



EDITION 1 | JULY 31, 2026

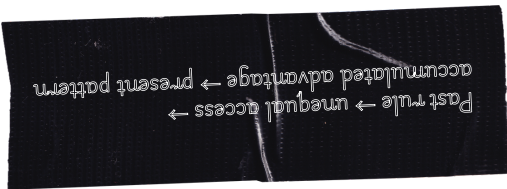
A pocket guide to finding systems hiding in plain sight.

RACISM IN YOUR LIFE



RACISM IS BIGGER THAN MEANNESS

Racism isn't only a slur, hateful person, or deliberately cruel act. It also operates through policies, institutions, budgets, boundaries, and data.



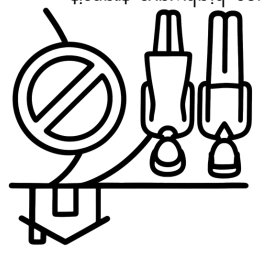
Intent matters when judging a person. Outcomes matter when examining a system.

Racism didn't build itself, and it won't dismantle itself. Start where you live.



NOTICE → QUESTION →
VERIFY → ACT

FOLLOW THE MAP AND THE MONEY



Redlining and segregated housing practices restricted where many families could live, borrow, own property, and build wealth. Those decisions helped shape school boundaries, property values, highways, transit, parks, flood protection, pollution exposure, and public investment.



- LOOK AROUND:**
- Which neighborhoods have shade, sidewalks and drainage?
 - Where were highways and industrial sites placed?
 - Which schools have newer buildings and more programs?
 - Who owns homes—and whose families were historically prevented from buying?

A LAW CAN END WHILE ITS MAP KEEPS WORKING.

Help without taking over. The targeted person decides what support feels useful and safe.

challenge the system

"What's the written policy?"
"Who else has been affected by this rule?"
"Please give me that decision in writing."

support someone

"Do you want me to stay with you?"
"Would you like help documenting or reporting this?"

interrupt it

"We're not continuing that joke."
"Don't speak to them that way."

name it

"That's a racial stereotype."
"What's race got to do with this?"

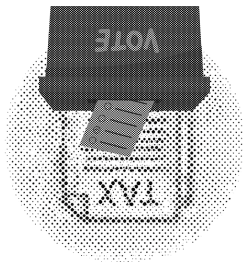
DO SOMETHING USEFUL



QUESTION THE RULES AND NUMBERS

Poll taxes, literacy tests, and intimidation were used to exclude Black voters. Excluding people from political power also affected which communities received protection, funding, and representation.

Crime data does not simply measure "who commits crime." It may measure what was reported, where police looked, whom they stopped, whom they arrested, and what prosecutors pursued.



- BEFORE BELIEVING A STATISTIC, ASK:**
- What exactly was counted?
 - Who collected it?
 - Who was watched more closely?
 - What is missing?
 - Does the headline claim more than the data proves?

Entertainment _____

Social _____

Podcasts _____

News _____

Books _____

This week, whose voices shaped my understanding?

ASK YOURSELF:

- Which neighborhoods was I taught to fear?
- Who appears when I picture an expert, criminal or "good family"?
- Whose history did school treat as optional?
- Who is portrayed mainly through crime or suffering?
- When I see a racial disparity, do I examine the system—or blame the affected group?

Audit what taught you

Your beliefs were shaped before you consciously chose them. That doesn't make every belief permanent—or correct.

VISIT ONE:

- Local archive
- Public library
- History museum
- Black cultural center
- City planning office or website

ASK FOR:

- Historic neighborhood and zoning maps
- Property deeds and restrictive covenants
- Poll-tax or voter-registration records
- School-board minutes
- Highway and "urban renewal" plans
- Black newspapers and oral histories

SCRIPT:

"I'm researching how race affected housing, schools, voting or infrastructure here. Which collections should I explore?"

One Thing I Found