



## Olympia and Thurston County Anti-Racism Education and Action Resources

**Full Circle United (360°).** A group of Black, Indigenous and People of Color artists, organizers, teachers, learners, and healers living and working in Olympia, formed in the wake of the May 21, 2015, police shooting to support Andre Thompson and Bryson Chaplin and to expose and dismantle the anti-Black racism that exists in our community. [fullcircleunity@gmail.com](mailto:fullcircleunity@gmail.com)

**The Black Alliance of Thurston County** is committed to building trust and promoting impartial policing in Thurston County. The group supports courageous and respectful conversations between communities and law enforcement about race, ethnicity, and income status. [BlackAllianceThurstonCounty@gmail.com](mailto:BlackAllianceThurstonCounty@gmail.com)

**Olympia Police Department page on police shooting:**

<http://olympiawa.gov/city-services/police-department/news-and-notifications/officer-involved-shooting.aspx>

**Police and Community Relations Committee** In August 2015, the Olympia City Council enlisted the help of five community members, and one member of the Olympia Police Department, to act as an ad-hoc committee on Police and Community Relations that will serve for six months. The committee's purpose is to develop opportunities for broad-based and inclusive engagement with the community about criminal justice issues. <http://olympiawa.gov/city-government/advisory-committees/police-relations-committee.aspx>

**Justice Not Jails.** A study group on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* inspired formation of Justice not Jails (JnJ), now a part of the social justice program of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation (OUUC). JnJ welcomes participation from anyone whether or not they are affiliated with OUUC. JnJ advocates for a criminal justice system that is more just, particularly in how it treats minorities, the mentally ill, and those with lower incomes; helps managers of the criminal justice system, elected officials, and the public to understand and address root causes of the dramatic increase in cases. **Contact:** Steve Tilley, chair. Phone: 360-489-0043, [tilley5000@gmail.com](mailto:tilley5000@gmail.com)

**Mentoring Youth.** This developing program, focused on mentoring minority youth, resulted from suggestions made at a community forum at Risen Faith Fellowship in early June. At this time guidelines are being formulated for volunteers and participants. For information on ways to be involved contact: Jose Guterrez, (818) 256-4961

**Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.** Since 1976 Olympia FOR has worked for peace, social justice and principled nonviolence. It brings together people of diverse ages, races, and faiths who are committed to active nonviolence as a transformative way of life and as a means of profound social change. FOR collaborates and dialogues with the larger community for mutual education and to engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions. Contact: Glen Anderson, 360 491-9093. [info@olympiafor.org](mailto:info@olympiafor.org). <http://www.olympiafor.org/>

**Olympia Unity in the Community.** Unity in the Community is an Olympia-based coalition dedicated to organizing positive and pro-diversity educational events and appropriate community responses to the presence of hate groups in the Olympia area. Unity seeks to build working relationships with a broad range of ethnic and cultural organizations, faith groups, progressive organizations, government entities and individuals who support diversity as an essential basis for a strong community. <http://www.OlympiaUnityInTheCommunity.org>

**SURJ – Showing Up for Racial Justice.** SURJ is a national network of groups and individual organizing white people for justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. We work to connect people across the country while supporting and collaborating with local and national racial justice organizing efforts. SURJ provides a space to build relationships, skills, and political analysis to act for change. [www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org) Olympia contact is Emily Pieper, [emily.pieper@gmail.com](mailto:emily.pieper@gmail.com)

**YWCA of Olympia.** The YWCA's mission is to eliminate racial and gender inequity and advance the social and economic status of all women and girls by providing direct service to individuals, educating the community on relevant issues and engaging in advocacy to promote systemic change. All of the work and initiatives are focused on the three strategic areas of economic empowerment, leadership and health & wellness. [www.ywcaolympia.org](http://www.ywcaolympia.org)

**#BlackLivesMatter** movement began as a hashtag after George Zimmerman's 2013 acquittal for the shooting death of Trayvon Martin and gained momentum after the shooting of Michael Brown, the shooting of John Crawford III, and the death of Eric Garner, all in 2014. Currently, there are 23 Black Lives Matter chapters in the U.S., Canada, and Ghana. The organization states that Black Lives Matter is "a unique contribution that goes beyond extrajudicial killings of black people by police and vigilantes" and that "Black Lives Matter affirms ... all black lives along the gender spectrum." Seattle has an active chapter, and efforts are underway to organize one in Olympia. Website: [www.blacklivesmatter.org](http://www.blacklivesmatter.org)

**Cop Watch** is a group of concerned citizens that meets Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:00 at Traditions to discuss feedback on local policing to the Olympia Police Department, City Council, and media outlets.

**Office of Public Accountability Review Board** in Seattle provides community oversight and awareness of Seattle Police Department practices and its employee accountability system by independently. [www.seattle.gov/council/oparb/](http://www.seattle.gov/council/oparb/)

**Thurston County Law and Justice Council.** The purpose of the Law and Justice Council is to provide an interjurisdictional forum for consideration of initiatives and resources to improve criminal justice services, enhance public safety, and reduce crime throughout Thurston County. <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/bocc/law-and-justice-council.htm>

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense.** Contact: Jennifer Sprague, [jbsprague@hotmail.com](mailto:jbsprague@hotmail.com) Website: [www.momsdemandaction.org](http://www.momsdemandaction.org) Facebook for Washington State group: <http://www.facebook.com/MomsDemandActionWA>

**#RisingForCharleston** reaches out to faith communities to engage them in response to the nine murders committed in Charleston SC.