

RACIAL JUSTICE

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ST. LOUIS

By the numbers....



40% of U.S. prisoners are Black, despite Black people only representing 13% of the U.S. population.

792,000 Black men are imprisoned in the U.S., which is more than were enslaved in the U.S. in 1850.



85% of those stopped and frisked are Black and/or Hispanic.

80% of LGBTQ+ murder victims are people of color.



2% of those in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields are Black women.

1% of lead characters in TV and film are Asian.

The killing of Michael Brown by a Ferguson officer has catapulted St. Louis to the national stage as a center for racial justice work.

NCJW STL acknowledges the intersectionality of our advocacy issues. We understand that systemic racism permeates all our work—that women of color earn far less than white women, that restrictive reproductive justice laws target people of color, that voter photo ID laws disenfranchise people of color, that people of color are more likely to experience homophobia and transphobia than their white counterparts, etc.

Understanding the intersection between our advocacy issues and systemic racism informs all our work.

NCJW STL BELIVES IN...

WHAT TO DO

ENDING THE WAR ON MARIJUANA.

The War on Marijuana has served as a vehicle to target and police communities of color both in Missouri and nationally. In Missouri, marijuana possession accounts for 50.4% of drug arrests. Despite similar marijuana usage rates, Black people in Missouri are arrested on average 2.6 times more frequently for marijuana possession than white people. This statistic becomes even more stark when looking at individual county rates. **In the city of St. Louis, Black people are 18.4 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white counterparts.** Since 2010, Missouri has spent over \$49 million in enforcing marijuana possession laws, but has seen no significant improvement in drug usage. NCJW STL stands with the ACLU MO in calling off the failing and unjust War on Marijuana, which systemically targets Black communities.

SUPPORTING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.

Racial minorities have suffered systemic discrimination and mistreatment throughout history. Affirmative action creates justice by making educational and professional opportunities more accessible to people of color who, because of systemic oppression, are not extended the same opportunities and privileges as their white counterparts. NCJW STL supports equal opportunity for all in the public and private sectors through programs such as affirmative action. NCJW has signed amicus briefs in support of affirmative action in Supreme Court cases and has been active in working against ballot initiatives to ban affirmative action in state constitutions. We must continue to vigilantly support affirmative action as it is called into questions by this administration.

CALL YOUR REPS

Contact your representatives and let them know your thoughts on police brutality, the prison industrial complex, the War on Drugs, and affirmative action.

LISTEN AND EDUCATE

Keep up-to-date on the hardships that local communities of color face. Educate yourself on white privilege, and consider how you can be accountable for white privilege and use it to dismantle white supremacy.

SOLIDARITY

Show solidarity for communities of color by showing up for racial justice. Attend a protest, attend a meeting, volunteer, donate, check out reparations initiatives, etc. For ideas, check out this article on white allyship: <http://www.alternet.org/news-amp-politics/11-things-white-people-can-do-be-real-anti-racist-allies>

Sources: ACLU, M4BL, BLM

NCJW STL

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

Need help finding your reps?
www.house.mo.gov
www.senate.mo.gov

Contact Heather at
hsilverman@ncjwstl.org or
314-993-5181 for more
information



ADVOCACY
IN ACTION
ADVOCATING CHANGE - ADVANCING LIVES