

SEPTEMBER 2020 | MUHARRAM 1442  
SAPELO SQUARE PRESENTS

# CHANGE EVIL RESTORE HUMANITY

Emory Douglas's 1976 poster from The Black Panther, remixed for Black Lives Matter. Photo: © 2015 Emory Douglas/Artists Rights Society, New York

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Our Intentions - 02

### Let Us Change It With Our Hands - 03

### Let Us Change It With Our Tongue - 05

### Let Us Change It With Our Hearts - 06

### Conclusion - 11

## بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

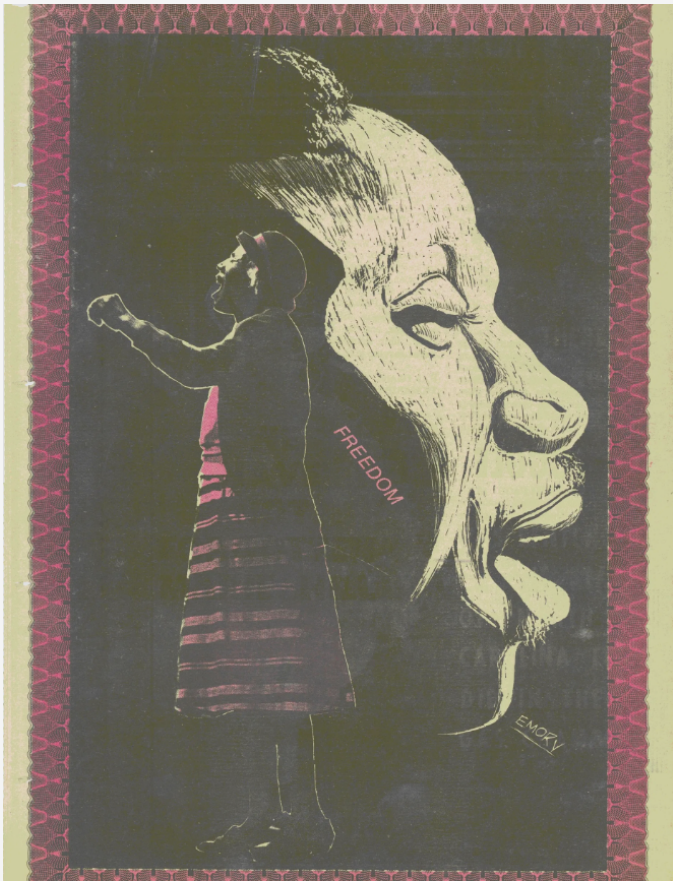
It is reported that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him) said, "Whosoever of you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then [let him change it] with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart — and that is the weakest of faith."

[Muslim]

عَنْ أَبِي سَعِيدٍ الْخُدْرِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ: "مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِلِسَانِهِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِقَلْبِهِ، وَذَلِكَ أَضْعَفُ

الْإِيمَانِ

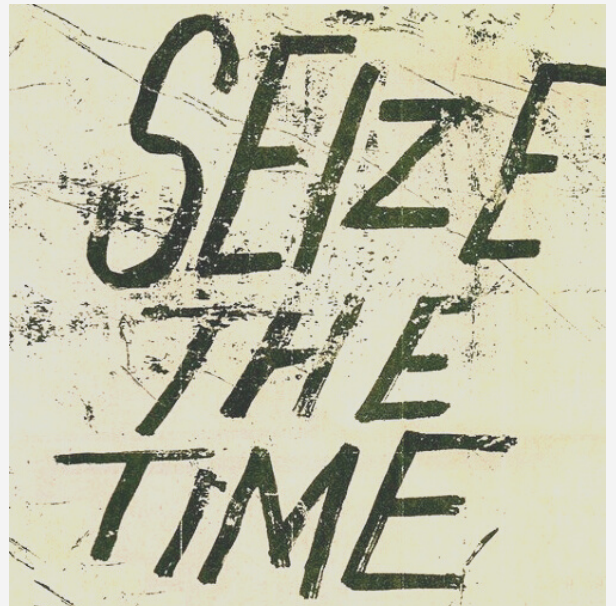
[رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ]



