

Resources for Learning about Reparations

A very short list of engaging resources

Compiled by the BYM Reparations Action Working Group

A longer list follows the short list

Read and reflect on the written and spoken ministry of African American Friends

Race, Systemic Violence, and Retrospective Justice: an African American Quaker Scholar-Activist Challenges Conventional Narratives, by Harold D. Weaver, Jr.
Pendle Hill Pamphlet no. 465, 2020 (in print and Kindle form)

Radical Transformation: Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends, by Vanessa Julye. Pendle Hill Pamphlet 476, 2022 (in print and Kindle form)

Presentation given by a BYM Friend

Considering Reparations: A Foundational Conversation to Help Meetings to Consider Mini-Reparations, a presentation by Daquanna Harrison at Sandy Spring Friends Meeting (Daquanna is a member of Adelphi Friends Meeting)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdxlC3svkcg>

Learn more about the economics of reparations from the US federal government

Report on Reparations for Transatlantic Chattel Slavery in the Americas and the Caribbean - by Coleman Bazelon, Friend and member of Sandy Spring Friends Meeting

<https://www.brattle.com/insights-events/publications/brattle-consultants-quantify-reparations-for-transatlantic-chattel-slavery-in-pro-bono-paper/>

National African American Reparations Commission -

<https://reparationscomm.org/>

Friends Journal: January 2023 issue is devoted to Reparations. See

www.friendsjournal.org

Learn more about the history of the advocacy for reparations, why reparations are warranted, and why they will help to end the deep inequality in US society.

Short Video on History of Reparations in the US - this video quickly covers a lot of historical information showing that the movement for reparations is centuries old. Produced by the Reparations Educational Project, Inc:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwf8KlHpVBA&t=47s>

Books:

From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century, by William A. Darity and A. Kristen Mullen of Duke University's Sanford School of

Public Policy, 2020. The book shows the long history of the ways white Americans were given opportunities to advance and build intergenerational wealth that were at the same time denied to Black Americans, and the outcomes today of this legacy. It also covers attempts at reparations through time that were thwarted.

Reconsidering Reparations, by Olúfémi O. Táíwò, 2022. This work in philosophy looking at what would make reparations successful. He takes the view that all the world system needs to be made more equitable for reparations to be workable.

The Case for Black Reparations, by Boris I. Bittker, 1973, 2003. An earlier work that looks closely at what reparations for chattel slavery and the century of oppression afterwards would entail.

Ta-Nehisi Coates' article "The Case for Reparations" in the *Atlantic Magazine* and in his book, *We were Eight Years in Power*. This is available in various sites on the web.

Podcasts:

Podcast: *The Arc of Justice*, from Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. This podcast is based on the book, *From Here to Equality*, described above.

<https://sanford.duke.edu/story/podcast-series-arc-justice/>

Podcast: *Into the Depths*, developed by National Geographic, available from National Public Radio. By searching for sunken ships used to transport slaves, scuba divers have brought a new look at the history and sorrow of the slave trade, and show paths for healing.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080420160/into-the-depths-podcast-follows-black-divers-in-search-for-slave-trade-shipwreck>

Videos on aspects of reparations and restorative actions:

THE COST OF INHERITANCE, an America ReFramed special, is an hour-long documentary that explores the complex issue of reparations in the United States using a thoughtful approach to history, historical injustices, systemic inequities, and the critical dialogue on racial conciliation. A documentary film by Yoruba Richen.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/the-cost-of-inheritance-bdzmlq/>

THE BARBER OF LITTLE ROCK, a documentary about a barber who found a way to build a successful financial institution to provide grants and loans to community members when they are in need. Maybe we could support or create this kind of project. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1amOPUn49aM>

THE GERMANTOWN PETITION AGAINST SLAVERY, by Clinit Smith. A video about Quakers and how we are viewed by a major historian. Friends have been on the "right side" of history in terms of their stance on slavery, but this stance was long in coming. To say all Friends opposed slavery and worked for abolition is not true. This video helps clarify our uneven history.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XT8q6cYsVpc>

A book of hopefulness in this time of change:

Ladder to the Light: an Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage, by Steven Charlton. 2021.

Organizations to follow - learn more about reparations at different levels of our society (national, municipal, family, etc) in real time, and offer to volunteer, sign a petition, make a donation, let others know about the work of the organizations, and more.

- Reparations for Slavery: <https://reparations4slavery.com/>
- Where is My Land: <https://whereismyland.org/>
- National Black Cultural Information Trust - <https://nbcit.org/>
- The Reparations Project - <https://reparationsproject.org/>