

MAY 2, 2024



African & African American Achievements

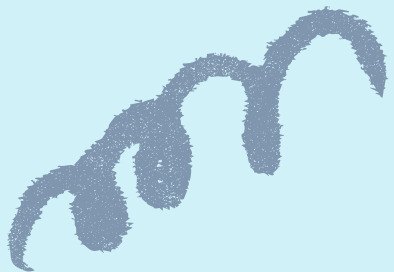
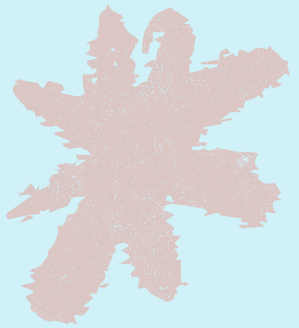
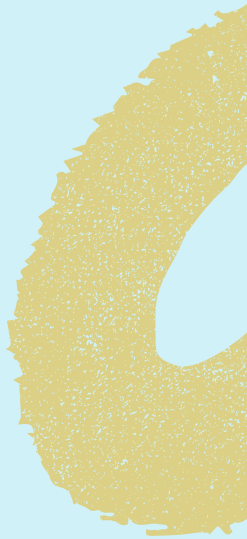
RENEE
O'CONNOR

RENEE OCONNOR

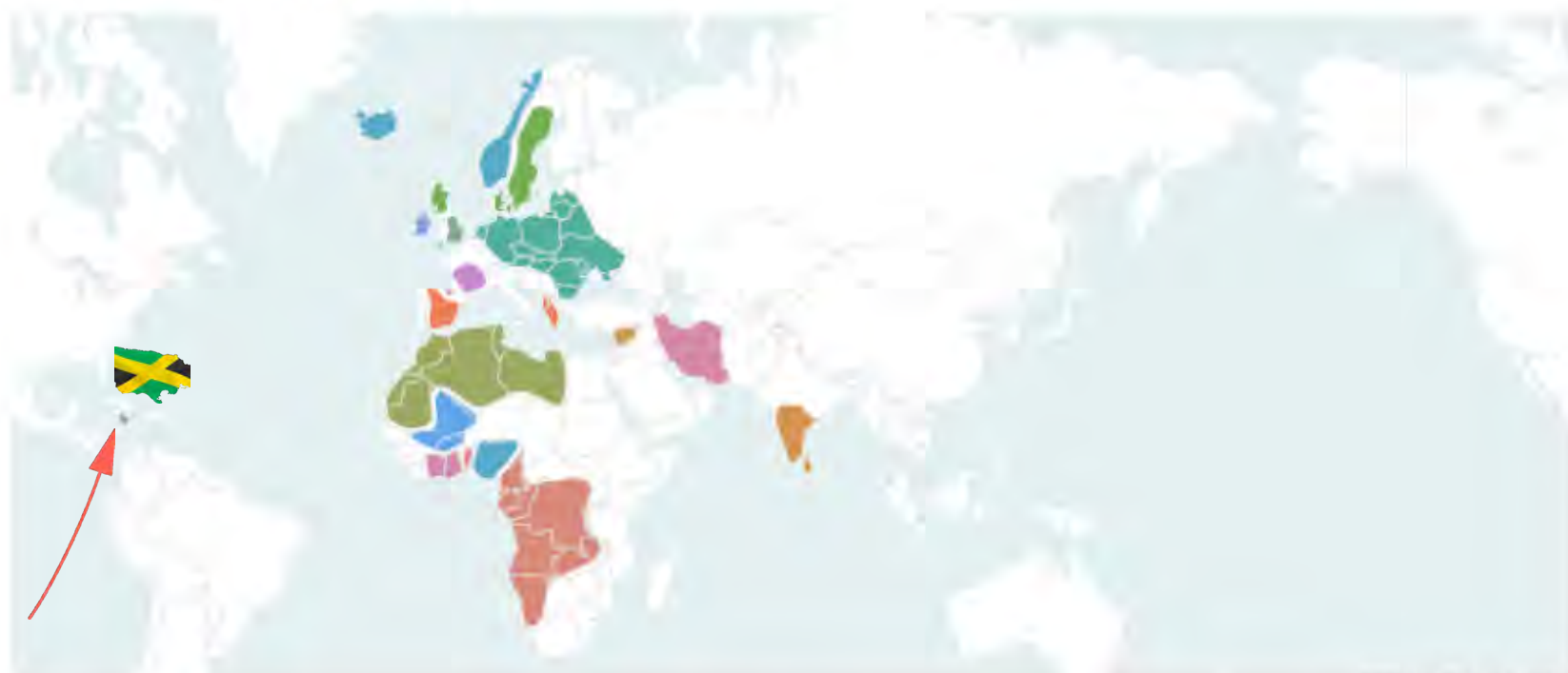


UNAPOLOGETIC TRUTH TELLER

RENEE OCONNOR



DNA Results Summary for Renee O'Connor

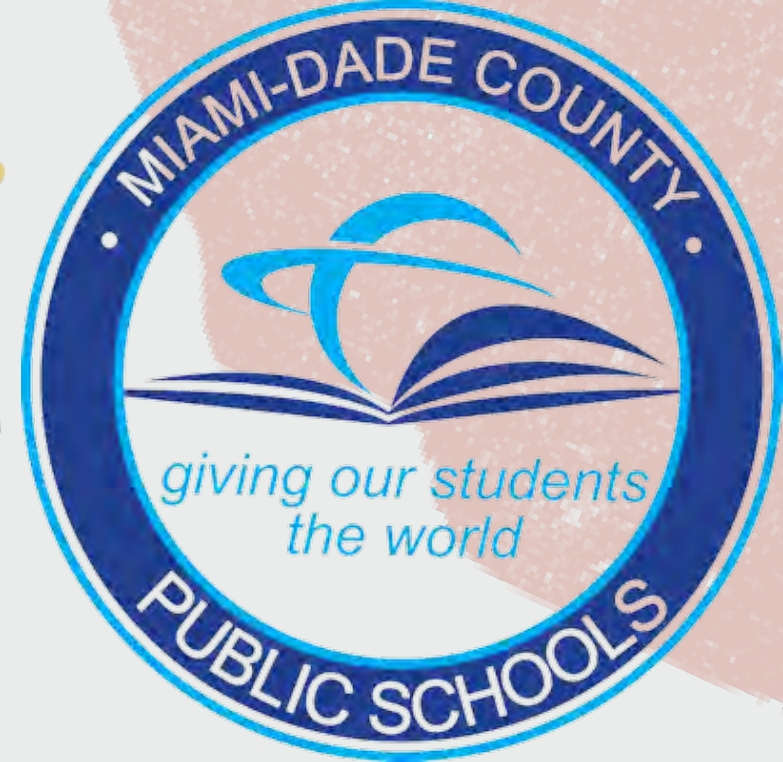


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Ethnicity Estimate

● Scotland	22%	● Ireland	2%
● North East Scotland & the Northern Isles		● Cameroon, Congo & Western Bantu Peoples	1%
● Moray & Gordon		● Northern Africa	1%
● Nigeria	20%	● Iran/Persia	1%
● Spain	11%	● Sweden & Denmark	1%
● Ivory Coast & Ghana	9%	● Norway	1%
● Southern India	7%	● Greece & Albania	1%
● Jewish	7%	● Basque	1%
● Mali	5%		
● Benin & Togo	3%	Additional Communities	
● France	3%	● Jamaica	
● Levant	2%	● Eastern Cornwall to Western Surrey	
● England & Northwestern Europe	2%		

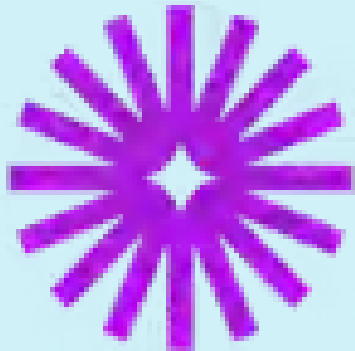
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**Teach For
America**



SPORTS

Cincinnati Bengals in AFC, Los Angeles Rams in NFC win berths in Super Bowl 56, **1A**



SPORTS

Rafael Nadal wins Australian Open for record 21st Grand Slam title, **11A**



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MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022

11.50

Miami Herald

MIAMI BEACH | THE COURTS

Criminal charges will be tough in anti-Semitic fliers case

Prosecuting the case of the vile anti-Semitic fliers, which were distributed in Miami Beach last weekend, may be difficult in light of First Amendment considerations, say observers who monitor extremist and hate groups.

BY JENNIFER KALE
jenniferc@miamicity.com

When violence and antisemitism began showing up on screens in Miami Beach earlier this month, the city's police department tweeted about the hate campaign, urging residents to call detectives who were "actively investigating." Media outlets described the outrage from community groups and elected leaders.

The FBI said it would

SEE FLUERS, 6A

HAITI

Ex-Haiti senator had his U.S. visa canceled. Here's why

Former Haitian senator and presumed presidential candidate Jean Charles Hebert's U.S. visa was canceled while he transited Miami International Airport. The answer is why lies in Venezuela.

BY JENNIFER KALE
jenniferc@miamicity.com

Former Haitian senator and presumed current presidential candidate Jean Charles Hebert has positioned himself as being an opposition leader and leftist ideologue, one who has no problem flaunting in the face of the United States his relationships with some of Latin America's most controversial leaders.

Now his questions lie on

SEE HAITI, 6A

MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The finalists for the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year for Miami Dade Public Schools are, clockwise from top left: Leticia Fox, Andrea Centeno, Renee O'Connor and Derek Boudick.

ONE OF THESE 4 WILL BE DADE'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, the teacher of the year for Miami Dade Schools will be named. Four teachers are contending for the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year award.