Artwork © Emory Douglas

## OUR INTENTIONS

At Sapelo Square, building on the legacies of our Black Muslim ancestors, we invite all believers to join us to heed this message of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him) to change evil at the level of our ability. We also encourage all believers to follow G-d's wisdom by acting as givers of life and thereby restorers of humanity in the face of barbaric, treacherous, and racist acts of murder and oppression. We encourage these life giving actions within our Black Muslim community and to those of other communities who stand with us. We also encourage such transformative action.



Artwork © Emory Douglas

With these intentions in mind, we have compiled a list of authentic supplications, resources, and acts you can do right now, especially for those who seek to demand change and accountability, and also those who want to stand in solidarity with the Black community, at the level of their ability. Please feel free to share with others, and may Allah accept all of our intentions, actions, and prayers. Ameen. Amen. Asè.

**Editor's note:** Although the layout of this resource is designed and reflects this hadith, we want to acknowledge that actions such as reading and reciting passages from the Holy Qur'an, praying and educating oneself do not reflect a weakness in faith. Please see further explanation at the end of this resource.



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# LET US CHANGE IT WITH OUR HANDS

Right now, we are in an unprecedented time as we are in the midst of a global pandemic, amid a growing worldwide movement to overturn racist institutions, instruments and acts of oppression and murder. In this context, change with our hands can include\*:

- Direct Action
- Volunteer time to work with local organizers in your community.
- Donate (see suggestions below)
- Sign or launch a petition
- Economic Boycott
- Support or participate in Mutual Aid (Primer and Black Agenda Report Series)
- Emigrate from oppression and connect with expatriates for resources and advice on migration.

An additional resource we found to be useful:

## 26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets

"This list is designed to celebrate all the ways that our communities can engage in liberation. For a range of reasons, there are and always have been folks who cannot attend rallies and protests but who continue to contribute to ending police and state violence against black people.



Artwork © Emory Douglas

***"EDUCATION IS THE GREATEST TOOL FOR  
ADVANCING THE SOCIETY."  
-IMAM WD MOHAMMED***

People seek justice and support liberation in an array of ways, yet their bodies, their spirits, and their lives may not allow them to be in the streets. **We believe that we will win. And we need the presence of everyone in the movement to do so.**

\*With the risks of the global pandemic in mind, we encourage actions to change evil along with taking efforts to protect ourselves and others from the life-threatening Covid-19, inspired by G-d's words to preserve "... [the life] which G-d has declared to be sacred..." The Holy Qur'an (6:151).

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# Organizations to Fund and Support

[Al Maa'uun](#)

[Believers Bail Out](#)

[Black Muslim Psychology Conference](#)

[Dream of Detroit](#)

[Inner City Muslim Action Network \(IMAN\)](#)

[Jericho Movement](#)

[Islah LA](#)

[Muslim ARC](#)

[Sapelo Square](#)

*"It is in our collective interest to see Black Muslims and their organizations not only survive, but thrive. As history proves, when the most marginalized amongst us are free, we all are free. **That's why we invite you to invest in the amplification of Black Muslim voices by donating to Sapelo Square: An Online Resource on Black Muslims in the United States that provides informed and thought provoking content that leads to innovative and transformative action.**"*

*"**This is a call specifically to non-Black Muslims:** let us fight like hell to make sure our Black brothers and sisters have the resources and tools they need to lead. Because our freedom is linked to theirs, and it's the right and most just thing to do."*

- Ahlam Saïd  
Sapelo Square Board Member

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# LET US CHANGE IT WITH OUR TONGUE

- **Share a petition**
- **Vigil**
- **Vote**
- **USE YOUR PLATFORMS TO SPEAK OUT!**

