

# Rise of White Nationalism and the Threat of Genocide in US

## Submission to the OHCHR by Ubuntu Institute for Community Development

### Introduction

- A. "The ultimate logic of racism is genocide, and if one says that one is not good enough to have a job that is a solid quality job, if one is not good enough to have access to public accommodations, if one is not good enough to have the right to vote, if one is not good enough to live next door to him, if one is not good enough to marry his daughter because of his race. Then at that moment, that person is saying that that person who is not good to do all of this is not fit to exist or to live. And that is the ultimate logic of racism." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. <sup>i</sup>
- B. The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)<sup>ii</sup> requires:
- a. 1. States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races, and, to this end:
    - i. (a) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation;
    - ii. (c) Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists;
  - b. 2. States Parties shall, when the circumstances so warrant, take, in the social, economic, cultural and other fields, special and concrete measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups or individuals belonging to them, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These measures shall in no case entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.
- C. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG)<sup>iii</sup> states:
- a. Article II  
In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:
    - i. (a) Killing members of the group;
    - ii. (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

- iii. (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
  - iv. (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
  - v. (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
- D. In the United States, African-Americans live daily with the threat of racism as a culmination of our demise. Every aspect of our existence, from cradle to grave, seems to be a day-to-day struggle, wondering what attack will come next. Since arriving on these shores, primarily as kidnapped and enslaved humans subjected to the criminal system of chattel slavery, Black life has been about survival and maintaining sanity in a system built off black exploitation. The level of violence inflicted on people of African descent in America knows no boundaries of gender or age. The horror is daily and relentless. It has become common to read the news and see Black men, women or children with some form of violence inflicted upon them in a country in which they have been citizens for generations. These violent attacks take many forms, including legislation, healthcare, education, environmental, incarceration, economic, social, cultural, physiological and psychological.

## Rise of White Supremacy

### A. Rise of Hate Groups in America

1. A hate group is an organization that – based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics.<sup>iv</sup>
  - a. The extremism that has been awakened and emboldened by the current administration has revealed the deep trauma and pain of race discrimination that founded this country and continues to permeate every institution to the detriment of black and brown people to the benefit of white people. Hate groups are increasingly infiltrating and deepening their foothold in rural areas of the country. They exploit the economic struggle and personal pain of the working class and poor, offering community, connection and a social and political analysis that offers the cause and the anecdote, albeit one steeped in bigotry and hate.<sup>v</sup>
  - b. “Hate groups, their architects and leaders now occupy some of the most important positions in government, courts and institutions. The threat to our democracy cannot be overstated, nor that it will remain long after the election of 2020. – *Adrienne Evans, Executive Director at United Vision for Idaho*<sup>vi</sup>
2. White Nationalist groups rise for a second year in a row – up 55% since 2017
  - a. In 2019, the total number of hate groups tracked by SPLC dipped by about 8 percent—940 compared to the record high of 1,020 in 2018.<sup>vii</sup>
  - b. The most powerful force animating today’s radical right—and stoking the violent backlash—is a deep fear of demographic change. This fear is encapsulated in the conspiratorial notion that a purposeful “white genocide” is underway and that it’s driving “the great replacement” of white people in their “home” countries by foreign, non-white populations.<sup>viii</sup>

## B. Domestic Terrorism

### 1. Police Violence

#### a. George Floyd

- i. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota, while being arrested for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. During the arrest Derek Chauvin, a white police officer with the Minneapolis Police Department, knelt on Floyd's neck for about nine and a half minutes after he was already handcuffed and lying face down.
- ii. Floyd had complained about being unable to breathe prior to being on the ground, but after being restrained he became more distressed, and continued to complain about breathing difficulties, the knee in his neck, and expressed the fear he was about to die and called for his mother. After several minutes passed Floyd stopped speaking. For a further two minutes, he lay motionless and officer Kueng found no pulse when urged to check. Despite this Chauvin refused pleas to lift his knee until medics told him to.
- iii. Mass Protests demanding justice for George Floyd, in some cases also to demonstrate against issues with police brutality in their own countries, took place in over 2,000 cities in the US and around the world.<sup>ix</sup>

