



Resources for Black Healing

A couple things first:

**This compilation of resources is a reflection of my personal identities and social network as a black woman and social worker. Through connecting with my network of counselors, therapists, community organizers, and others just trying to heal and serve, I have pulled together some resources to share. I know there are gaps as this is not exhaustive or meant to speak to every unique experience or identity within the Black community. Nevertheless, I hope that at least one thing on this list can bring you or a loved one some peace and healing during this time. This is me just wanting to support folks any way that I can and assert that we matter, our lives matter, and our healing matters.*

With love and solidarity to all those hurting right now,

Micalah Webster, MSW/MHSA

Mental Health Resources

- [BlackLine](#)- a 24/7 national crisis support hotline (with a text option as well) provides a space for peer support and counseling, reporting of mistreatment, and affirming the lived experiences to those who are most impacted by systematic oppression. Operated with an LGBTQ+ Black Femme affirming lens.
- 7 Mental Health Resources for Black People Right now from @jesseasparks: “Seven resources that are providing virtual support to the Black community right now. However you choose to grieve, process, and/or stand in solidarity, remember that you’re not alone, and that your personhood and wellness still matter.”-@health_ish
 - [Dive in Well](#)- Prioritizing the spread of self-care and affordable health solutions with a diversity and inclusion lens to wellness. Offers both offline and online experiences, resources, and tools to empower those who believe in soul-centered wellness.
 - [Sista Afya](#)- Focus on making quality mental health resources simple, accessible, affordable, and centered around Black women’s experiences through a lens of community support.
 - [Therapy for Black Girls](#)- A database to find trusted, culturally competent therapists that know the feelings and experience of navigating the world as a black woman.
 - [Healhaus](#)- Combines diverse healing modalities and practitioners to provide people with an inclusive space focused on holistic health and wellness. Committed to building a community that is dedicated to changing the stigma attached to healing.
 - [Inclusive Therapists](#)- A database to find a therapist that celebrates and shares your identity. Offers reduced fee teletherapy. Believes that all people deserve equal access to quality mental healthcare.
 - [Ethel’s Club](#)- Offers free mental health counseling resources in an online community designed for people of color to thrive. Hosts free, hour-long grieving sessions twice monthly. Led by licensed Black therapists to help hold space and process the weight of the many complex emotions that we are feeling and carrying right now.
 - [The Nap Ministry](#)—A blog that explores the science of sleep and black liberation theology. Explores the ideas around “Rest as Resistance” and the liberating power of naps.



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- [Trauma Response and Crisis Care for Movements](#)- An organization mobilizing community across three dimensions for this COVID-19 moment: 1-1 virtual care, interactive webinars (for the general community & healing provider specific content), and practice groups offering community gathering space focused around meditation, stress-reduction practices, and rituals as well as specific practices such as EMDR (a common treatment for PTSD symptoms). Additionally, they have a growing #distressinplace Resource Manual for support and information around healing and care services.
- The Restorative Justice Team Virtual Support Circle—Monday, June 1st 5:30pm-7:30pm PST. Join through [Zoom](#) if you are experiencing grief or loss join this space for healing and support.

Self-Care and Healing Tips

**These have been collected from Counseling and Psychological Service Center Resource Pages across the country. They span publish dates from 2014-2020. While the names and story specifics may change, the narrative, struggle—and thus coping mechanisms—remain the same.*

- Article: [Tips for Self-Care: When Police Brutality Has You Questioning Humanity and Social Media Is Enough](#)
- Article: [Digital Self-care for Black individuals coping with trauma](#)
- Audio Activity (17-min) and Article: [Black Lives Matter Meditation for Healing Racial Trauma](#)
- Article: [The Road to Resilience – American Psychological Association](#)
- Video: [Emotionally Restorative Self Care for People of Color – Black People – African Americans](#)
- Tip: **Community Building** – “In times of distress, it is important to be mindful of the community you create around yourself. It can be useful to connect yourself to others, paying particular attention to your social identity groups (i.e., sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, and gender) and consider talking over your concerns with others in the safe, comfortable environment. It can also be helpful to spend time with friends, family, colleagues, or social groups who may be able to listen to you, and/or incorporate your spiritual and religious faiths.” – University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services
- Tip: **Self-Care Tips for Black People Feeling Overwhelmed by the Media** -@reignxshine
 - Set firm boundaries: You are under no obligation to explain your feelings or educate people on what we are dealing with.
 - Indulge in black creativity: We are THE creators, after all...Switching your focus for a while does not mean you don't care. Seeking out black art and celebrating black joy can provide some respite from traumatizing media coverage.
 - Be tactful about your daily scrolls: Not every post, tweet, article or message requires your attention and response. A constant intake of appalling footage and information can be overwhelming, to say the least.
 - Feel: Remember that your feelings are valid and take time to acknowledge them. Anger, sadness, fear...? All justified.
 - Connect with other black people: It is important to seek support and comfort from others that you can trust.

