

JUNE 19 | 6 TO 7:30 PM

JUSTICE SANS-FORME

Sans-forme translates into "formless": without a clear or defined shape or structure. For too long, we've been bound by the structural racism of white supremacy and capitalism. It is up to us, in solidarity, to dismantle the current political systems in place and define the new.

Justice Sans-forme's call to action is for a collective pause with your fellow abolitionists and Black Lives Matter advocates, take a pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard), and incite policy reform based on the demands of the people -we, the people- from our local, state and national legislators.



HOST:

Zaxai

FEATURED PRESTENER:

Mayor Dahlia O. Vertreese
(Hillside, NJ)

DEEJAY:

DJ Luna Rosa

Please see "Justice Sans-Forme" on Eventbrite for more information and to register.
This event will be live via Zoom.

Hey there!

Thank you for your interest in joining our letter writing party, *Justice Sans-Forme*, on June 19th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. EST. We're grateful and excited to celebrate Juneteenth with you! Juneteenth is an American holiday in honor of when Texas - the last rebel state - officially abolished slavery (1865). 2020 marks the 155th anniversary.

Before we all meet, here is some background information for context:

A well-written *personalized* letter may be the most effective way to communicate with government officials. The purpose of a letter-writing party is to take advantage of the opportunity to gather with like-minded individuals to be even more effective in working toward your goal. With our event, you will be able to ask important questions, make connections with others who hold similar human-rights values, and will be provided with inspiration and direction for writing your own letter to incite change from your local legislatures.

BEFORE THE CALL

Things you should know:

1. When you join the Zoom call on Friday, your microphone will be **muted**. Please introduce yourself by typing your name and location in the chat.
2. If you have any questions during the featured presentation, you may also type them in the chat. Councilman Craig Epps will have a question and answer session, but due to time constrictions, not all of them may be addressed. We will do our best to get to yours!
3. DJ Luna Rosa will host a cocktail hour with live music, immediately following the Q+A session. Feel free to utilize this time to grab a pen and paper (and maybe a drink) and begin creating your own letter to local legislatures. Please take breaks as needed, but be aware that programming will be running without any formal breaks.
4. All participants are welcome to join the Juneteenth Watch Party hosted by The Dorill Initiative. For more information please view their instagram account @DorillInitiative

Calls to action to consider while writing your personalized letters:

1. End the war on Black people
2. Reparations
3. Invest-Divest
4. Economic justice
5. Community control
6. Political power
7. Protect people in jails and prisons from coronavirus
8. NYC Budget Cuts
9. Adopt 8 Can't Wait force policies

Source: [Movement For Black Lives](#)

DURING THE CALL

Letter Writing Tips:

1. Text “resist” to 50409 or visit [Democracy.io](https://democracy.io) from your web browser to get started. Follow the prompts provided to you by each service.
2. If you are mailing a physical letter, be sure to include your name and address on both your letter and envelope. Dear (Assembly Member / Senator) (last name). Be courteous and informative in your communication. State the purpose of the letter in the opening sentence and if you are referring to a bill, include the bill number, author and topic. [Here](#) is a letter template.
3. Keep it brief: Letters should never be longer than one page, and should be limited to one issue. Legislative aides read many letters on many issues in a day, so your letter should be as concise as possible.
4. State Who You Are and What You Want Up Front: In the first paragraph, tell your legislators that you are a constituent and identify the issue about which you are writing. If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, it helps to identify it by its bill number (e.g. H.R. ____ or S. ____).
5. Hit your three most important points: Choose the three strongest points that will be most effective in persuading legislators to support your position and flesh them out.
6. Personalize your letter: Tell your elected official why this legislation matters in his community or state. If you have one, include a personal story that shows how this issue affects you and your family. A constituent's personal stories can be very persuasive as your legislator shapes his or her position.
7. Personalize your relationship: Have you ever voted for this elected official? Have you ever contributed time or money to his or her campaign? Are you familiar with her through any business or personal relationship? If so, tell your elected official or his staff person. The closer your legislator feels to you, the more powerful your argument is likely to be.
8. You are the Expert: Remember that your legislator's job is to represent you. You should be courteous and to the point, but don't be afraid to take a firm position. Remember that often your elected official may know no more about a given issue than you do.

