

The Journey to Justice: A Critical Race Theory Primer—a joint initiative between [Ms. Magazine](#), the [National Women’s Studies Association \(NWSA\)](#), and the [Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice](#)—includes articles, essays, lesson plans, an annotated bibliography, and a COMloquium conversation that addresses and examines the perils of teaching critical race theory from kindergarten to college settings.

A Journey to Justice: A Critical Race Theory Primer

The Journey to Justice series is a collaboration with NWSA, Ms. Magazine, and the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice

As NWSA, Ms. and the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice developed our series on Critical Race Theory (CRT), we reached out to educators and organizers across the country to contextualize the perils of teaching CRT within schools, ranging from kindergarten to college settings. As of September 25, 2021, eleven states —Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Utah—have passed legislation primarily restricting truthful education and limiting the critical thinking process of students in public schools and higher education. Approximately 24 states have introduced similar legislation, which has been fueled by misinterpretations of the misuse of CRT.

This CRT series will provide you with first-hand accounts and informational tools to understand the tenets of CRT and its proper implementation. Our series topics include: the legal and policy initiatives around CRT, the statewide bans in Iowa, Texas, Tennessee and Utah, school district level restrictions, a government official’s perspective on the statewide ban, mothers’ understanding of how the legislation limits children’s engagement with social justice and the need for children (and adults) to have tools to understand racism, discrimination and other topics that allow for an anti-oppressive education. Additionally, we compiled a CRT annotated bibliography.

Mothers, students, community organizers and legislators come together in our CRT Series to collectively address the landscape of effectively integrating CRT. Coming to terms with the truths and injustices of yesterday and today are necessary to understand how identities are woven into the fabric of our nation’s story. We look forward to this journey to justice with you.

The Journey to Justice series includes the *COMloquium* conversation, “[The Perils of Teaching Critical Race Theory: A Conversation with K-12 Teachers](#),” hosted by NWSA president Karsonya Wise Whitehead, which explores the difficulties that teachers across the country have when it comes to teaching American history and the impact of Critical Race Theory.

Lisa Covington is a cultural worker, curriculum developer and youth development consultant for non-profit organizations, educators and filmmakers across seven states. In 2020, Lisa received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Iowa Department of Human Rights. She is the Director of the Ethnic Studies Leadership Academy in Iowa City. Lisa is on the General Council of the National Women’s Studies Association, she is also a member of the National Steering Committee for Black Lives Matter at School and Past Vice President of the National Black Graduate Student Association. Lisa is a Sociology of Education PhD Candidate currently finishing her dissertation at The University of Iowa. Her dissertation is titled, “Mediating Black Girlhood: A Multi-level Comparative Analysis of Narrative Feature Films.

The Journey to Justice series was organized and edited by Karsonya Wise Whitehead, NWSA President, Director of the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice, and associate professor of African and African American Studies at Loyola University Maryland.