BY JENNIFER KALE
jenniferc@miamicity.com

One is an all-conditioning coordinator who worked as a teacher for the state with others.

Teachers' master teacher

are themselves in America's history.

The third had plans to be a lawyer, but found her purpose in a special education classroom.

And the fourth one will be a teacher at the end of the year.

One of them will be honored Thursday as the 2021 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year for Miami Dade Public Schools. The annual celebration recognizes educators who are exceptional in how they teach, pushing students to reach the highest heights.

Superintendent Alberto

President Joe Biden spoke before signing the \$2.3 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law on Nov. 15.

SEE TEACHERS, 3A

WHITE HOUSE | INFRASTRUCTURE

Will GOP governors work with Biden on new law for roads, bridges?

President Joe Biden says he needs help from Republican governors like Greg Abbott and Ron DeSantis to implement a roughly \$1 trillion infrastructure upgrade.

BY ALEX ROBERT AND BRIAN JOHNS
alexrobert@whitehouse.gov
brianjohns@whitehouse.gov

President Joe Biden and Republican governors early on eye-forged on the bill.

With the new infrastructure law he says

Federal officials and state governments have begun an initiative part-way through the year to implement a billion-dollar upgrade to the nation's infrastructure, money made available last year when President Joe Biden signed into law a new spending bill that Congress passed with bipartisan support.

It's a complex, multi-faceted program, officials say. And it's one everyone agrees will require cooperation between the Democratic-led government and 28 Republican governors, many of whom will have talking with their Democratic counterparts' local legislatures about where to spend the money they receive from the federal government.

It's a difficult task to pull off when deep political polarization makes cross-party cooperation a reality. But for Biden's

SEE INFRASTRUCTURE, 3A



President Joe Biden spoke before signing the \$2.3 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill into law on Nov. 15.

SEE TEACHERS, 3A



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NEA NEWS

Florida's New History Standard: 'A Blow to Our Students and Nation'

Florida's new history standards say that African Americans benefited from slavery. Florida educators, including social studies teacher Jorje Botello, are furious about it.





MIAMI BOOK FAIR

THE FREEDOM TO READ & WRITE



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HOPEWATCH



A BETTER FUTURE REQUIRES HONEST, OPEN TEACHING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

February 06, 2024

by Renee O'Connor

In the halls of education, I find myself not just a high school history teacher but a storyteller – a weaver of narratives that often go unheard. However, I now find myself as an American who demands that the truth continue to be taught in our classrooms.

This past summer, the Florida State Board of Education approved [new standards](#) that include teachers providing instruction about “how slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit.”



