

Solidarity Syllabus – December 2018

Looking Back at 2018's Solidarity Movements

This month, host Deepa Iyer is in conversation with [Jamia Wilson](#) of the [Feminist Press](#), and [Jonathan Jayes-Green](#) of the [UndocuBlack Network](#).

Jamia Wilson is a movement builder and storyteller who currently serves as the Executive Director and Publisher of the Feminist Press (FP) at the City University of New York (CUNY). She is the first woman of color and the youngest person to head the organization

Jonathan Jayes-Green is an organizer, speaker, strategist, and believer. He's a queer undocumented Afro-Panamanian and one of the co-founders of the UndocuBlack Network. UndocuBlack is a multigenerational network of directly-affected Black undocumented people that fosters community, facilitates access to resources and contributes to transforming the realities of its people.

What is intersectional feminism?

Scholar and civil rights activist Kimberle Crenshaw coined the term 'intersectionality' in [a 1989 essay](#), detailing how Black women experience multi-dimensional oppression. "Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects. It's not simply that there's a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LBGQTQ problem there. Many times that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things," [explains Crenshaw](#).

This framework brings to light how single-issue analysis and advocacy can leave out folks most affected by intersecting forms of oppression. For instance, the #MeToo movement has sparked a national conversation about rape culture and sexual violence – but these issues affect women of color and working class women differently than wealthy white women, and advocates should center women and nonbinary folks living at these intersections of race, gender and class.

- [Kimberlé Crenshaw Explains The Power Of Intersectional Feminism In 1 Minute](#) (HuffPost)
- [As a Multiracial Woman, This Is Why I Need Intersectional Feminism](#) — Lara Witt (Rewire)

What are the origins of the #MeToo Movement?

Activist and organizer Tarana Burke founded the [Me Too Movement](#) in 2006 “to help survivors of sexual violence, particularly Black women and girls, and other young women of color from low wealth communities, find pathways to healing.” The #MeToo movement seeks to create support and foster healing for survivors of sexual assault. While #MeToo was amplified by Hollywood actresses and industry leaders, the movement is even more critical for workers in low-wage industries and women of color. Organizers from the [National Domestic Workers Alliance](#) and [Alianza Nacional de Campesinas](#) have used the national attention on #MeToo to lift up the histories of sexual violence against domestic workers and farmworkers and to secure justice in their communities.

- Find more tools, readings and resources on healing, advocacy and more at metoomvmt.org
- Donate to the #TimesUp Legal Defense Fund + find more resources [here](#).

What issues are affecting Black Immigrants?

“I don’t get to wake up one day and be undocumented, and wake up tomorrow and be Black. I am both every day of the week,” Jonathan says in this month’s podcast. “So [UndocuBlack Network] really wanted to push the conversation to have a movement that created space for our communities—black undocumented people—to be centered, to have a space to heal, to educate each other, and to fight for our own liberation.”

UndocuBlack is working at the forefront of many issues affecting Black immigrants, including:

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) was created by Congress in 1990 to

protect individuals from "life-threatening conditions" in their home nation and protects [some 300,000 people](#) from ten different countries, over half of which are Black-majority countries. Over the past two years, the Trump Administration announced the termination of TPS protections for Guinea, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Nepal. In October 2018, a California judge blocked TPS terminations, granting [temporary reprieve](#) to thousands of immigrants under threat.

The **Diversity Immigrant Visa Program** was created in 1990 to encourage immigration from underrepresented countries. African immigrants make up 40% of Diversity Visa recipients and Asian immigrants make up 16%. Learn more [here](#). Trump has said he will only sign an immigration deal that [eliminates the diversity visa](#) lottery, which is the largest legal way for Black immigrants to migrate to the U.S.

Black at the Border: Black migrants at the U.S-Mexico face anti-Black racism, [brutality from border officials](#) and a lack of support from non-profits. There are rarely interpreters available for non-Spanish-speaking Black immigrants, and Black folks are assigned higher bail amounts on average than non-Black immigrants.

Read more at the Center for Constitutional Rights' Blog: ["5 Things to Know About Being Black at the Border"](#) by Stephanie Llanes

Black-centered immigrant rights' organizations to support:

- [Haitian Bridge Alliance](#)
- [Partnership for New Americans](#) (PANA)
- [Black Alliance for Just Immigration](#) (BAJI)

What structural, institutional changes need to happen in our own industries?

In this month's podcast, Deepa asks Jamia and Jonathan about what interventions & institutional changes they are working for within their own

fields.

Jamia shares her insights for **Media & Publishing:**

- engage and fund diverse designers, writers and freelancers
- create sustainability for debut authors from marginalized groups; (ex. the Feminist Press provides scholarships for authors of color who are women or non-binary)
- lift up voices without watering down the truth and critical perspectives
- be unafraid to publish books deemed “too controversial, risky and radical”

Jonathan speaks about **Non-Profits & Movement Work:**

- hire and employ folks from directly-impacted communities
- move away from a capitalistic framework – invest in human relationships instead of evaluating staff solely on productivity and output
- philanthropic funders should center directly-impacted voices and the priorities of these communities

Additional Resources & Readings

- [Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project \(BLMP\)](#) at the Transgender Law Center “aims to reduce isolation, build leadership, and protect and defend Black LGBTQIA+ migrants from increasing attack by holding community-building events around the country, providing legal support, increasing access to services, creating regional organizing networks, and launching the first-ever survey focused on our experiences.”
- [Decolonizing Wealth](#) – Edgar Villanueva
- [It’s Complicated: White Women, White Men & White Supremacy](#) – Jamia Wilson, Refinery29
- [#MeToo Is Creating a 'Ripple Effect' for Domestic and Farm Workers](#) – June Barrett and Mily Treviño-Sauceda, Broadly
- [Protest like your basic rights depend on it – because power is taken, never given](#) – Jamia Wilson, The Guardian

- Sign the [#FreePapaDolumbia Petition](#)
- [Support a Clean Dream Act](#) – UndocuBlack Network
- [These Immigrant Groups are Banding Together to Resist Trump](#) – Jonathan Jayes-Green and Jung Woo Kim, *teenVOGUE*
- [Trans Migrants: Defying Borders and Binaries](#) – Tatiana Cozzarelli, LeftVoice

Syllabus developed by Shelby House and Deepa Iyer.