

4: EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

RECOMMENDED FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

FILM AND MEDIA

- *A Raisin in the Sun* film, adapted from the play of the same name by Lorraine Hansberry (1961)
- *Brick by Brick: A Civil Rights Story* by Bill Kavanagh (2007): <http://www.brick-by-brick.com/>
- “Adam Ruins Everything: Nikole Hannah Jones on the Rippling Effects of Redlining and Segregation” Podcast (November 10, 2017): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7c8vpt0Z8w>
- *The Problem We All Live With*, Parts One & Two, *This American Life*, NPR (July 31, 2015): <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/562/the-problem-we-all-live-with-part-one>

BOOKS

- *Arsenal of Exclusion and Inclusion* by Interboro.
- *The Fight for Fair Housing* by Gregory D. Squires.
- *Cycle of Segregation* by Maria Krysan and Kyle Crowder.
- *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass* by Douglas S. Massey and Nancy A. Denton.
- *As Long as They Don't Move Next Door: Segregation and Racial Conflict in American Neighborhoods* by Stephen Grant Meyer.
- *Challenges to Equality: Poverty and Race in America* edited by Chester Hartman.
- *Closed Doors, Opportunities Lost: The Continuing Costs of Housing Discrimination* by John Yinger.
- *Colored Property: State Policy & White Racial Politics in Suburban America* by David M. P. Freund.
- *Crossing the Class and Color Lines: From Public Housing to White Suburbia* by Leonard S. Rubinowitz and James E. Rosenbaum.
- *Family Properties: Race, Real Estate, and the Exploitation of Black Urban America* by Beryl Satter.
- *Fragile Rights Within Cities: Government, Housing, and Fairness* edited by John Goering.
- *Housing Segregation in Suburban America Since 1960: Presidential and Judicial Politics* by Charles M. Lamb.
- *Race, Real Estate, and Uneven Development: The Kansas City Experience* by Kevin Fox Gotham.

- *Race, Space, and Exclusion: Segregation and Beyond in Metropolitan America* by Robert M. Adelman and Christopher Mele.
- *Racial Policies and Practices of Real Estate Brokers* by Rose Helper.
- *Saving the Neighborhood: Racially Restrictive Covenants, Law and Social Norms* by Richard R.W. Brooks and Carol M. Rose.
- *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein.
- *The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America* edited by Xavier de Souza Briggs.
- *The Integration Debate: Competing Futures for American Cities* edited by Chester Hartman and Gregory D. Squires.
- *The Selma of the North: Civil Rights Insurgency in Milwaukee* by Patrick D. Jones.
- *Places of Their Own: African American Suburbanization in the Twentieth Century* by Andrew Wiese.
- *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation* by Margery Austin Turner, Susan J. Popkin, and Lynette Rawlings.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- *The Fair Housing Five & The Haunted House*, a children's book by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center.

ARTICLES

- "50 Years after the Kerner Commission," by Janelle Jones, John Schmidt, and Valerie Wilson, Economic Policy Institute, February 26, 2018: <https://www.epi.org/files/pdf/142084.pdf>
- "Kept Out: For people of color, banks are shutting the door to homeownership," by Aaron Glantz and Emmanuel Martinez, The Center for Investigative Reporting, February 15, 2018: <https://www.revealnews.org/article/for-people-of-color-banks-are-shutting-the-door-to-homeownership/>
- "Mapping Segregation," New York Times, July 8, 2015: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/08/us/census-race-map.html>
- "Living Apart: How the Government Betrayed a Landmark Civil Rights Law," by Nikole Hannah-Jones, ProPublica, June 25, 2015: <https://www.propublica.org/article/living-apart-how-the-government-betrayed-a-landmark-civil-rights-law>.
- "The Racial Wealth Gap: Why Policy Matters," by Amy Traub, et al., Institute for Assets & Social Policy, 2015: <https://iasp.brandeis.edu/pdfs/2015/RWA.pdf>

- “The Case for Reparations,” by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Atlantic*, June 2014: <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>.
- “Where is the Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States,” by Raj Chetty, et al., June 2014: www.equality-of-opportunity.org/assets/documents/mobility_geo.pdf
- “The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census,” by John R. Logan and Brian J. Stults, March 24, 2011: www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report2.pdf
- “Why Housing Choice and Mobility Matter,” by Margery Austin Turner and Susan J. Popkin, *The Urban Institute*, August 17, 2010: <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/29666/901374-Why-Housing-Choice-and-Mobility-Matter.PDF>
- “A Test of Our Fairness,” by Fred Freiberg, *The Urban Lawyer*, Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 239-248 (Spring 2009): <http://www.fairhousingjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/FreibergUrbanLawyerArticle.pdf>
- “The Story of the Contract Buyers League” by James Alan McPherson, *The Atlantic*, 1972: <https://cdn.theatlantic.com/assets/media/pdf/2014/05/mcpherson-contract-buyers.pdf>
- “Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders: Summary of Report,” 1968: www.eisenhowerfoundation.org/docs/kerner.pdf

DISCUSSION GUIDES FOR RESOURCES FEATURING THE FHJC

On the following pages are a few discussion guides for the housing story from the docu-series *America Divided*, the documentary film *A Matter of Place*, and an episode of NPR's *This American Life*. Each of these resources delve into the subject of fair housing and feature the work of the Fair Housing Justice Center. These guides are designed to lead a discussion of the material covered in each of these resources.

“THIS IS OUR AMERICA. AND IT ISN’T WHAT WE PROMISED.”**BACKGROUND**

The EPIX-Original docu-series *America Divided* features stories about inequality in education, housing, healthcare, labor, criminal justice and the political system – all woven into an eight-story, five-part series.