THREE-FIFTHS

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RENEE O'CONNOR

Renee O'Connor was Born in Kingston, Jamaica – her family moved to Miami when she was 6 to take advantage of all that America had to offer. She grew up in Miami Gardens and was a 1st generation college student who graduated from Florida State University with a degree in International Affairs and a minor in Black Studies. For most of her years as an adult, she worked in Corporate America in the hospitality industry. In 2006, she left Ritz-Carlton Hotels International to start her own business and ran a dance company for 5 years. In the fall of 2010, she heard a speech that President Obama was giving in which he talked about the state of public education in

America. Her interest peaked, and she began doing research, only to find out that the statistics, particularly those of black and brown kids in public school, were dismal. Soon after,

“A long time coming, but I know”

Step 1 – Cultivate your own learning experience

Start in your house. Start at home. One of the most powerful ways to move from awareness to action is by cultivating your own learning experience. Take a moment to do some self-reflection right now. Look around. Are you currently reading or watching anything to learn more about the historical and systemic roots of racism, as well as the experiences of marginalized communities? If not, get started – NOW !

But education alone is not enough; you must also be intentional with your movements.

Step 2 – Be the change you want to see

Step 2 involves a personalized call-to-action agency. Take time to design your own personalized call-to-action plan, including skills, resources, and spheres of influence, and identify your role for racial justice. Because it will be personalized, it will be sustainable.



MAY 2, 2024



African & African American Achievements

RENEE
O'CONNOR

Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



a·chieve·ment

/əˈCHĕvm(ə)nt/

noun

1. a thing done successfully, typically by effort, courage, or skill.
"to reach this stage is a great achievement"

Similar:

attainment

reaching

gaining

winning

acquirement

procurement



2. the process or fact of achieving something.
"the achievement of professional recognition"

Feedback

More definitions ▾



lets hear some name



YOU may
SHOOT ME WITH
your WORDS.

YOU may
CUT ME WITH
your EYES.

YOU may
KILL ME WITH
your HATEFULNESS.

BUT STILL,
LIKE *air*,
I'LL RISE.



ACHIEVEMENT, IN MY VIEW, IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN ACTIONS THAT FURTHER THE CAUSE OF AFRICANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS.

IT'S ABOUT PUSHING FORWARD THE BOUNDARIES OF EQUITY, JUSTICE, AND OPPORTUNITY, ENSURING THAT EVERY STRIDE MADE CONTRIBUTES POSITIVELY TO THE LIVES AND FUTURES OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES.

THIS FORM OF ACHIEVEMENT GOES BEYOND PERSONAL GAINS—IT'S A COLLECTIVE STEP TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE WORLD.



