

Racial Justice News Items – April 2021

[\[Audio\] WV Groups Call on Manchin to Support 'For the People Act'](#)

Public News Service

Sam Hickman, executive director of the West Virginia chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, said he thinks the bill would drive down the state's already low voter-participation rate. "The results of our elections certainly do not point to any fraud or abuse having taken place," said Hickman. "West Virginia's Legislature is now also doing its best to restrict voter access in the name of preventing fraud and abuse and easing the burden on our county clerks, rather than making it easier for voters."

[Many say now is the time to fight racial bias in foster care](#)

ABCNews

Angelo McClain, CEO of the National Association of Social Workers, said there's been a surge of concern within his organization about racial issues, prompting a series of virtual town halls for members about racism, white privilege and police reform. "People are trying to leverage this moment to bring about change," McClain said.

Stephanie Rose is a member:

[\[Video\] Zero Tolerance: From Birth to Stigma](#)

Recover Yourself

Zero Tolerance is kind of a big deal. Like trickle-down economics, it doesn't work but we (our society) keep on working it. When we turn away from the facts around zero tolerance like it causes more harm than good, which has been proven time and again, we are just kicking the can down the road. You see, Zero Tolerance is a bill that is going to have to be paid, but, and this is just like addiction, if we don't face it head-on and make the changes we need to make now, well, we're just paying the interest and the principle is still due.

Ellen Fink-Samnack is a member:

[CDC Declares Racism a Public Health Threat](#)

RAC Monitor

However, for our purposes, the date will now be etched in healthcare history as when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) [took long-needed action](#) to declare "**racism a series public health threat**," and one that directly affects the well-being of far too many people. Over this past year, fierce societal narratives have focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, social and racial inequities, and how these inequities impact community health and wellness. Longstanding structural barriers have created challenges in terms of access to, affordability of, and attainment of necessary health and mental healthcare across marginalized populations that span urban, suburban, and rural regions.

Kristel Avilus is a member:

[25 Women: Kristel Avilus models resilience, promotes possibilities at Pace Tallahassee Democrat](#)

“I want them to know that nothing can break you. You just have to keep getting up.”

Kristel Avilus’ words to the students at Pace Center for Girls come from a lifetime of getting up, stronger each time, and refusing to break. Her strength, vitality, creativity, and joyful spirit are just a few of the reasons Avilus is one of Tallahassee’s 25 Women You Need to Know.