign Policy and Newsweek, will create a vital and engaging visual identity for The Forum. And writing fellows Anthony Conwright and Rafia Zakaria will provide front-line dispatches from the battle to preserve and expand our multiracial democracy. We are thrilled beyond measure to launch this site in the coming months, and hope you'll come along for the ride.



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AAPF MEDIA: "TELLING THE STORIES THAT MATTER"

AAPF Statements

- Two Victories in the Face of White
 Supremacy's Resurgence Underscore the
 Battle Ahead, November 23, 2021
- AAPF Hails New Justice Department Policy on Violent Threats to Schools and Educators, October 6, 2021
- AAPF Mourns the Loss of Cassandra Johnson- #SayHerName Mothers Network, September 21, 2021
- On the Supreme Court's Refusal To Intervene in Texas' "Flagrantly Unconstitutional" Abortion Law, September 6, 2021
- Juneteenth Must Be More Than a Symbol, June 18, 2021
- George Floyd and the Battle Ahead, May 26, 2021
- AAPF Mourns the Loss of Life in Georgia, March 19, 2021
- AAPF's Statement on the Death of Dr.
 Susan Moore, February 11, 2021
- AAPF's Statement on the Biden Harris
 Inauguration, January 20, 2021
- AAPF's Statement on a Historical Victory and an Insurrectionist Attack on the US Capital, January 8, 2021

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Op-Eds and Published Articles

- How R. Kelly Got Away with It," (Kimberlé Crenshaw, The New York Times, October 1, 2021)
- <u>"Chris Rufo's critical race theory reporting</u> is filled with errors, and he doesn't seem to <u>care,</u>" (Samuel Hoadley-Brill, Flux, July 26, 2021)
- <u>"The Panic over Critical Race Theory is</u> an Attempt to Whitewash U.S. History," (Kimberlé Crenshaw, *The Washington Post*, July 2, 2021)
- Critical race theory's opponents are sure it's bad. Whatever it is." (Samuel Hoadley-Brill, The Washington Post, July 2, 2021)
- "The Eternal Fantasy of a Racially Virtuous <u>America,</u>" (Kimberlé Crenshaw, The New Republic, March 22, 2021)

Op-Eds and Published Articles

- The Lessons We Haven't Learned:
 Patriarchal Tactics from Thomas to
 Kavanaugh (AAPF, October 15, 2021)
- #TruthBeTold: What is Critical Race Theory? (AAPF, July 14, 2021)
- <u>#TruthBeTold: The Fight For Our Lives</u> (AAPF, June 19, 2021)

Media Appearances

- MasterClass, "Black History, Black Freedom, & Black Love," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, December 2, 2021
- MSNBC, "The Mehdi Hasan Show," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, November 7, 2021
- CNN, "Amanpour," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, October 13, 2021
- Apple Music, "The Ebro Show," featuring Janelle Monáe and Kimberlé Crenshaw, October 13, 2021
- MSNBC, "The Reid Out," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, October 29, 2021
- Comedy Central, "Beyond the Scenes" podcast from the Daily Show with Trevor Noah, featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, September 21, 2021
- ACLU, "At Liberty" podcast, featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, August 6, 2021
- □ **FAIR**, *"CounterSpin,"* featuring Luke Charles Harris, July 30, 2021
- Vanity Fair, "How Critical Race Theory Mastermind Kimberlé Crenshaw Is
 Weathering the Culture War," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, July 29, 2021
- MSNBC, "Into America with Trymaine Lee," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, July 1, 2021
- American Public Television, "The Laura Flanders Show", featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, July 1, 2021
- MSNBC, "The Reid Out," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, June 1, 2021
- MSNBC, "The Mehdi Hassan Show", featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, June 2, 2021