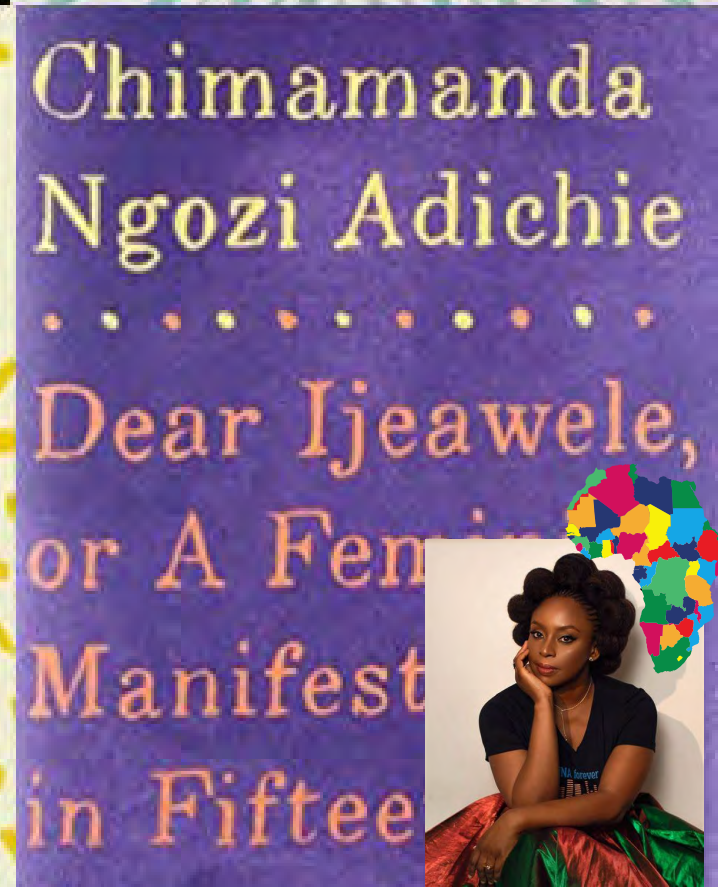
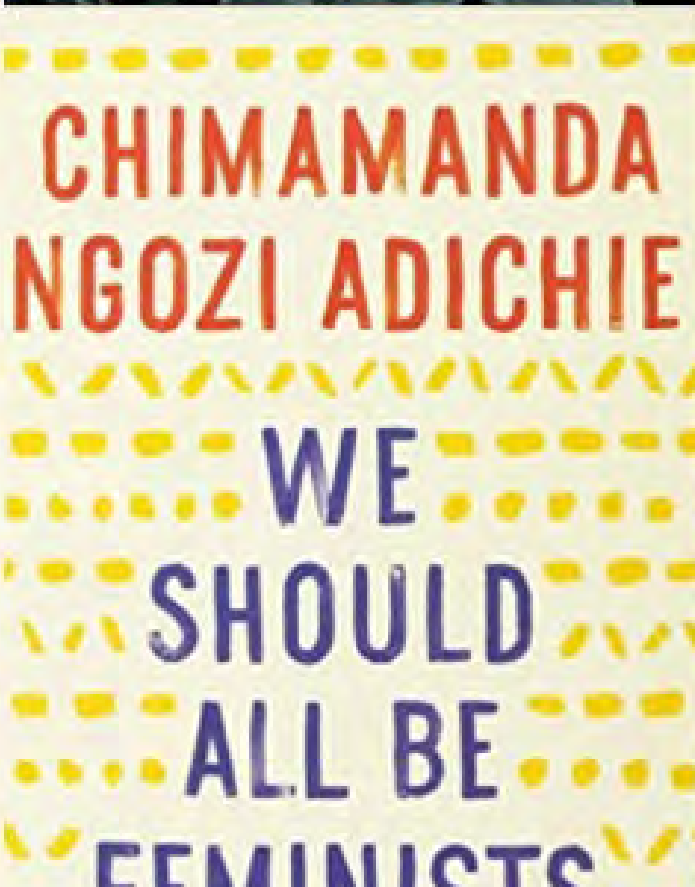
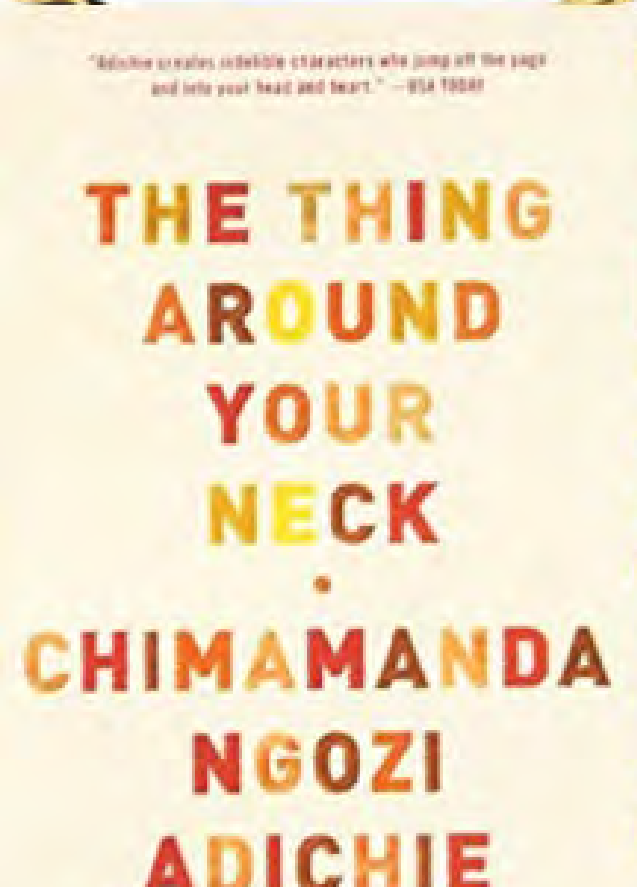
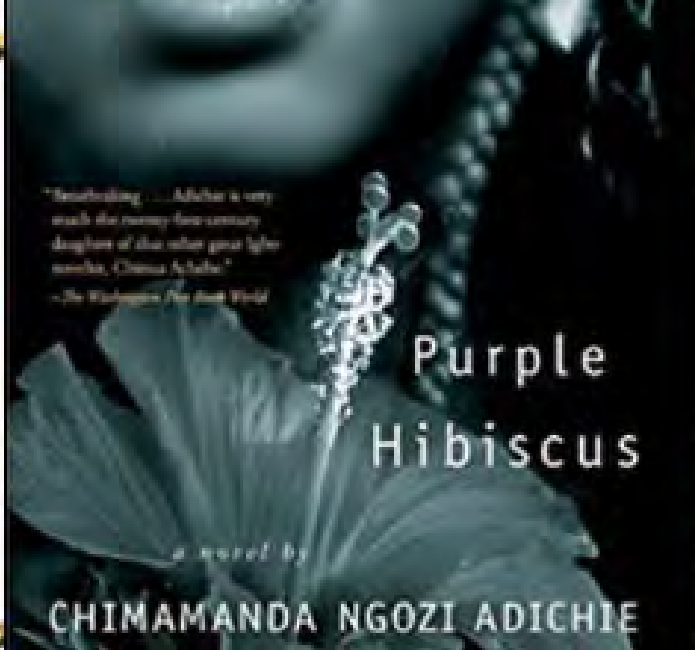
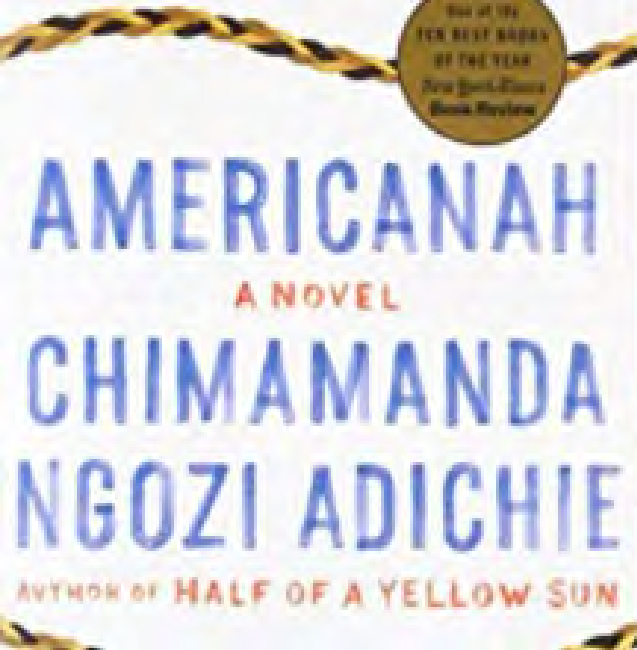


Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born in Enugu, Nigeria in 1977. She grew up on the campus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where her father was a professor and her mother was the first female Registrar. She studied medicine for a year at Nsukka and then left for the US at the age of 19 to continue her education on a different path. She graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Communication and Political Science.