Source: [ACLU](https://aclu.org)

Sample Email:

Subject:

Black women's lives matter

Message:

Dear Sen. Robert Menendez; Rep. Donald Payne; Sen. Cory Booker,

I implore you to urge every Chief of Police at every police department in every township/city in every county throughout the entire state of New Jersey to take the pledge to enact the #8CantWait Use of Force policies.

As a young, Black woman in my mid-20s who frequents dance socials far from home, I fear the drive back consistently- I fear being pulled over because as a young, Black woman in my mid-twenties, that stop could be the beginning of my end. I instinctively spend a large majority of my drive, scouting my surroundings instead of confidently paying full attention to the road. The last time I was pulled over for running a red light that wasn't red, I called my mother on the phone before I even produced my license and insurance. I needed to know that if bullets were to fire at me or my body was legally sexually violated, that my mother would hear me scream. That someone on my side had some semblance of truth on the matter. As a young, Black woman in my mid-20s in America, my truth is constantly at risk. I do not deserve that. I deserve nights out at dance socials far from home as a young, care-free Black woman in my mid-20s.

The #8CantWait policies are simple, common-sense and would make our community safer. Can you commit to enacting these additional policies right now?

- Ban Chokeholds & Strangleholds
- Require De-escalation
- Require Exhaust All Alternatives Before Shooting
- Ban shooting at moving vehicles
- Require Use Of Force Continuum
- Require Comprehensive Reporting

Sources: 8cantwait.org and Kristine, constituent in Hillside, NJ.

Other Examples:

To: Sen. Booker, Sen. Menendez and Rep. Payne



Care About Black Lives

Dear Senator Booker and Senator Menendez,

Please defend George Floyd in congress. Defend his honor. Defend every black person's honors who has died at the hands of the people meant to protect them. For some, you are only voice. You can enact real change. You are the ones that can pass legislation in New Jersey to hold police accountable for their actions. This shouldn't be news to you. You know your job is protect the citizens of New Jersey, as well as the rest of the country. If you are afraid of the political power police hold, the problem right there should be apparent to you. The fact that police may have more political power than actual politicians is scary. Please do your duty, and protect black people in this country, and hold police accountable for their gruesome actions.

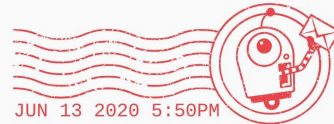


Taylor

CONSTITUENT in MONTCLAIR, N.J.

TEXT **RESIST** TO **50409** TO WRITE YOUR OWN

To: Gov. Cuomo



Re: Gov. Cuomo's recent remarks about the protests

"Stop protesting, you won."

Actually, we haven't won. Repealing 50a was crumbs. It never should have existed in the first place.

We'll have won when all families in NY who lost a loved one to police violence have justice. We'll have won when the city and state uses our tax dollars appropriately, instead of letting bored men play soldier and executioner. We'll have won when politicians aren't afraid of the police unions. We'll have won when our governor and mayor stop gaslighting us.

Saying that this should stop because we won a tiny concession is insulting and out of touch.



Amanda

CONSTITUENT in NEW YORK, N.Y.

TEXT **RESIST** TO **50409** TO WRITE YOUR OWN

AFTER THE CALL

Surprise! Our project is actually 2 parts. Aside from the letter writing party, our team is assembling a reference document for interested parties. [This list](#) comprises the tri-state area and Pennsylvania's most densely populated counties and their respective sheriff's offices or the sheriff's office in that county's largest city (State, county, city). Our resource folder reflects: this information, sheriff name and contact info, as well as the mayor of each city. The purpose of this is to submit the use of force policies to 8cantwait.org. If you are interested in joining this initiative, please send an email to justicesansforme@gmail.com with "8cantwait" in the subject line.

Alternative Ways To Resist/Protest:

- [How You Can Help - BLM](#)
- [Civil Rights Movement Events Near You](#)
- [History of Juneteenth](#)
- [Make Juneteenth A National Holiday](#)

Special thank you to our sponsors:

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Host:

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Zaxai-the-band-date-night.epk.fm

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Deejay:

Luna Rosa

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