



Dear Sourcebooks author friend,

For the past two weeks, people across the world have risen up against racism. It is a historic moment. For us, as with so many of you I've talked to or written to or engaged with on social in the last several weeks, Black Lives Matter—Black Voices Matter—Black Stories Matter. And we all must stand against racism and violence toward the Black community.

We each have different backgrounds, different families, different experiences and different trials. Each of us is trying to find our footing and our way. But I know we are united in this common belief—that racism and brutality is wrong and has to stop. Justice is not a political issue. It is a human issue.

I started Sourcebooks because I wanted to change the world, and we are well-suited to do better and more active work in knocking down the systemic racism and hatred. You've seen it in some of the books we have been publishing and there are a lot more coming. This world has to change and we will do our part.

We are deeply engaged in activity around Layla Saad's *Me and White Supremacy*. That work is quite literally hour to hour and 24/7 and there are many of us deep in the middle of it. And there is much more to do. This book is one of the cornerstone works of this conversation, and we are working hard to get that book into as many hands as humanly possible. Among many other initiatives, in upcoming weeks, we will be running a major promotion that will make the book much more available to U.S. library communities for 3 weeks this summer.

Beyond the attention to *Me and White Supremacy*, our list has many other books and authors gaining momentum right now. Perhaps most notable is the tremendous interest in *I'm Not Dying with You Tonight*, by Kimberly Jones and Gilly Segal, as a result of a remarkable video featuring Kim that has been shared broadly. Using this book as a foundation, we are working to create a critical conversation for teens and beyond.

Among the key takeaways from *Me and White Supremacy* is the commitment to doing the work. In the coming days, weeks and months we will be working together to implement new programs, developments and projects. Many of them are related to systemic issues of access to opportunity. We have spent the last few weeks working with our customers at a whole new level. There are really BIG new ideas that will make a difference in libraries, retail and most particularly schools. We are partnering with our retail partners to bring these issues to the fore in their teacher appreciation, education, and resources coming this October. We are also developing a library program as well that will include a teen education component and will drive to schools. More on all of this down the road. These are not the only programs with major partners that we're developing right now, but at this moment they feel like the most impactful. As a team (all of us authors, booksellers, and publishers), we can make a difference in spreading important voices and stories.

Main Office

1935 Brookdale Road, Suite 139
Naperville, IL 60563
630.961.3900
fax 630.961.2168

New York

232 Madison Avenue, Suite 805
New York, NY 10016
212.414.1701
fax 212.594.2289

Connecticut

18 Cherry Street, Suite 1W
Milford, CT 06460
203.876.9790
fax 203.876.9803

an independent vision

www.sourcebooks.com

Sourcebooks staff has been training for years in growth mindset, which will be helpful going forward. Coupled with our background, it makes us uniquely positioned to make a difference. Across the company, we will be undergoing mandatory diversity, inclusion and antiracism training. If you have any recommendations, let us know? Our acquiring editors have begun implementing open submission programs in specific areas and more developments in that space will follow. We are in development on new internship programs and a writers conference that will also expand access. We have committed to taking part in further efforts from We Need Diverse Books. Internally and in conjunction with external partners, we are reviewing our freelance editorial pool, including sensitivity and diversity and inclusion reads. We are committed to further diversifying our author pool and our employee pool and are auditing both now. These are just a handful of first initiatives and there are and will be more.

As importantly, we are committed to broadening readership. There is a marketplace that needs to be developed in bringing diverse stories to all readers. And we must commit to bringing new readers for all kinds of works into our world.

We, your publishers at Sourcebooks, will do the work. As always, we will ask for your help. We are in this together. And together I think we must acknowledge that these initiatives will not be enough and that the equality we seek will not be quickly or easily gained. But changing the world happens one step (and one reader) at a time, so let's increase our pace in that run to change. I am admittedly an optimist and I believe we are at a moment of historic change. For me, you and your books have always been more important than we are. We will lean on your words.

There is much to do to create a better world for ourselves and for our children and for our children's children. As I've noted before, I am listening. Where you have ideas, please let me know. Let's start running. As always, thank you for all the extraordinary work you do and for allowing us to be your publisher. It has been and continues to be an incredible gift.

Dominique Raccah
Publisher and CEO
Sourcebooks

Main Office

1935 Brookdale Road, Suite 139
Naperville, IL 60563
630.961.3900
fax 630.961.2168

New York

232 Madison Avenue, Suite 1100
New York, NY 10016
212.414.1701
fax 212.594.2289

Connecticut

18 Cherry Street, Suite 1W
Milford, CT 06460
203.876.9790
fax 203.876.9803

an independent vision

www.sourcebooks.com