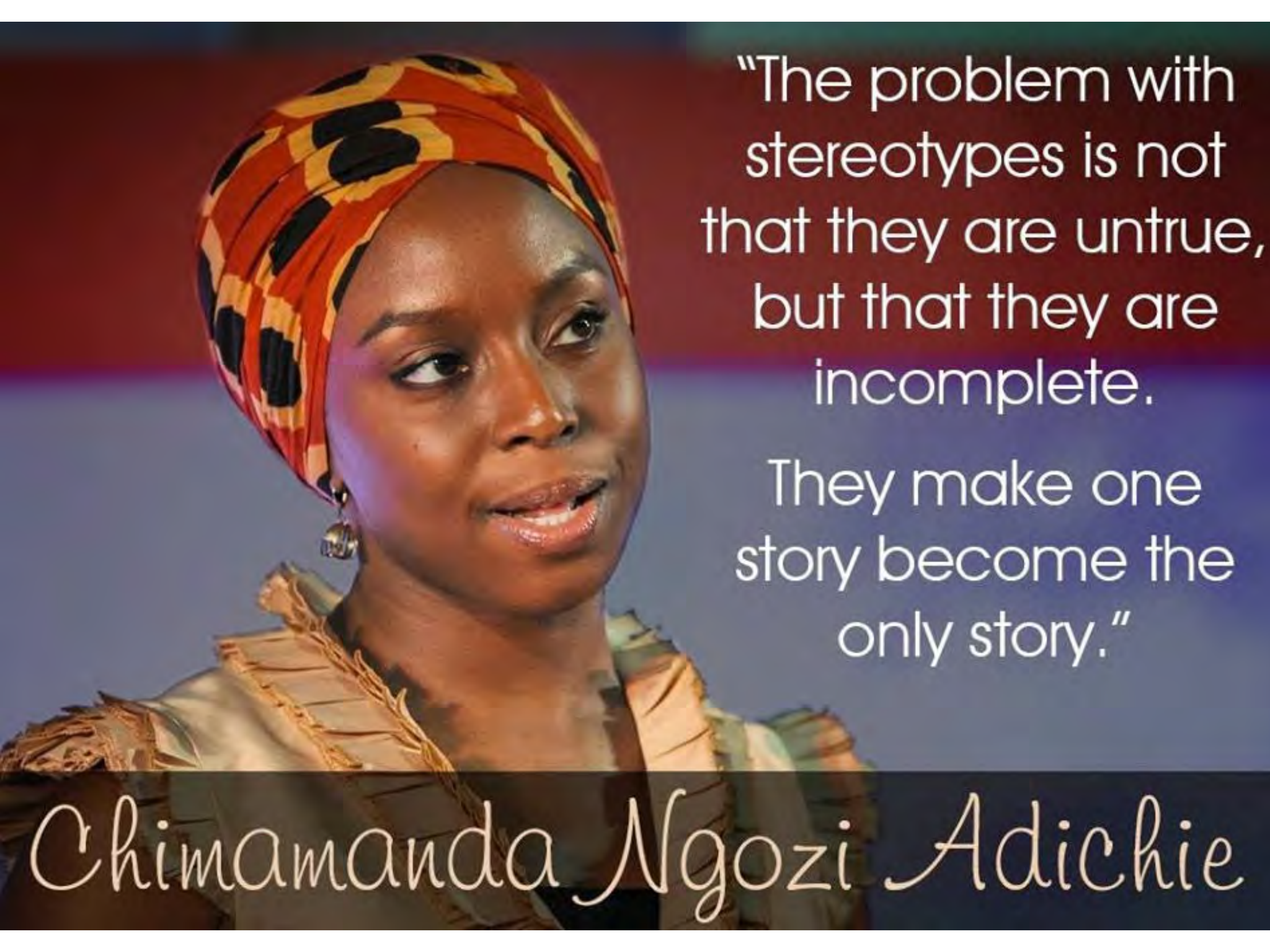
She has a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Arts degree in African History from Yale University. She was awarded a Hodder fellowship at Princeton University for the 2005-2006 academic year, and a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University for the 2011-2012 academic year. In 2008, she received a MacArthur Fellowship.

She has received honorary doctorate degrees from Eastern Connecticut State University, Johns Hopkins University, Haverford College, Williams College, the University of Edinburgh, Duke University, Amherst College, Bowdoin College, SOAS University of London, American University, Georgetown University, Yale University, Rhode Island School of Design, Northwestern University, University of Pennsylvania, Skidmore College and University of Johannesburg.

Ms. Adichie's work has been translated into over thirty languages.





A portrait of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Nigerian author and lecturer. She is wearing a vibrant orange and black patterned headwrap and a light-colored, textured garment. She is looking slightly to the right with a thoughtful expression.

"The problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete.

They make one story become the only story."

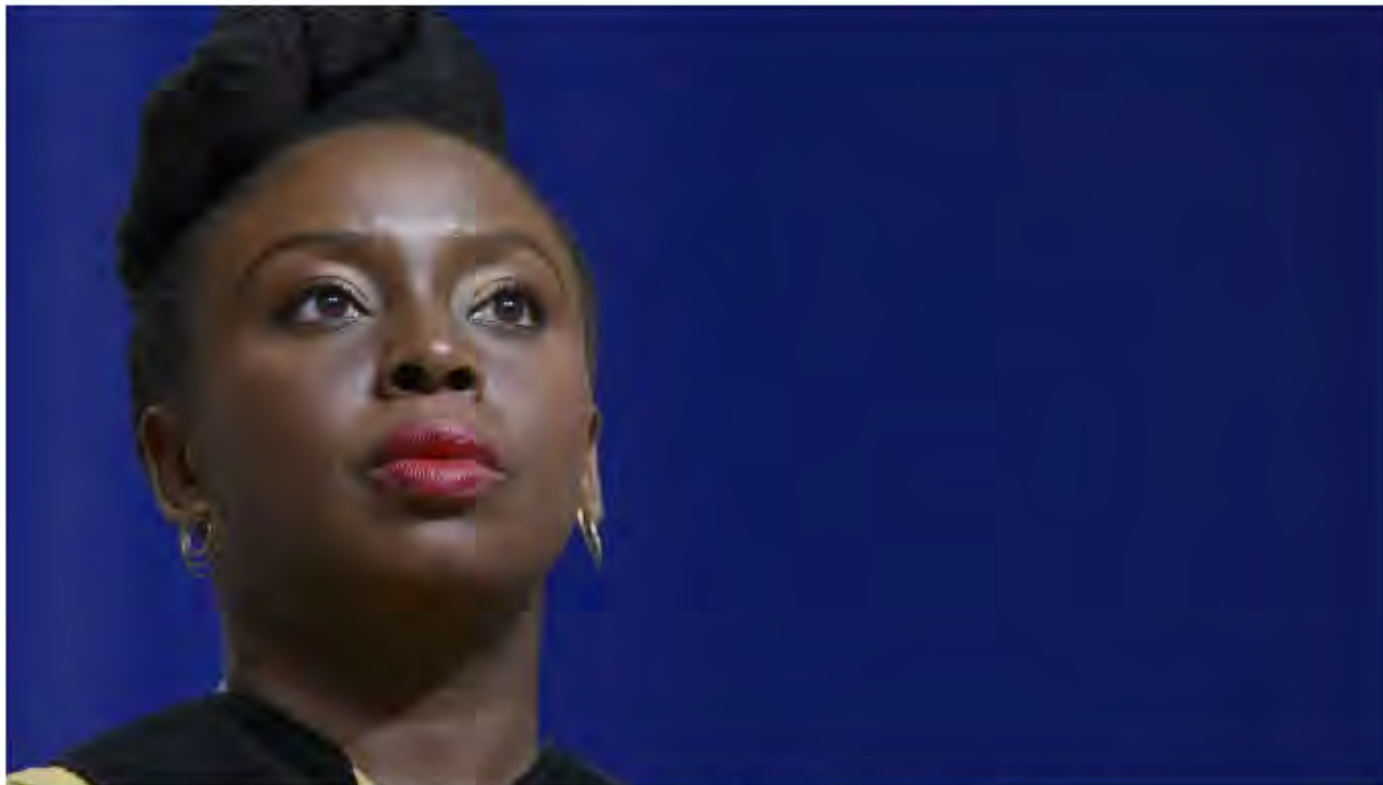
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Is Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie the most influential woman in Africa right now?



