



What Can Aspiring White Allies Do?

Study and Educate Ourselves. It is not the job of people of color to educate white people, who must engage in ongoing study to unlearn the racism they were taught, and which is constantly reinforced in our society. This is deeply personal work to open our hearts so that change can truly happen. See: [Anti-Racism Resources](#)

See, Listen, Believe, Honor and Respond. We are all taught to listen to respond. We need to *be truly present* and *listen to understand*. Only when white people can do this and honor people of color as experts in their own lives can they become more effective allies.

Understand the connections between words and actions. Racist violence, such as what happened to George Floyd, does not happen in a vacuum. We must interrupt all forms of racism that make it possible for a public lynching like this to happen in the light of day. Jokes, stereotypes, and invisibility are just a few of the daily insults to people of color that white people must interrupt.

Take the Risk to Be an Ally. When fear of making a mistake overtakes us, we do nothing and racism continues. We must all take the risk to be allies, using resources like this: [75 Things White People Can Do For Racial Justice](#)

Respond to Calls for Action from Organizations Working Against Racism. Find an organization working for racial justice – there are many. Follow them and respond to their calls for action: [Anti-Racism Resources](#)

Understand the Totality of Racist Oppression. In everyday life, racism remains a significant and often deadly force in the lives of people of color:

- Housing - [Urban Institute](#)
- Employment - [American Bar Association](#)
- Infant mortality rates - [Ohio Department of Health](#)
- Adult health impacts - [American Public Health Association](#)
- Child and adolescent health - [Journal of American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- Child welfare - [Casey Foundation Race Matters Report](#)
- Impacts of Covid - [Covid 19 Minority Health Strike Force Report](#)
- Education - [New York Times](#)
- Police brutality/killings - [Mapping Police Violence](#)
- Incarceration rates - [Vera Institute for Justice and the death penalty](#) - [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- Policing and Criminal Justice System as adults - [Washington Post](#), and as youth - [The Sentencing Project](#)

Our brothers and sisters of color are being crushed under the weight of racism. The data is conclusive, staggering, and heartbreaking.

These are only some of the ways we can all work for racial justice. ODVN welcomes future conversations about how we can all make this a definitive moment in our movement to make change and increase safety for communities of color, and specifically, survivors of color. ODVN will continue to share resources on our website: www.odvn.org.