#### b. Sandra Bland

- i. Sandra Bland was a 28-year-old African American woman who was found hanged in a jail cell in Waller County, Texas, on July 13, 2015, three days after being arrested during a pre-textual traffic stop.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Her death was ruled a suicide. It was followed by protests against her arrest, disputing the cause of death and alleging racial violence against her.
- ii. Bland was pulled over for a minor traffic violation on July 10 by State Trooper Brian Encinia. The exchange escalated, resulting in Bland's arrest and a charge of assaulting a police officer. The arrest was partially recorded by Encinia's dashcam, a bystander's cell phone, and Bland's own cell phone. After authorities reviewed the dash cam footage, Encinia was placed on administrative leave for failing to follow proper traffic stop procedures.
- iii. In December 2015, a grand jury declined to indict the county sheriff and jail staff for a felony relating to Bland's death. The following month, Encinia was indicted for perjury for making false statements about the circumstances surrounding Bland's arrest, and he was subsequently fired by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).
- iv. In September 2016, Bland's mother settled a wrongful death lawsuit against the county jail and police department for \$1.9 million and some procedural changes.<sup>x</sup>

c. Breonna Taylor

- i. Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African-American woman, was fatally shot in her Louisville, Kentucky, apartment on March 13, 2020, when white plainclothes officers Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankison, and Myles Cosgrove of the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) forced entry into the apartment as part of an investigation into drug dealing operations. Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, was inside the apartment with her when the officers knocked on the door and then forced entry.
- ii. On September 15, the city of Louisville agreed to pay Taylor's family \$12 million and reform police practices. On September 23, a state grand jury indicted Hankison on three counts of wanton endangerment for endangering Taylor's neighbors with his shots. None of the officers involved in the raid has been charged in Taylor's death.
- iii. On October 2, 2020, recordings from the grand jury investigation into the shooting were released. It has since come to light that the grand jury was in fact never actually presented with any homicide charges against the officers, contrary to the statements of the prosecutors in the case. When a grand jury did not indict the officers for her death, further civil unrest ensued.<sup>xi</sup>

d. Michael Brown

- i. On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown Jr., an 18-year-old black man, was fatally shot by 28-year-old white Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the city of Ferguson, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. Brown was accompanied by his 22-year-old friend Dorian Johnson. Wilson said that an altercation ensued when Brown attacked Wilson in his police vehicle for control of Wilson's gun until it was fired. Johnson said that Wilson initiated a confrontation by grabbing Brown by the neck through his car window, threatening him and then shooting at him. At this point, both Wilson and Johnson state that Brown and Johnson fled, with Wilson pursuing Brown shortly thereafter. Wilson stated that Brown stopped and charged him after a short pursuit. Johnson contradicted this account, stating that Brown turned around with his hands raised after Wilson shot at his back. According to Johnson, Wilson then shot Brown multiple times until Brown fell to the ground. In the entire altercation, Wilson fired a total of twelve bullets, including twice during the struggle in the car; the last was probably the fatal shot. Brown was struck six times, all in the front of his body.
- ii. Aug. 9, 2014: Brown's bloodied body remains in the street for four hours in the summer heat. People in the neighborhood later lash out at police, saying they mistreated the body.<sup>xii</sup>

2. Racist Civilian Violence

a. Ahmaud Arbery

- i. On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Marquez Arbery, an unarmed 25-year-old black man, was pursued and fatally shot while jogging near Brunswick in Glynn County, Georgia. Arbery had been pursued by three white residents—

Travis McMichael and his father Gregory, who were armed and driving a pickup truck, and William "Roddie" Bryan, who followed Arbery in a second vehicle—and was confronted and fatally shot by Travis McMichael.

- ii. McMichaels were not arrested until 74 days after the killing.
- iii. A grand jury subsequently indicted each of the three men on charges of malice murder, felony murder (4 counts), aggravated assault (2 counts), false imprisonment and criminal attempt to commit false imprisonment.<sup>xiii</sup>

b. Kyle Rittenhouse, Kenosha, WI killings

- i. Ricky Schroder poses with accused Kenosha shooter after helping fund his \$2 million bond
  - 1. The Kenosha shooter was awaiting trial on murder charges in Wisconsin after he was caught on tape while opening fire (with a semi-automatic rifle) into a crowd of Black Lives Matter protesters, killing two people (and wounding a third) in the process.
  - 2. Rittenhouse was caught on film while firing his gun at protesters who took to the streets after the police shooting of Jacob Blake, yet Schroder bailed the teenager out of jail because he's convinced that Rittenhouse is not guilty of the charges against him. The teen's bail had been set at \$2 million due to being considered a flight risk, and he could face, at minimum, decades in prison if convicted.<sup>xiv</sup>