By Phoebe Parke, CNN

🕒 4 minute read · Updated 11:39 AM EDT, Wed October 19, 2016



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: feminist, author, and a real influencer Leigh Vogel/Getty Images North America/Getty Images

(CNN) — Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was named as the new face of Boots No7 beauty range, Tuesday, further securing her position as one of the most influential African women in the world.

The move is more than a meaningless celebrity endorsement. Adichie's love of



Nigeria's Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie talks colonialism, politics and pop culture

By Clarisse Juompan-Yakam, in Lagos

Posted on May 8, 2020 05:27



The award-winning Nigerian author expresses her views on subjects close to her heart, from feminism and identity to colonialism and leadership on the African continent

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is the **most famous African woman alive** today. Not arguably, not maybe: the 42-year-old Nigerian is nothing short of a phenomenon

AND WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S DIFFERENT FOR AFRICANS?

It has to do with the history of our continent and the way that our stories have been told. There is a sense in which even we as Africans don't think that we're really part of the same world. It's as if we're not seated at the table but in the corner, so the rules are different for us.



The Freedom
to Write

ISSUES & ADVOCACY

WRITERS & READERS

FESTIVAL & EVENTS

[Home](#) > Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on the World of African Literature

CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE ON THE AFRICAN LITERATURE

By: Alexandra Wolfe

Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the best-selling Nigerian author, wants American readers to know that African writers don't just write about Africa's problems. "When we talk about the developing world, there's this idea that everybody should be fighting for the poor," she says. Though it might seem obvious to point out, she adds, "people are diverse, and there are different things that are going on with them."

She calls it the "danger of a single story"—the idea that people living in certain areas of the world all have one kind of experience. Ms. Adichie hopes to show audiences Africa's range of stories as the co-curator of this year's PEN World Voices Festival. For the first time, the weeklong literature event, which starts Monday in New York, will have a regional focus. Along with other book-related programs, authors from Africa and its diaspora will speak about topics like how the West misunderstands African culture and the state of Africa's poetry scene.

Ms. Adichie, 37, has spent her adult life traveling between the U.S. and Nigeria. She first rose to prominence in 2003 with the publication of her first book, "Purple Hibiscus," a coming-of-age novel set in postcolonial Nigeria. She went on to write two more critically-acclaimed novels, "Half of a Yellow Sun" (2006) and "Americanah" (2013), as well as a collection of short stories. She won a MacArthur "genius" grant in 2008.

DEMAND EQUITY

Debunking 15 Common Myths and Misconceptions About Africa

The African continent boasts several of the world's fastest growing economies.

