

Racial Justice News Items – January 2021

[Column: Charging teens as adults won't stop carjackings. It will create tougher criminals.](#)

Chicago Tribune

In America, an astounding number of Black kids are fast-forwarded past the juvenile courts directly to adult criminal courts. Juvenile court judges are transferring Black youth to adult courts at some of the highest percentages in 30 years of data collection, according to **a 2018 report by the National Association of Social Workers**. Though Black youth make up 14% of the total youth population in the U.S., they represent 53% of the youth defendants transferred to adult court for crimes against persons, the report said.

Jenny Braunginn is a member:

[\[Video\] Social workers confronting racial injustice conference](#)

Channel 3000

For the seventh year, the UW-Madison School of Social Work is holding a conference about confronting racial injustice. The conference challenges social workers to work toward an equitable and racially just society. Two of the event's organizers, **Jenny Braunginn** and Sakara Wages, join Live at Four to share more information about the annual event.

Mit Joyner is President of NASW:

[Trump Zealots Can't Hide Behind Economic Anxiety Any Longer](#)

Buzzfeed News

Without question, financial insecurity and inequality define much of American life — I've [written about it for some time now](#) — but ascribing the insurrection to the devastating impact of financial hardship overlooks the role racism played. Economic insecurity and racism have gone [hand in hand](#) and fed each other [throughout American history](#), and it is critical not to mistake this “[revolution](#)” for Trump for something else. “[T]he human stain on America is racism, and it is something that we have not examined and have allowed to fester,” said **Mit Joyner, president of the [National Association of Social Workers](#)**.

MaryAnn Black was a member, and NASW's Social Worker of the Year in 1994:

[WRAL Documentary about social worker and Representative MaryAnn Black](#)

WRAL

Warm. Giving. Caring. Compassionate. Those are just some of the adjectives used to describe State Rep. MaryAnn Black by people who knew and worked with her. **Black was a career social worker in Durham** who served on the county Board of Commissioners, worked as the associate vice president of community relations at Duke University Health System and served in the NC House of Representatives. The impact of her work ripples through the Durham community and our state, especially in the areas of health care and education. Black died of cancer in March but her legacy lives on in the thousands of lives touched by her work.

[Capitol attack another reminder of 'two Americas' that exist: OPINION](#)

ABC News

Black kids in America are often not seen as harmless boys or girls. In 2018, a [National Association of Social Workers' report revealed](#), "Black youth are approximately 14% of the total youth population, but 47.3% of the youth who are transferred to adult court." The Government Accountability Office found that Black K-12 students are also more likely to be suspended or referred to law enforcement than their white counterparts. These findings are part of the larger racial disparity that just played out in our nation's capital for the world to see.

Cynthia Catchings is a member:

[How To Manage Your Mental Health After A Week Of Sadness & Chaos](#)

Yahoo Life

Many Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are feeling especially traumatized due to race-based stress reactions, says [Candice Nicole Hargons](#), PhD, director of the Center for Healing Racial Trauma. "Thinking from a Black perspective, remembering how everything unfolded during the [[Black Lives Matter protests](#) this] summer and in the past, and how the situation was treated so differently creates anxiety, but also anger," adds [Cynthia Catchings](#), LCSW-S, a **licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist with Talkspace** based in the Washington D.C. area.

Augustus Rodgers is a member:

[From 'high cotton' to dead end, SC tenants reflect on history of Allen Benedict Court The State \(Columbia, SC\)](#)

"We thought of Allen Benedict Court as 'high cotton,'" said **Augustus Rodgers, a clinical social worker** who lived there in the early 1950s. "In other words, we were living well. It was a big improvement from rural South Carolina where there were no indoor bathrooms or running water or paved streets." In less than a decade Rodgers' family went from sharing a space in a rooming house to building their own four bedroom home in the suburbs. "Allen Benedict Court was the stepping stone that enabled us to move up." he said.

Updated 01/28/2021