c. Church members killed in Charleston, SC - Dylann Roof

- i. Dylann Storm Roof an American white supremacist and mass murderer convicted for perpetrating the Charleston church shooting on June 17, 2015, in the U.S. state of South Carolina. During a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Roof killed nine people, all African Americans, including senior pastor and state senator Clementa C. Pinckney, and injured one other person. After several people identified Roof as the main suspect, he became the center of a manhunt that ended the morning after the shooting with his arrest in Shelby, North Carolina. He later confessed that he committed the shooting in hopes of igniting a race war.
- ii. Of note, is the gentle treatment of these hate crime offenders by law enforcement, compared to the brutality meted out by police against African descendants; even those peacefully protesting, or just driving while Black. Case in point, Dylann Roof was taken to a fast food location for a burger by the arresting officers, en route to the police station after committing the above mass murder.
- iii. Three days after the shooting, a website titled The Last Rhodesian was discovered and later confirmed by officials to be owned by Roof. The website contained photos of Roof posing with symbols of white supremacy and neo-Nazism, along with a manifesto in which he outlined his views toward black people, among other peoples. He also claimed in the manifesto to have

developed his white supremacist views after reading about the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin and black-on-white crime.<sup>xv</sup>

### 3. The “Karen” Effect

- a. The historical narrative of white women’s victimhood goes back to myths that were constructed during the era of American slavery. Black slaves were posited as sexual threats to the white women, the wives of slave owners; in reality, slave masters were the ones raping their slaves. This ideology, however, perpetuated the idea that white women, who represented the good and the moral in American society, needed to be protected by white men at all costs, thus justifying racial violence towards Black men or anyone that posed a threat to their power.<sup>xvi</sup>
- b. White women weaponizing racial anxiety, using their white femininity to activate systems of white terror against black men. This has long been a power white women realized they had and that they exerted.<sup>xvii</sup>
- c. Untold numbers of lynchings were executed because white women had claimed that a black man raped, assaulted, talked to or glanced at them.
  - i. But it goes even further than that. The Tulsa Race massacre, the destruction of Black Wall Street, was spurred by an incident between a white female elevator operator and a black man. As the Oklahoma Historical Society points out, the most common explanation is that he stepped on her toe. As many as 300 people were killed because of it.<sup>xviii</sup>
- d. This was again evident when a white woman in New York’s Central Park told a black man, a bird-watcher, that she was going to call the police and tell them that he was threatening her life.
- e. “Karens” exploiting their privilege when things don’t go their way have become Internet shorthand of late for a particular kind of racial violence white women have instigated for centuries — following a long and troubling legacy of white women in the country weaponizing their victimhood.<sup>xix</sup>

### C. GoFundMe Pages and Social Media that Support the Killing of African-Americans

1. Justice for Gregory and Travis McMichael: Murderers of Ahmaud Arbery
  - a. The group Christians Against Google changed their Facebook page name to Justice for Gregory and Travis Michael.<sup>xx</sup>
  - b. White supremacists and supporters of the suspects around the country had a completely different reaction to begin fundraising for Gregory and Travis McMichael via multiple GoFundMe campaigns, and joining a Facebook Group titled “Justice For Gregory and Travis McMichael,” which saw its membership grow from under 10,000 to over 90,000 on Friday alone, with over 10,000 new posts.<sup>xxi</sup>
2. George Zimmerman
  - a. The lawyer for the neighborhood watch leader who fatally shot unarmed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida, said Thursday that his client has received about \$200,000 from supporters. (04/2012)<sup>xxii</sup>