You can request a DVD or MP4 of any of the stories that make up *America Divided* at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcjsbM2fRLdUWoB8MpNyMIS4pjBuUE1-eBeSCHhaQITKfErQ/viewform>

You can also find full episodes of *America Divided* on multiple platforms, such as EPIX, Hulu, and Amazon. To learn more, visit <https://americadividedseries.com/how-to-watch/>.

A HOUSE DIVIDED

One of the eight stories in this groundbreaking series focuses on the divide in housing. In “A House Divided,” legendary TV producer Norman Lear explores housing inequalities in New York City. The creator of “All in the Family,” “Good Times,” and “The Jeffersons” speaks with realtors, homeless people, housing activists, landlords and city officials in New York City to explore the city’s affordability crisis and, with the help of the Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC), goes undercover to investigate housing discrimination.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- One of the myths of the ‘American Dream’ is the possibility of “upward mobility.” If you work hard and play by the rules, you and your children will be able to realize a better and more prosperous future than the previous generation. Reflect on how this promise compares to your own experience.
- How does the continuing racial segregation and inequality in the housing market perpetuate inequalities in other institutions such as our educational system or our criminal justice system?
- The film shows an example of continuing racial discrimination in the rental market. Does it surprise you that this type of discrimination still occurs decades after our nation passed fair housing laws? How do you experience race discrimination in your community?

- Gentrification places enormous pressure on poor neighborhoods and often leads to displacement - whether by unscrupulous landlords and real estate speculators who illegally harass people out of their apartments or by market forces that result in increased rents and home values pricing existing residents out of their homes. Are there any policies or strategies that you can think of that might make it possible for cities to revitalize and improve distressed urban neighborhoods while ensuring that the communities remain open and become more inclusive without causing massive displacement? What role can you play in this process as an individual?
- In the film, Norman Lear asks the question, "Is skin color still destiny?" Are the life chances and opportunities available to people still dictated by race or national origin? What do you think?
- Nikole Hannah-Jones states that we have fair housing laws, but we don't have fair housing. And Fred Freiberg states that adequate resources have never been devoted to vigorously enforce the federal Fair Housing Act. These experts say that the reason for this is a lack of political will. What can we do when, as citizens, we find many of our leaders lack the political will to solve an intractable problem or address a major need in our society?

RELATED MATERIALS

- Visit <https://americadividedseries.com> for additional discussion guides for each of the stories in the series and promotional materials.
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“WE HAVE A RIGHT TO FIGHT.”

BACKGROUND

The film connects past struggles for fair housing to contemporary incidents of housing bias based on race, sexual orientation, disability, and source of income. It presents three stories of people who faced housing discrimination in present-day New York City. They poignantly describe the injuries inflicted on them during these incidents, as well as their resolve to fight for justice. Through experts, civil rights advocates, and fair housing testers, the film also recounts our nation’s often overlooked history of residential segregation and introduces viewers to systemic and pervasive injustices that, despite the existence of fair housing laws, continue to inflict harm on entire communities and individuals throughout America.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kinds of policies could be instituted to encourage better housing practices?
- What are the benefits to individuals and society that come from advocating for fair housing rights?
- Reflecting on how today housing providers often “discriminate with a handshake and a smile,” what are ways we can address the issue? What are the solutions this film offers? What are other avenues for addressing discrimination and segregation that are not shown in this film?
- What questions does this film leave you with? What topics and issues do you feel like you need to know more about?
- William’s neighbor is an example of someone who may not be directly experiencing discrimination but is an ally to someone who is. What are some ways we can be allies in our own lives and communities?

RELATED MATERIALS

- Visit the FHJC website to find more information on the work the Fair Housing Justice Center does to address and eliminate housing discrimination: www.fairhousingjustice.org.
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“WHERE YOU LIVE CAN REALLY MATTER.”

This American Life, Episode 512: House Rules (Nov 22, 2013). You can listen to this episode at: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/512/house-rules>.

BACKGROUND

Where you live is important. It can dictate quality of schools and hospitals, as well as things like cancer rates, unemployment, or whether the city repairs roads in your neighborhood. This episode of *This American Life* features a collection of stories focused on the issue of housing discrimination in the United States. This story is primarily told to Nancy Updike by the at-the-time ProPublica reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones, and includes interviews with fair housing testers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Nikole Hannah-Jones uses the imagery of being on a city bus or the subway and watching the racial make-up change as you pass through neighborhoods. What other ways is segregation visible?
- In what ways did where you grew up impact your life and who you are today?
- What makes a good neighborhood? What factors do you take into account when considering where to live?

OTHER RESOURCES

Accessibility First

<http://www.fairhousingfirst.org/>

Long Island Housing Services

<http://www.lifairhousing.org>

National Fair Housing Alliance

<http://nationalfairhousing.org>

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

<https://www.nlchp.org>

National Low Income Housing Coalition

<https://www.nhc.org/>

New York City Commission on Human Rights

<http://www.nyc.gov/cchr/>

New York State Division of Human Rights (NYDHR)

<http://www.dhr.ny.gov/>

**United States Department of Housing and
Urban Development (HUD)**

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp

**United States Department of Justice Housing and
Civil Enforcement Section**

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division

<https://www.justice.gov/crt/housing-and-civil-enforcement-section>

Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc. (WRO)

<http://www.wroinc.org>

Poverty and Race Research Action Council

<http://www.prrac.org/>

The Urban Institute

Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

<https://www.urban.org/policy-centers/metropolitan-housing-and-communities-policy-center>