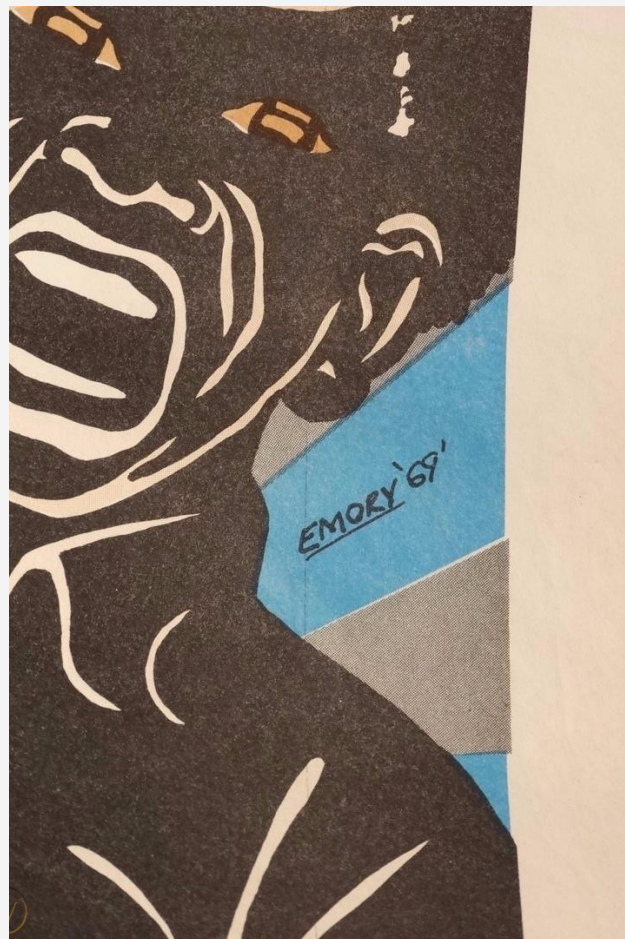
Right now many of us have access to powerful digital tools at our disposal, social media being most accessible.

If you are active on social media and want to speak up by sharing resources and posting messages of solidarity, please research before sharing to ensure that the post/recording is legitimate and necessary in this moment. Be strategic when using your social media platforms to speak up about the injustice and oppression.

## **Social Media Tools:**

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- Medium
- Snapchat
- TikTok
- Twitter

To learn more about the art of sharing digital content on social media, check out this resource: [Social Media for Positive Change & Tips to Help Become a Better Activist Online](#)



Art © Emory Douglas

## **For the Writers:**

If you are a writer/storyteller, consider writing an op-ed for your local paper, an online publication that centers diverse voices, or even submit your work to [Sapelo Square](#).

## **For those who have Phones and Email accounts:**

You can speak up by emailing or calling your local and state-elected officials about policies and legislation, especially regarding defunding police budgets and reallocating resources in your community to health clinics, schools, libraries, parks, recreation centers, or other institutions in your community in need of funds.

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# LET US CHANGE IT WITH OUR HEARTS



Reading and developing a relationship with the Holy Qur'an is one of the most powerful acts we can do in this moment (and always). You can listen to a beautiful recitation of the Holy Qur'an [here](#).

In **Surah al-Mai'dah** (5:32) callous and cold-blooded murder is condemned when G-d says,

***...it shall be as if he had slain mankind altogether...***

**(5:32)**

**...وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا...**

**{٣٢}**

In this [same Surah](#), the sacredness of life and the praiseworthiness of restoring humanity are affirmed when G-d says,

***...and whoso gives life to a soul, it shall be as if he has given life to mankind altogether...***

**(5:32)**

**...وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا...**

**{٣٢}**

A selection of verses from Surah al-Baqarah (2:153 - 2:157) were [potently and pertinently rendered by Ndidi Okakpu](#) in the June 2, 2020 MANA webinar "Race in America: Finding a Prophetic Voice in a Time of Crisis." In these verses (2:153 - 2:157) G-d instructs believers facing severe trials to seek help, blessings, and mercy in patience and prayer.

