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Section Intro: Resistance

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RESISTANCE



Layout by Aminata Ceesay. Art by Kristina Starowitz, "the gift, Wing."

The events this past year have led many of us to scrutinize our social systems in ways that we previously had not. The Black Lives Matter protests that followed the murder of George Floyd led to massive social upheaval. Today, the situation only seems to compound further in these times of constant change. With America's historical record of racial discrimination at the center of the conversation, systemic injustices have taken a frontal position in our political discourse.

To move the needle forward on a variety of topics, we must challenge our norms and examine the established mechanisms within our communities which have enabled harmful sociological structures. We must recognize that although resistance can carry a connotation of violence, resistance can also involve peaceful civil discourse. Protest doesn't always mean physical action. Rather, it can be something that sparks a conversation. Acknowledging and discussing the injustices and oppressive systems you live within is a form of resistance.

Most forms of oppression are systematic. They are interwoven into every structure of our society, so much so that some of us forget they exist. The Black Lives Matter protests showcased the importance of intersectionality and inclusion. History has tried to portray Black people as a monolith, sharing the same experiences, grievances, and traumas. This is far from the lived experiences of Black Americans.

The movement tried using the unjust experiences of Black men to represent those of all Black people. Still, many of us called for greater attention to Black women and Black

trans people. Viewing the oppression of Black people or any other group through an intersectional lens allows us to analyze and understand unique perspectives from different people. It allows us to see how individuals within these groups are systematically and societally impacted.

As a community, we will resist. We will open the floor. We will talk. We will learn. We will create solutions with all people in mind.

In "Sex Education at the State House," Madeline Caruso witnesses the strengths and weaknesses of America's civic discourse system, illustrating the way cooperative public engagement can steer educational policy, even in the face of misinformation.

In "An Hour in Hell," Lily Biagi is forced to emotionally confront the bigoted teachings of her community's religious doctrine, while supporting a close friend who has been directly hurt by this rhetoric. This piece shines a light on the difficulties faced when forced to resist an institutional belief.

In "Say Their Names," Andrew Parker Schiffer highlights the importance of remembrance, advocacy, and allyship during these fraught times. This piece emphasizes how the fight for institutional and social racial equality is not just a Black issue.

In "Starve to Death," Rosalyn Impink recounts a tale of genocide, the tremendous strength it takes to overcome pain, and the work it takes to create a more prosperous life in a new place.

These authors put forth their efforts and demonstrate the various ways that we, too, can resist.

—Aminata Ceesay, Benjamin Goldsmith, and Mira Sickinger