**LHAMAR Police Reform Unit: Educate and Engage**

1. **Let’s Start at the Very Beginning…**the racist beginnings of police systems in America.

* **Watch** this short video: “History of Policing in America” from “Throughline”/ NPR, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPu6-1yy8-o&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3-SGlnABktTI2n6dvkIIoiJfZLv69s_XTt3Daaw2ubgl26cFZdb2BsJpw>
* Or **listen** to the entire 1-hour podcast from “Throughline”, American Police: <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/869046127?fbclid=IwAR2UnWy7qPTuV0PUnnBT3RJQhUh3RaNvDxYGz94G2Zo2xW9oRji36ZYnvv0>
* OR **read** “The History of America’s Racist Police, from slave patrols to present” from *The NewStatesman*, June 13, 2020: <https://www.newstatesman.com/world/north-america/2020/06/history-america-s-racist-police-slave-patrols-present?fbclid=IwAR00_8AQhotpI6RusH3b2dAEokrQYw--epD6mRfr7w4zjNfDs-_tIxCaNbk>

**Reflect/ Discuss**:

QUESTION 1: Expert Khalil Muhammad states, "*Police are policing the norms of white supremacy from the very beginning."* During slavery, during the Jim Crow era in the South, during the Great Migration to the North. How does it play out today in our society? How do “bad” police officers police the norms of white supremacy in our communities today?

QUESTION 2: *"Black Skin becomes equated with criminality."* How do we UNDO this bias that has been at the center of our policing systems since before the founding of our nation?

QUESTION 3: Muhammad says that pointing out the problem is clearly not sufficient to fix the system because this has been happening for a century, and the system has still not fundamentally changed. We need to recognize that police agencies are incapable of fixing themselves. And we need to ask, "*Do white people in America still want the police to protect their interests over the rights, dignity, and lives of Black and Brown Americans?"* Do we STILL think that people of color need to be CONTROLLED through "policing"? And if the answer is, "No", then what do we do next?

1. **Re-Imagining Public Safety**
   * **Listen** to Baratunde’s “How to Citizen” Podcast on “Keeping Us Safe Beyond Policing”, <https://www.baratunde.com/how-to-citizen-episodes/03-public-safety?fbclid=IwAR3cqCrrmjFrVOq_OoqdfedipdzX26egrF9M_RR8uuiXPcNecfIvkdNMR-E#listen=>
   * **Listen to or Read** “*Do Police Need Guns?”* from WBUR, <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2020/06/23/do-police-need-guns?fbclid=IwAR00_8AQhotpI6RusH3b2dAEokrQYw--epD6mRfr7w4zjNfDs-_tIxCaNbk>
   * Want More? **Listen** to “3 Ideas for Police Reform” on KERA’s Think Podcast: <https://think.kera.org/2020/10/02/three-ideas-for-police-reform/?fbclid=IwAR2ZJd2M0IzXKIQfzIwo-l2zqeZM61ogKqHJxIJrdUexoUDYbqW7IVaMIJc>

**Reflect/ Discuss:**

How do you think these shifts in prioritieswould transform lives? What barriers do you foresee in shifting minds and laws towards this reform?

* *Books not Bars*
* *Jobs not Jails*
* *Health Care and Housing, not Handcuffs*
* *Safety Net, not Punishment Dragnet*
* *Rehabilitation and RESTORATIVE Justice, not PUNITIVE Justice*

1. **Talk with Children/ Teens/ Students about Police Brutality**
   * **Watch** or **Read** *“For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World”* by Rev. Michael Waters (no matter what color you are), 12 mins, <https://youtu.be/XIyLZG57e1A>
   * **Watch** this interview with the author, 6 min**:** [https://youtu.be/ybFvqcvb4Tg](https://youtu.be/ybFvqcvb4Tg?fbclid=IwAR0lsye6RsHH2ynvVHCpWgL2eWmhih1iXP5F42Y62Y-4Sz_lbP4BrSmqDqw)
   * **Watch** this clip from “Black-Ish” and discuss with your family, 2 mins: <https://youtu.be/SwcychAm--s>
   * **Watch or Read** *“Something Happened in Our Town”* by Marianne Celano, 8 mins, <https://youtu.be/lcOhOFGcWm8>
   * **Younger Children** (honestly, any age), watch this short clip of Elmo learning about protests and police violence: https://youtu.be/xBUFcv0y0yk
   * **Want More for teens?** Read or listen to audiobook together, *“Between the World and Me”* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. OR watch the new film version together on HBO.
2. **What is 21st Century Policing?** Dive in to this EXCELLENT resource from the Obama Administration’s Task Force (prepared after months of study and research to lay out strategies for law enforcement and community members to strengthen safe policing.) <https://policingequity.org/images/pdfs-doc/reports/TaskForce_FinalReport_ImplementationGuide.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3NP46U98NKrpEtzvrejRDYq2sYBb3HvNCfe5DSXcvtBmc7ZZMEEMeRS-o>