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"O all you who believe, seek you help in patience and prayer; surely G-d is with the patient. (153) And say not of those slain in G-d's way, 'They are dead'; rather they are living, but you are not aware. (154) Surely We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and diminution of goods and lives and fruits; yet give thou good tidings unto the patient (155) who, when they are visited by an affliction, say, 'Surely we belong to G-d, and to Him we return'; (156) upon those rest blessings and mercy from their Lord, and those -- they are the truly guided." (157)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٣﴾ وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَنْ يُقْتَلُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتٌ بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ وَلَكِنْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ ﴿١٥٤﴾ وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاغِبُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾ أُولَٰئِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ صَلَوَاتٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرَحْمَةٌ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٥٧﴾

## Prayers Against Oppression

*Three Supplications* by three renown scholars Shaykh Abdullahi Dan Fodio, Shaykh Muhammad Bello and Shaykh Abd'l-Qadir al-Jaylani, Compiled and Translated by Muhammad Shareef. Below, we share an excerpt supplication

### THREE SUPPLICATIONS AGAINST EVILDOERS THE ENVIOUS & ENEMIES

Supplication Against Enemies

[Link to Audio](#) (English)

**“O Allah destroy all of my enemies and those who envy me in the same way that You destroyed ancient `Aad and Thamud where nothing of them remained. And make me far from the injustice of oppressors; far from the tyranny of the tyrants; far from the schemes of those who plot; and far from the envy of the envious. O Most Powerful over all things, destroy for me the unjust swiftly.”**

دُعَاءُ عَلَى الْأَعْدَاءِ

[Link to Audio](#) (Arabic)

اللَّهُمَّ أَهْلِكَ أَعْدَائِي وَحَسَادِي كُلَّهُمْ، كَمَا أَهْلَكْتَ عَادًا الْأُولَى وَثَمُودًا فَمَا أَبْقَى، فَبَاعِدْنِي عَنِ ظُلْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ وَجُورِ الْجَائِرِينَ وَمَكْرِ الْمَكَارِبِينَ وَحَسَدِ الْخَاسِدِينَ، يَا قَادِرٌ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، أَهْلِكَ عَنِّي الظَّالِمِينَ سَرِيعًا.

Source: THREE SUPPLICATIONS AGAINST EVILDOERS THE ENVIOUS & ENEMIES

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*An Anticolonial Polemic Poem by Shaykh Ahmadu Bamba (Author); Muhammad Shareef (translator)*

Jawaab as-Shaykh al-Khadeem Lil-Musta`mireen al-Faransiyyeen (An Anticolonial Polemic Poem by Shaykh Ahmadu Bamba - English)

“This excellent poem named Jawaab as-Shaykh al-Khadeem Lil-Musta`mireen al-Faransiyyeen (The Answer of the Shaykh Khadeem Ahmadu Bamba to the French Imperialists Who Accused Him of Gathering Weapons in Preparation for Jihaad) is pretty straightforward in its critic of what the author referred to as European Christian imperialism. This text is important because it shines light on the present preoccupation which western powers have in interdicting the lives of innocent Muslims around the globe. The poem is also a call to arms for upright Muslims against this new form of imperialism. However, in this case Shaykh Bamba does not ask Muslims to pick up physical weapons, but those weapons which really matter and will have everlasting impact upon the world - genuine piety, self transformation, Islamic education and gnosis of the Absolute Being.”

Source: Jawaab as-Shaykh al-Khadeem Lil-Musta`mireen al-Faransiyyeen (An Anticolonial Polemic Poem by Shaykh Ahmadu Bamba - English)

## **Prayers to Purify One's Heart**

The Prayer of the Oppressed by Imam Muhammad bin Nasir al-Dar'i, English Translation by Hamza Yusuf

### THE PRAYER OF THE OPPRESSED

“The power of this prayer of Imam Muhammad al-Dar'i lies in its simplicity, its purity, and its sincere supplication. It is essentially a plea to G-d that our transgressions be overlooked, that divine mercy be bestowed upon us, that social justice be restored in spite of us, that wrongs be righted, and that righteousness reign once again in our lands, so that the destitute may no longer be in need, the young may be educated, the animals' purpose fulfilled, rain restored, and bounties poured forth [continued on the next page].

