

A Beginner's Tool Kit: Educating Yourself

In my sermon on Sunday, I promised to provide some resources to help you educate yourself and begin to listen and reflect on the experiences of black folks. I am still a beginner in this area so I am educating myself as well.

This list is based on a similar list produced by my friend Steve Holmes who is Senior Lecturer in Theology and Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrew's University. Thanks to Judy Pang and my daughter Hannah who also provided suggestions.

Perhaps the most useful start point is probably the book I mentioned in my sermon:

Ben Lindsay, **We Need to Talk About Race: Understanding the Black experience in white majority churches** (2019). It is currently available as an e-book for 99p at <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/we-need-to-talk-about-race>.

Two other books that will help you understand the wider context are:

David Olusoga, **Black and British: A forgotten history (2016)**, gives a historical perspective. It was based on a BBC TV series which is now available again on the iplayer - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b082w9p9/black-and-british-a-forgotten-history-1-first-encounters>

Reni Eddo-Lodge, **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race** (2018) has become a must-read text for many at this time, "in brief and simple chapters, she explains whiteness, and how it affects so much else." The author's podcast **About Race with Reni Eddo-Lodge** takes the conversation a bit further.

Learning and listening to others' stories is vital. If a Black British person invites you to hear their story, that is a precious gift, and should be honoured as such; but you cannot demand of your Black friends and colleagues that they open their hearts and wounds to you. I have found these testimonies really helpful

Darryll Stephen, an Australian-based youth worker from the UK - <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=H0k5fd9Xa2M&feature=youtu.be>

Yinka Oyekan, President of the Baptist Union - <https://www.facebook.com/PrinceYinkaOyekan/posts/10163681386260054>

Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwiY4i8xWlc&list=PLXAptcMQLoM6jeadgiA4YZZbgW4BDovTB>

Unlocking Us, Brené Brown's podcast interview with Ibram X Kendi is a helpful introduction to understanding uprooting racism and inequality in our society and in ourselves - https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-with-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist/?utm_medium=social&utm_source=Facebook&utm_campaign=bb_unlocking-us&fbclid=IwAR2QvxJU5lIB0-YAvvn8B6scjRthWS1X93H8K2bidTVwT-9DY4M_-u-WJU4 Kendi's book - **How To Be An AntiRacist.**, "helps us recognise that everyone is, at times, complicit in racism whether they realise it or not, and by describing with moving humility his own journey from racism to antiracism, he shows us how instead to be a force for good."

Martin Luther King's **Letter from Birmingham Jail** (1963) arguing the case for peaceful but active protest is particularly powerful.

https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html

Similarly, **No Justice, No Peace: Religion and Protest**, a recent discussion on BBC Radio 4 is good (available on iplayer until 13 July) - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jw1b>

Finally, there are a number of TV programmes which address the experiences of the Windrush Generation. You could start with these:

The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files - [BBC iPlayer](#)

Sitting In Limbo - [BBC iPlayer](#)

Finally, Layla Saad's **Me and White Supremacy: How to recognise your privilege, combat racism, and change the world** (2020) is a workbook although it probably shouldn't be read until you have engaged with some of the other material above – "It does what it says on the tin: offers an induction into the reality of white supremacy for white people through four weeks of worked exercises. It is not a comfortable read, but it is a necessary one."

I hope these help.

Andy Potter