- Nellie Mae Educational Foundation, "Intersectionality in Action: A Conversation with Professor Kimberle Crenshaw," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, May 27, 2021)
- The Economist, "Checks and Balances" podcast, featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, May 21, 2021
- CNN, "Don Lemon Tonight," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, May 21, 2021
- WNBA, Instagram Live, featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, February 18, 2021
- Sundance Institute, "The Big Conversation: The Story of Us," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, January 30, 2021
- CNN, "Here are the Martin Luther King Jr. words that inspire today's social justice leaders," featuring Kimberlé Crenshaw, January, 18, 2021

Awards

- <u>2021 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime</u> Achievement Award by the Women's Section of the Association of American Law Schools, Kimberlé Crenshaw
- <u>2021 AALS Triennial Award for Lifetime</u> Service to Legal Education and to the Legal Profession, Kimberlé Crenshaw
- <u>2021 New Press Social Justice Award</u>, Kimberlé Crenshaw



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR

INTERSECTIONALITY

Our merch shop is back in business! After pausing on order fulfillment operations over the summer months due to logistical challenges brought on by the pandemic, we have resumed sending out #SayHerName, intersectionality, and AAPF merchandise. With #SayHerName hoodies, T-shirts, masks, tote bags, and stickers, supporters of AAPF and its allied causes can help break the culture-wide silence enveloping the experiences of Black women, girls, and femmes at the hands of the police. Our intersectionality T-shirts, stickers and tote bags make great gifts for the intersectional allies and activists in your life. And more sizes, colors, and new items are on the way! By buying AAPF merchandise you are not only helping us build and expand our research and advocacy work; you are also helping promote an intersectional vision of racial justice.

The best part? To celebrate the reopening of our merch shop and kick-off 2022 right, we are holding a New Year's sale! Use code NEWYEAR at checkout for 15 percent off your order. As always, shipping is free on all orders over \$75. The merch shop is open now at aapf.org/shop.

IN ACTION



WHAT'S NEXT FOR AAPF

If you have stood with us this year – by making a donation, by tuning in to Under the Blacklight, by joining a #TruthBeTold working group, by sharing our social media posts, by listening to "Say Her Name (Hell You Talmbout)," by wearing a #SayHerName shirt proudly, by reading our emails and statements - we thank you. It has been a year of nonstop action for AAPF, and we couldn't have accomplished what we did without our allies and supporters. We are so grateful. Now, we take a deep breath and dive into the work once more.

Over the last year, AAPF and its allies have faced down a coordinated attack on truth. on history, on public education, and on multiracial democracy. What's more, America's past suggests that this backlash will keep getting worse unless we are prepared to come together and fight back against these efforts to divide us. At AAPF, we know we have to take the lead on what it means to think about and talk about what is required to move towards a



genuinely democratic society that's multiracial and inclusive. Through the #TruthBeTold campaign, we are committed to answering the call for more effective coalition-building, more powerful mobilizations, more resources for our communities in need, better coordinated messaging, and an effective social justice strategy. With The Forum, we are committed to publishing analysis, reporting, and commentary informed by an intersectional and critical race perspective. We also know how important it is for us to sustain and expand all our campaigns and initiatives in service of the structurally disempowered. For the #SavHerName campaign, this means growing the #SayHerName Mothers Network, increasing the support services available to them, and producing policy analyses that will reshape understandings of Black women's vulnerability. For Black Girls Matter, this means releasing an updated Black Girls Matter report and holding town halls to spotlight the needs of girls of color. And for Under the Blacklight, this means curating conversations that help us interpret the crises around us.

If you are able, we ask that you make a tax-deductible donation to support this ambitious work ahead at aapf.org/donate. Thank you for supporting AAPF and intersectional justice, now and in the future. We don't know whether we'll decisively prevail in the battles over truth and democracy still to come, but we do know that this is the side that we want to be on; standing shoulder to shoulder with our community, united by our dreams for racial justice, gender equality, and the indivisibility of all human rights.

Thank you again, and may the year to come bring you health, love, and light.