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"It is a plea to be freed from the aggression of foreigners in lands over which they have no right – a plea much needed in our modern world, rampant as it is with invasions and territorial occupations. Ultimately, it asks not that our enemies be destroyed, but simply that their plots, and the harm they cause, be halted. Its essence is mercy, which in turn is the essence of the Messenger of G-d, Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him: "And We have only sent you as a mercy to all the worlds."

Source: <https://sandala.org/the-prayer-of-the-oppressed-al-dua-al-nasiri/>

## Prayers for Anxiety & Sorrow

Imam Zaid Shakir analyzes a hadith that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) recited in the morning and in the evening. Prayer and video links below:

[Introduction](#)

[Session 2: Anxiety & Grief](#)

[Session 3: Incapacity & Sloth](#)

[Session 4: Cowardice & Avarice](#)

[Session 5: Stress of Debt & Tyranny of People](#)

### Seek Refuge in Allah (Prayer)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الْهَمِّ وَالْحَزَنِ ، وَالْعَجْزِ ، وَالْكَسَلِ ، وَالْبُخْلِ ، وَالْجُبْنِ ، وَضَلَعِ الدَّيْنِ ، وَغَلَبَةِ الرِّجَالِ

***O Allah, I seek refuge with you from anxiety and grief, and I seek refuge with you from weakness (a lack of motivation), and laziness, and I seek refuge with you from cowardice and stinginess, and I seek refuge with you that I might be overwhelmed by debt and being overpowered by humans.***

Sources: [Bukhari No# 2893, 5425, 6363, 6369; Abu Dawud No# 1541; At-Tirmidhi No# 3484; An-Nasa'i No# 5449, 5450, 5453, 5476](#)

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## Books, Lectures, and talks to Expand the Heart & Mind

### Books/Essays/Poems

Hijra: A Black Muslim Retrospective by Rasul Miller

Muslims and the Making of America by Precious Rasheeda Muhammad

Prayers of the Oppressed by Su'ad Abdul Khabeer

The Reconciliation by Imam WD Mohammed (*Bilalian News* - March 30, 1979)

Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas by Sylviane Diouf

### Discussions/Talks/Films

"Black Lives Matter" by Imam Zaid Shakir

"Catching Our Breath" hosted by Moses the Comic & Youssef Kromah

Islamic Perspectives on Prison Abolition with Shaykh Azhar Nasser & Ustadh Ubaydullah Evans

"Finding a Prophetic Voice in a Time of Crisis" Hosted by MANA

"Prophetic Spirituality by Dr. Bilal Ware" with Dr. Bilal Ware

Wudu by Ayanna Sharif

"The Black Liberation Theology and Muslim Solidarity" with Imam Zaid Shakir

Qur'an Commentary series hosted by UMMAH

A conversation on Anti Blackness in Our Shi'a Communities with Gilary Massa

## Dhikr & Poetry

"An Elegy for George Floyd" by Oludamini Ogunaike

A recitation of the poetry of Shaykh Ibrahim Niasse (may Allah be pleased with him) from Kaolack, Senegal praising Allah and beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon Him)

"We Are the Revolution" by Amir Sulaiman (feat. Abiodun Oyemole)

"Come to the Hills" by Amir Sulaiman (feat. Drea D'nur)

Mauritanian Style Dhikr recorded in London

"That One About Patience" by Sadiyah Bashir

"The Return" by Tariq Touré

"Black Gold" by Sukina Pilgrim

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## Songs

Allah by Youssou Ndour

Mani Djindala by Oumou Sangaré

New Africa by Youssou Ndour

Say My Name by Maimouna Youssef (Mumu Fresh)

Source of Light by Sol Development

When I Praise Him by Ain't Afraid

[Allah] A Love Supreme by John Coltrane

A Litany Against Fear by Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah

Harvest Time by Pharoah Sanders

Hum-Allah-Hum-Allah-Hum-Allah by Pharoah Sanders

Love Theme From Spartacus by Yusuf Lateef

Spiritual State by Nujabes (feat. Uyama Hiroto)