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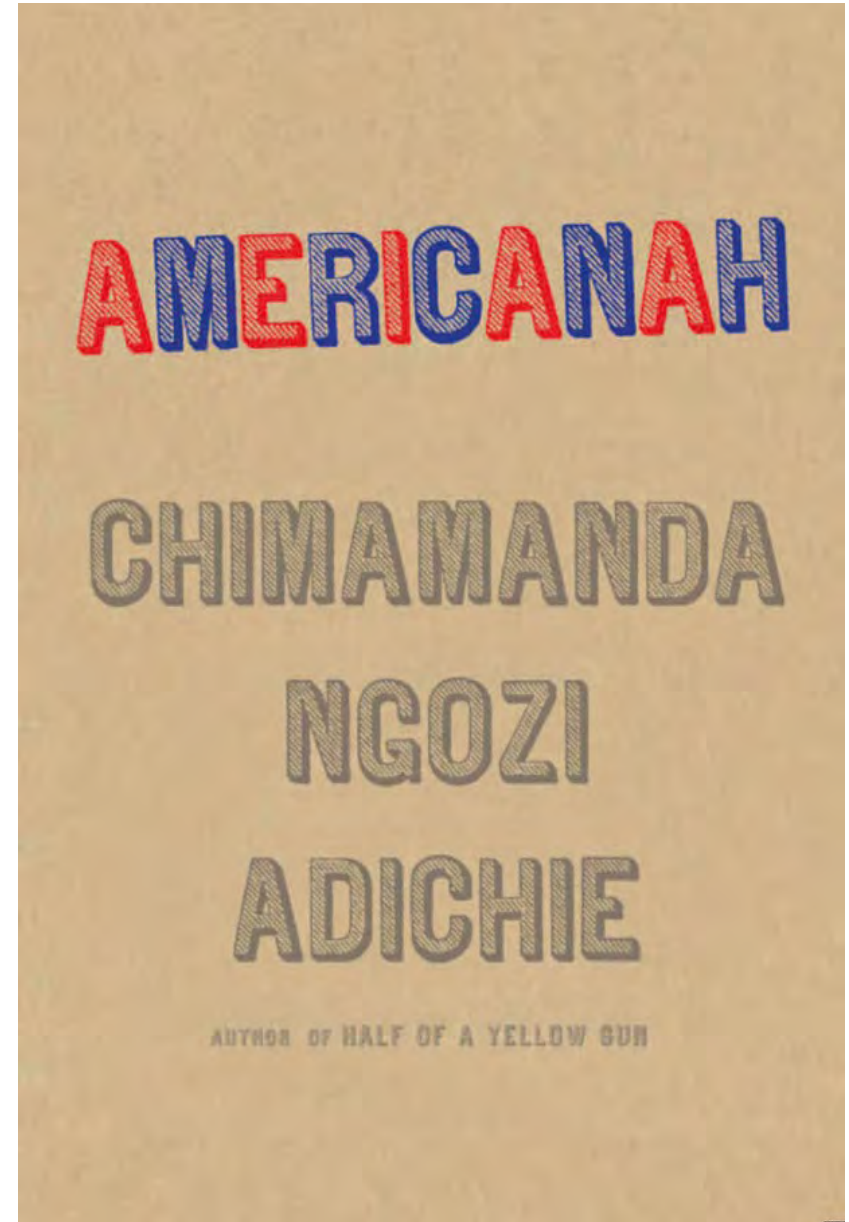
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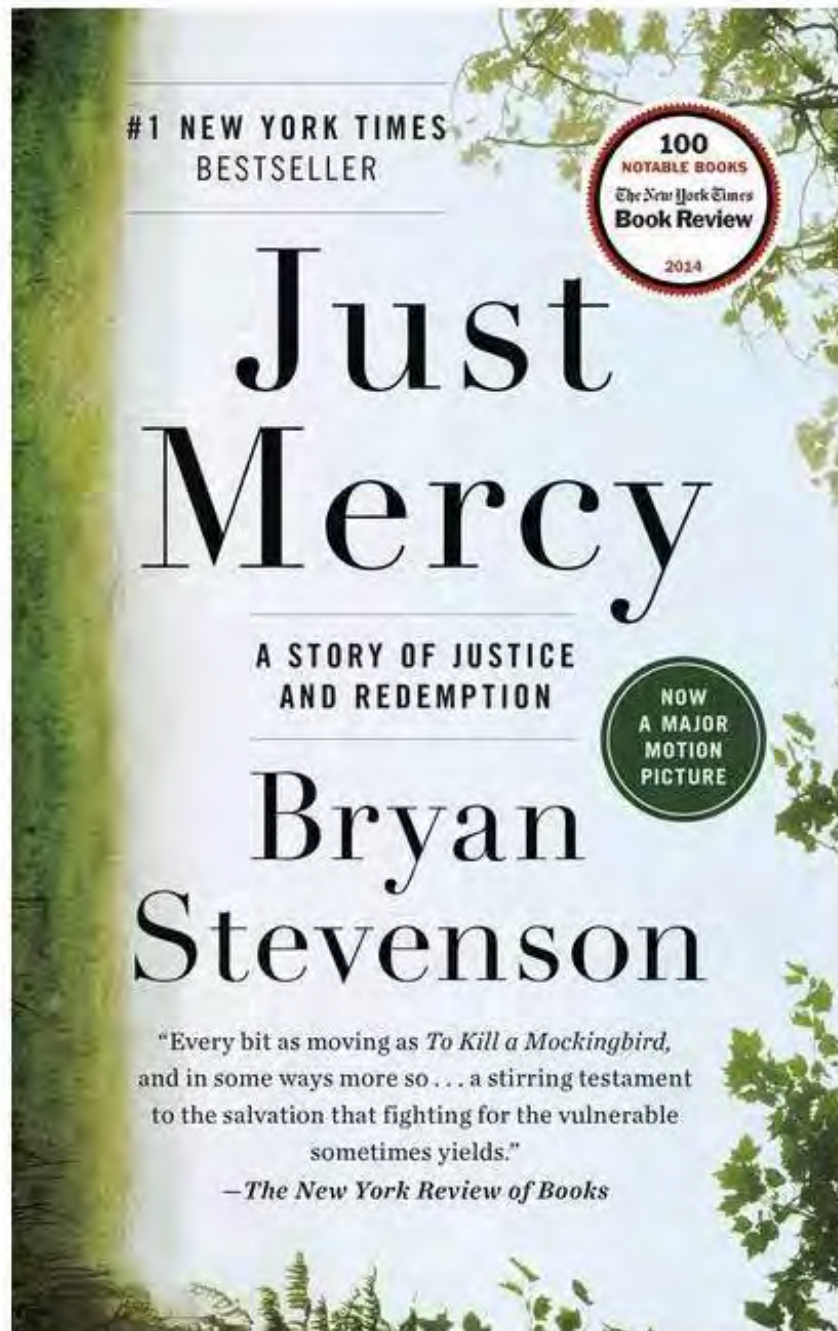
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...WANTS AMERICAN
READERS TO KNOW THAT
AFRICAN WRITERS
DON'T JUST WRITE
ABOUT AFRICA'S
PROBLEMS.

MY SUGGESTIONS







Equal Justice
Initiative

About EJI

Bryan Stevenson



Bryan Stevenson is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

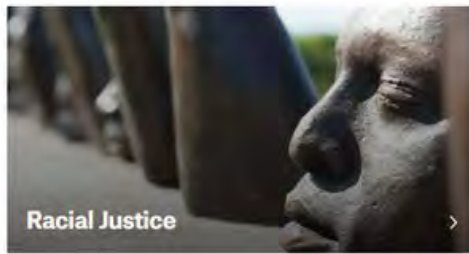
Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 140 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of EJI's highly acclaimed Legacy Sites, including the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias.



Criminal Justice Reform

- Death Penalty
- Children in Adult Prison
- Wrongful Convictions
- Excessive Punishment
- Prison Conditions



Racial Justice

- Legacy of Slavery
- Racial Terror Lynching
- Racial Segregation
- Presumption of Guilt
- Community Remembrance Project



Anti-Poverty

- Hunger Relief
- Unjust Fees and Fines
- Health Care




Public Education

- Just Mercy
- True Justice Documentary
- A History of Racial Injustice Calendar
- Reports
- Videos



The Power of History is in Telling the Truth

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The Power of History is in Telling the Truth