### 3. Loud Music

- a. An Oregon man has been arrested and charged in the fatal shooting of a Black 19-year-old following what authorities described as a dispute over loud music. (11/30/2020)<sup>xxiii</sup>
  - i. Robert Paul Keegan, 47, of Talent, is charged with second-degree murder, reckless endangerment and unlawful carrying or concealing of a firearm. Jackson County Jail records show he has also been arraigned on the lesser charge of first-degree manslaughter.
    1. Keegan is being held without bail in the Nov. 23 death of Aidan Ellison, who died eight years to the day after Jordan Davis, a Florida 17-year-old killed over loud music outside a convenience store in 2012. Like Ellison, Davis was Black.
- b. The murder of Jordan Davis, a 17-year-old high school student, happened on November 23, 2012, at a Gate Petroleum gas station in Jacksonville, Florida, by Michael David Dunn, a 45-year-old software developer, following an argument over loud music played by Davis and his three friends.<sup>xxiv</sup>
  - i. Dunn was convicted on three counts of attempted second-degree murder for firing at three other teenagers who were with Davis and one count of firing into a vehicle. The jury could not reach a verdict about whether to convict Dunn for the murder of Davis at the first trial. In a second trial, Dunn was found guilty of the first-degree murder of Davis.

## **Genocide: Physical & Mental**

### A. Cultural Genocide: White-washing of History

1. President Trump is weighing in on history, blasting the New York Times Magazine's 1619 Project, which reframes America's history by focusing on the consequences of slavery and contributions of Black Americans, and at the same time announcing the creation of a new "1776 commission" to reinstate "patriotism" in American schools. Mr. Trump also called "critical race theory" a "Marxist doctrine," claiming that "teaching this horrible doctrine to our children is a form of child abuse in the truest sense of those words."<sup>xxv</sup>
  - a. "The left has warped, distorted, and defiled the American story with deceptions, falsehoods, and lies. There is no better example than the New York Times' totally discredited 1619 Project," Mr. Trump said at the event. "This project rewrites American history to teach our children that we were founded on the principle of oppression, not freedom."<sup>xxvi</sup>
  - b. "Nothing could be further from the truth," the president continued. "America's founding set in motion the unstoppable chain of events that abolished slavery, secured civil rights, defeated communism and fascism, and built the most fair, equal, and prosperous nation in human history."

### B. Black Americans are the most hesitant to get a COVID-19 vaccine

1. Polls show that among racial and ethnic groups, Black Americans are the most hesitant to get a vaccine once one becomes available, and their skepticism is rising fast. In one September survey, only 32% of Black adults said they would get a vaccine, down from 54% in May.
  - a. History of racism remains fresh
    - i. America has a terrible history of medical experimentation on Black Americans, including but not limited to Tuskegee
    - ii. The legacies of experimentation and racism date back to the origins of this country
    - iii. The country's first medical colleges purchased enslaved men to dig up freshly buried bodies from Black cemeteries to use for experiments and autopsies
    - iv. Dr. James Marion Sims, often considered the "father of American gynecology," used enslaved women as patients to test new gynecological methods without providing them any anesthesia.<sup>xxvii</sup>
    - v. Coerced sterilization is a shameful part of America's history, and one doesn't have to go too far back to find examples of it. Used as a means of controlling "undesirable" populations – immigrants, people of color, poor people, unmarried mothers, the disabled, the mentally ill – federally-funded sterilization programs took place in 32 states throughout the 20th century. Driven by prejudiced notions of science and social control, these programs informed policies on immigration and segregation.<sup>xxviii</sup>
  - b. If people don't get vaccinated, they will remain vulnerable to the virus, which has ravaged communities of color in particular. Black Americans are 2½ times more likely to contract COVID-19, nearly five times as likely to be hospitalized with it and twice as likely to die from it, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>xxix</sup>

### C. Legislation

1. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has drafted "anti-mob" legislation that would expand the state's Stand Your Ground law – a move that some worry would allow armed citizens to shoot and potentially kill anyone they suspect of looting. (11/10/2020)
  - a. The legislation is an attempt to prevent "violent and disorderly assemblies" by permitting violence against anyone involved in the "interruption or impairment" of a business, reportedly described in the draft as being a burglary within 500 feet of "violent or disorderly assembly," according to reporting by the Miami Herald Tuesday.
  - b. The draft legislation also includes measures that would make protesting which disrupts the public by blocking traffic, a third degree felony. The law would also reportedly grant immunity to drivers who unintentionally kill or injure protesters who were blocking traffic.<sup>xxx</sup>