## Conclusion

In the Hadith mentioned on the first page, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (peace be upon him) uses the word يُغَيِّرُ to describe what we should do when we see an مُنْكَرًا. مُنْكَرًا is translated as “evil”, but literally means to practice deception and cunning plots. When we see this, he ﷺ (peace be upon him) says, we should يُغَيِّرُ it. This is commonly translated as “change” or “modify.” Then he goes on to list the three “levels” of change, which begins with the hand, then the tongue, and lastly the heart. The word يُغَيِّرُ is only used once when referring to taking action with our hands. The meaning, however, is implied when referring to the tongue. When we get to the last level, the heart, the translators include the English word “abhor” in parenthesis i.e. “(abhor it) with your heart.” Thing is, the word يُغَيِّرُ does not include among its plural meanings “abhor.” In this context, the relevant meaning of يُغَيِّرُ is to alter, adjust, or repair something. The context of the saying, however, makes “abhor” a more appropriate rendering since seeing something evil would aggrieve a healthy heart. When the believer sees something abhorrent and is unable to strive against it in deed or word, they can seek to repair it with sincere, heartfelt prayers to G-d. This is why we have included several different prayers in this third section of the guide.

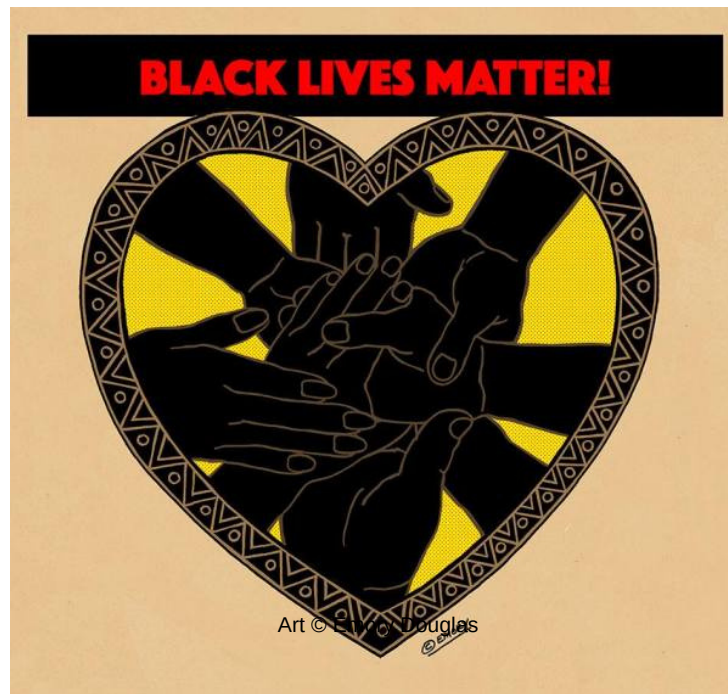
This document is not meant to be an exhaustive resource, rather it is designed to assist and provide practical guidance for those navigating this current moment.

We pray that Allah accepts our efforts, and may our community find the information useful, and may Allah accept all of our prayers. Ameen. Amen. Asè.

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**Emory Douglas is the artist featured throughout this resource. Douglas generously granted Sapelo Square permission to use his work for this resource.**



Emory Douglas' was an artist-in-residence and Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party (BPP). His work had a deep impact on the hearts and minds of those who read the BPP Newspaper. From 1967 until the early 1980s Douglas oversaw the layout and publication. His artwork graced the pages of the paper (which reached a circulation of 400,000 copies per week at its peak). His signature style of graphic design and collage inspired many to speak out against police brutality and to get involved with the BPP. As we continue to fight for freedom, justice, and equality we honor all of those who have paved the way, esp. the creatives.

For more information about Douglas check out this interview/studio visit in his San Francisco home (January 2008): <https://vimeo.com/4188506>

Source: Babylon Falling

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