Learn more

About the Sites

**Three spaces.
One powerful experience.**



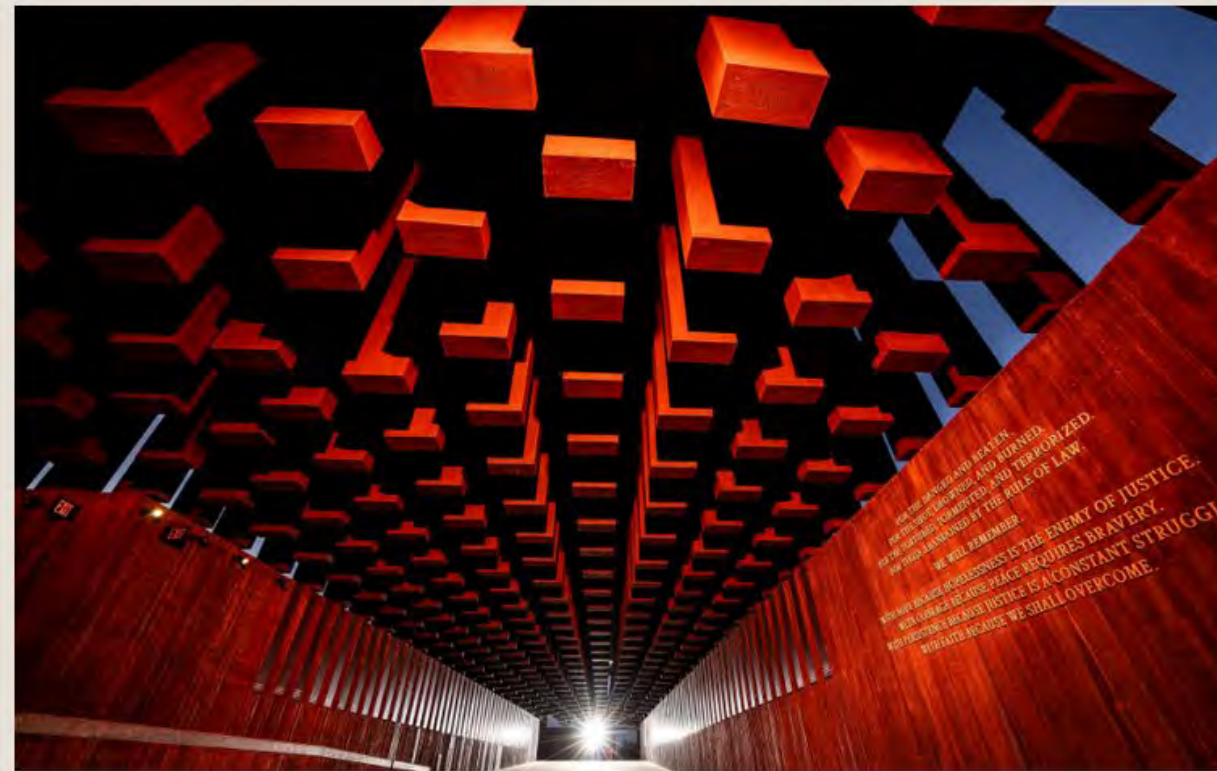
The Legacy Museum

Travel through 400 years of American history—from enslavement, to racial terrorism, to codified segregation, to mass incarceration. The critically acclaimed Legacy Museum features first-person historical accounts, interactive content, cutting-edge technology, and a world-class art gallery.



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

Set on a six-acre site, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice is the nation's first comprehensive memorial dedicated to the victims of racial terror lynchings. The outdoor memorial uses sculpture, art, and design to contextualize racial terror and its legacy today.





Freedom Monument Sculpture Park

Built on the banks of the Alabama River, this 17-acre site explores the lived experience of enslaved people in America. World-class sculptures animate an unforgettable journey through history that culminates in a first-of-its-kind monument honoring enslaved people in the U.S.








The Legacy Sites


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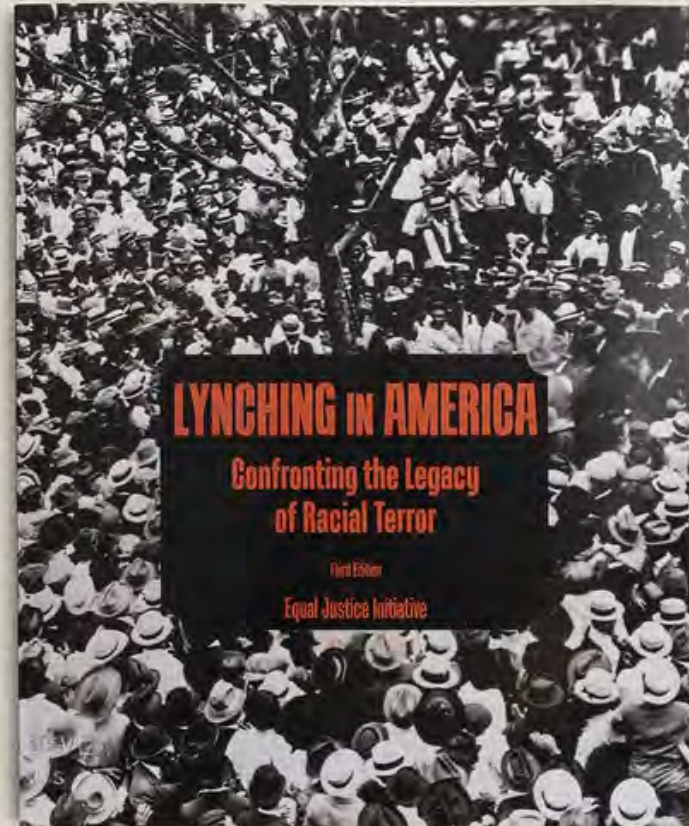
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GET TO MONTGOMERY





FEBRUARY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
1	Winter Solstice	Various	12:00 PM
2	Groundhog Day	Various	10:00 AM
3	Valentine's Day	Various	10:00 AM
4	Presidents' Day	Various	10:00 AM
5	Super Bowl	Various	1:00 PM
6	Shrove Tuesday	Various	10:00 AM
7	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
8	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
9	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
10	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
11	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
12	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
13	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
14	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
15	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
16	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
17	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
18	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
19	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
20	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
21	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
22	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
23	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
24	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
25	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
26	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
27	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
28	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
29	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
30	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
31	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM



JUNE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
1	Juneteenth	Various	10:00 AM
2	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
3	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
4	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
5	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
6	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
7	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
8	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
9	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
10	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
11	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
12	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
13	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
14	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
15	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
16	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
17	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
18	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
19	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
20	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
21	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
22	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
23	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
24	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM
25	Wednesday	Various	9:00 AM
26	Thursday	Various	9:00 AM
27	Friday	Various	9:00 AM
28	Saturday	Various	9:00 AM
29	Sunday	Various	9:00 AM
30	Monday	Various	9:00 AM
31	Tuesday	Various	9:00 AM



The following is a list of events and activities scheduled for the month of June. These events are open to all and are free of charge. For more information, please contact the relevant organization.

1. Juneteenth Celebration - Various locations, 10:00 AM
 2. Monday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 3. Tuesday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 4. Wednesday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 5. Thursday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 6. Friday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 7. Saturday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 8. Sunday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 9. Monday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 10. Tuesday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
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 16. Monday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
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 27. Friday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 28. Saturday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 29. Sunday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 30. Monday - Various locations, 9:00 AM
 31. Tuesday - Various locations, 9:00 AM

T H A N K
you

Renee

O'Connor