## 2. Stand Your Ground

- a. A stand-your-ground law (sometimes called "line in the sand" or "no duty to retreat" law) provides that people may use deadly force when they reasonably believe it to be necessary to defend against a threat of death, serious bodily harm, kidnapping, rape, or (in some jurisdictions) robbery or some other serious crimes (right of self-defense). Under such a law, people have no duty to retreat before using deadly force in self-defense, so long as they are in a place where they are lawfully present. Stand-your-ground laws cannot be invoked by someone who is the initial aggressor, or who is otherwise engaged in criminal activity.<sup>.xxxix</sup>
- b. A Texas A&M study found that when whites use the stand-your-ground defense against black attackers they are more successful than when blacks use the defense against white attackers. A paper from The Urban Institute which analyzed FBI data found that in stand-your-ground states, the use of the defense by whites in the shooting of a black person is found to be justifiable 17 percent of the time, while the defense when used by blacks in the shooting of a white person is successful 1 percent of the time.<sup>.xxxix</sup>
- c. In non-stand-your-ground states, the shooting of a black person by a white is found justified approximately 9 percent of the time, while the shooting of a white person by a black is found justified approximately 1 percent of the time.
  - i. According to the Urban Institute, in Stand Your Ground states, white-on-black homicides are 354 percent more likely to be ruled justified than white-on-white homicides, even though they are more common by over 72 percent.<sup>.xxxix</sup>

### **Voter Disenfranchisement/Suppression**

- A. For racial and ethnic minorities, voting is equated with citizenship and decision-making power. However, despite proclamations of freedom, justice, and equality, state legislatures across the country have enacted disenfranchisement laws to marginalize the voice of those deemed as "the other." Using the social construction of target populations and critical race theory as the theoretical framework, this study analyzes state legislative trends to explain and underscore the implications of policies designed to impose a specific effect on target populations. This article argues that disenfranchisement becomes apparent through the implementation of colorblind policies that impose a financial hardship, create confusion, limits access to the ballot, dilute the vote geographically, or use subjective measures of eligibility. The result is a disproportionate effect on racial and ethnic minorities that prevents full access to the rights and privileges associated with being an American citizen.<sup>.xxxix</sup>
- B. More recently, a study conducted in by the Sentencing Project found, "As of 2016, an estimated 6.1 million people are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction, a figure that has escalated dramatically in recent decades as the population under criminal justice supervision has increased."
  - a. Half of this number is concentrated in six typically 'red' states – Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia – where the report indicates more than 7 percent of the adult population is disenfranchised.<sup>.xxxix</sup>

- C. Over the past decade, half the states in the nation have placed new, direct burdens on people's right to vote, abetted by a 2013 Supreme Court decision that struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act. And the racial cause and effect of these seemingly race-neutral laws are hard to escape.
1. Voting-Age Citizens in U.S. Without Current Government-Issued Photo ID, Black -25%; White -8%;
  2. Likewise, Texas permits voters to use a handgun license to vote, but not a student ID from a state university. More than 80 percent of handgun licenses issued to Texans in 2018 went to white Texans, while half of the students in the University of Texas system are racial or ethnic minorities.
  3. Furthermore, the Brennan Center has documented a surge in voter purges — the sometimes error-prone process by which election officials remove allegedly ineligible voters from the rolls — in jurisdictions with a history of racial discrimination in voting.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

## Conclusion

- A. As stated by the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “The ultimate logic of racism is genocide.”
- B. The rise of nationalism is an upscale of the racist white supremacy attitudes and laws that prevail throughout the United States. These attitudes and laws were put into place during the enslavement of African-Americans. These actions were to control the lives, livelihood and quality of life that continues to adversely affect us African-Americans today.
- C. The races were created to pit one group of humans against another. So that one group of humans would be able to control the social, economic and cultural welfare of a different group. Even though the racist and white supremacy attitudes and activities have been in place for a number of centuries, they are sanctioned by an administration that supports them.
- D. The United can do more to end racism as outlined in the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. From incarceration to healthcare to terrorism, a lot can be achieved. Governments from the local level to federal level have passed laws that allow for or preserve the right to discriminate. Along with terrorism is intimidation in the form of militias that show up armed at demonstrations, whereas for African-Americans carrying a gun, licensed or unlicensed is a reason to be killed. In conclusion the right to dissent has come under attack so that African-Americans have no discourse to change their situation because the apparatus for change, the vote, is being eroded also. In addition, civilians have taken the attitude that they have the right to kill being reinforced by crowdfunding willing to pay defense expenses.

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