Affirmation and Reflection Quotes



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“When your heart is bent toward justice and you feel the weight of what has not changed, and you are SO tired of fighting a fight that keeps taking on new shapes, it does not make you weak when your tired heart is broken. Do not let them shame you because your wounds are still open” -Morgan Harper Nichols

“Rest because the exhaustion that percolates after countless deaths of Black bodies can be debilitating. When it comes to processing racial trauma, validate the feelings of helplessness, exhaustion, sadness, and of course anger. Giving space to share these feelings decreases the likelihood of Black people internalizing the messages spewed by white supremacy.” -Kenya Crawford @ilymag

Understanding the Trauma Response

Article: [Racism's Psychological Toll](#)

Audio (4-min): [Coping While Black: A Season of Traumatic News Takes a Psychological Toll](#)

Article: [PBS: When black death goes virtual, it can trigger PTSD-like trauma](#). This article examines the negative mental health effects of exposure to violent and racist images and messages. The author interviewed Monica Williams, a clinical psychologist, and director of the Center for Mental Health Disparities at the University of Louisville, and concluded that “graphic videos” combined with lived experiences of racism can create severe psychological problems reminiscent of post-traumatic stress syndrome.” -University of Michigan Counseling and Psychological Services.

Racial Trauma and Lowering Cortisol Levels to Cope with Racial Stressors

“Cortisol: |noun| a stress hormone made in and released by the adrenal glands. It is the alarm system in your body that fuels your instinctual fight and flight responses in times of danger, threat, and crisis. When you are on high alert all the time due to race-based stressors, heightened levels of cortisol may lead to health issues, such as:

- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Heart Disease
- Diabetes
- Sleep Problems
- Increased Hypervigilance, depression + anxiety
- Among other somatic manifestations of stress – often matches the symptoms of PTSD.

Lowering Cortisol Levels:

- Take a nap
- Take a break from social media or your phone
- [4-7-8 Breathing Exercise](#)
- [5 Senses Grounding Exercise](#)
- Drink ginger tea + eat dark chocolate
- [Liberate Meditation App](#): Meditation. For Us, By Us. An app for the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community. iOS and Android.
- Diffuse Clove oil



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- Hydrotherapy (Tub: peppermint and eucalyptus bath salts or Shower: adjust to the hottest water temperature you can handle, and then the coldest you can handle)
- Watch your caffeine or alcohol intake
- Drink capsules of Vitamin D
- Sing + Dance your heart out to your people's music
- Mindful cooking (make a family recipe!)
- Find safe ways to express rage & grief
- Find your kin: process, cry, laugh, simply *be* together

Your rage and grief are not too much...While you can make room for your emotions + natural responses to stress, remember that you are also worthy of good, sustainable care and regulation. All our bodies + nervous systems are unique, so above all these suggestions, it is key to listen to your body, to your breath, and to where the tension + tingling reside. Love + protection to you, especially to black folk reading. To feel is to be human. You are human." -@gabetorres.

Music to Heal

[A Grief and Honor Playlist](#) has been curated by a group of University of Michigan Black Alumni and started by 2012 Alumni, Christian Ziraldo. **If you would like to add to the playlist it may be collaborative/editable depending on your Spotify account features but try to stay on theme 😊.*

Affirming Apparel

[Legendaryrootz](#)- A lifestyle brand for Black Women to authentically express themselves through powerful, statement-driven apparel.

[Relievethebar](#)- University of Michigan Black Alumni Apparel #BlackWolverines

Resources for When You Don't Have the Energy (or Desire) to Dialogue but Want to Give Something

Article: [Anti-Racism Resources For White People](#) (if you want to share something with those in your life)

Article: [Black Trauma and Showing Up At Work](#)

Article: [Advice for White Folks in the Wake of the Police Murder of a Black Person](#)

Article: [12 Ways to Be a White Ally to Black People](#)

Article: [How to respond to "Riots Never Solve Anything"--an Opinion Piece](#)