

**Criminal Justice: Racial Equity in United States of America**

**American Revival: Citizenship and Virtue**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the reader with a spiritual sense of awakening as it pertains to a revelation of the human spirit. A revival, or improvement in the condition of any individual or social infrastructure will re-establish citizenship and further restore virtue within the United States of America. Researchers have articulated that our criminal justice system is broken through police retention/recruitment, lack of resources, ineffective prosecution and public defenders, sentencing disparities, and lack of understanding of the socioeconomic status of the criminal or violent offender. These issues are subtopics underneath the umbrella of racial equity. The fair treatment or lack thereof by the system in a manner that meets a logical perception of human dignity provides justification for research into the advancement of racial equity into our criminal justice system. Without such consideration, there will be a viable need for the improvement of equity, diversity, and inclusion as it relates to ensuring that all individuals have an equal opportunity to be successful regardless of their demographic, religion, or socioeconomic standings. These issues and more will be discussed further.

*Keywords:* racial equity, criminal, justice, socioeconomic, sentencing, disparities, criminals, revival

## Introduction

Virtue is a property of Liberty that if not measured can often lead to significant issues within society regarding morality and government. Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct; and can it be, that good policy does not equally enjoin it. It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence<sup>1</sup>. Justice and benevolence symbolism can be found with a balance towards an upright figure. Such balance can typically be seen through a process known as a revival. The United States of America was founded through the Christian belief system which gave birth to our constitutional rights. Within these rights provided are the guidelines for our criminal justice system. Our criminal justice system is founded through three main components: law enforcement, the court system, and corrections. Issues within our criminal justice system have been identified as police retention/recruitment, lack of resources, ineffective prosecution, and public defenders, sentencing disparities, and lack of understanding of the socioeconomic status of the criminal or violent offender. These issues are all sub-topics underneath the primary topic of racial equity. Racial equity is the process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is the intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of people of color...when equity is in the center of community life, citizens are allocated the resources and opportunities they need to create equal outcomes for all community members to thrive<sup>2</sup>. Racial equity and crime parallel each other due to socioeconomic and political fragmentation. This bleeds not only into the educational system but also into healthcare, and food as well. High levels of crime and violence also have dire consequences for many communities of color, especially those with high rates of poverty. The toxic stress of exposure to violence undermines physical and mental health...Crime and violence also increase police presence...intensive tactics that emphasize street stops and high concentrations of officers in “hot spots”. These tactics are most often applied to communities of color, contributing to disproportionate rates of justice system involvement, high rates of arrest and incarceration, and, in the most tragic circumstances, fatal encounters with police<sup>3</sup>. Without making any substantial changes towards a positive trend in racial equity, within the United States of America, racial differences will create a divide that will yield differences in employment income, food and housing insecurity, health concerns as seen through the COVID-19 pandemic,

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<sup>1</sup> Avalon. *Washington's Farewell Address 1796*. November 04, 2023. [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/washing.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp) (accessed November 04, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> Martinez, Holly. *WHAT IS RACIAL EQUITY? LEARN THE RACIAL EQUITY DEFINITION WITH EXAMPLES*. January 07, 2022. <https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/what-is-racial-equity-definition/> (accessed November 04, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Turner, Margery Austin, and Solomon Greene. *Project: Structural Racism Explainer Collection: Causes and Consequences of Separate and Unequal Neighborhoods*. November 04, 2023. <https://www.urban.org/racial-equity-analytics-lab/structural-racism-explainer-collection/causes-and-consequences-separate-and-unequal-neighborhoods> (accessed November 04, 2023).

and disparities that produce socioeconomic structural barriers and inequitable neighborhood conditions.

### **Racial Equity**

Racial equity within the United States of America comes in the form of addressing social justice. Racial equity is the process of eliminating racial disparities and improving outcomes for everyone. It is intentional and continual practice of changing policies, practices, systems, and structures by prioritizing measurable change in the lives of people of color. When equity is in the center of community life, citizens are allocated the resources and opportunities they need to create equal outcomes for all community members to thrive<sup>4</sup>. There are several different forms of racial inequity such as structural racial inequity, institutional racial inequity, and individual/interpersonal racial inequity. Within these three main types of racial inequity, an individual will find structural racism refers to wider political and social disadvantages within society, such as higher rates of poverty for Black people or higher rates of death from COVID-19 among people of color compared to whites. Policies, practice, and procedures that work to the benefit of white people and the detriment of people of color, usually unintentionally or inadvertently<sup>5</sup>. Racial equity examples can be found in education, the workplace, and within criminal justice.

There have been several debates regarding racial equity in criminal justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the findings have primarily created statistics related to several different social issues such as the Black Lives Matter movement. Historically, social justice-oriented planners focused efforts on racial equity despite a lack of a collective understanding of the topic. Recognizing key milestones where racial equity has successfully informed contemporary urban policies offers progressive planners a rich set of alternative policies, strategies, and programs to use across diverse communities<sup>6</sup>. Civil advocacy planning has been at the cornerstone of addressing racial equity as it will help to cure the current conditions that effect American living socio-economic conditions through equal opportunity of housing and federal housing programs as examples. Criminal justice professional has found that if an individual experiences issues with housing that is a pre-determinant factor to crime which leads to incarceration. Civil action has been used as a vehicle to address such issues with racial equity in examples found with the Truman Administration's Housing Act of 1949 to address the decline of urban housing and counter the rapid development of suburbs by reducing housing costs, raising housing standards, expanding mortgage options, and enabling the clearance of urban slums through an emphasis on new construction<sup>7</sup>. Within our criminal justice system there is a disproportionate representation of

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<sup>4</sup> Martinez, Holly. *What is Racial Equity? Learn The Racial Equity Definition With Examples*. January 07, 2022. <https://unitedwaynca.org/blog/what-is-racial-equity-definition/> (accessed November 07, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Arroyo, John C, Gerard F Sandoval, and Joanna Bernstein. "Sixty Years of Racial Equity Planning: Evolution of an Ethic." *Journal of the American Planning Association* Vol. 89, Iss. 4, 2023: 438-458.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

juveniles in the criminal justice system that are largely from persons of color. Contact with the justice system can damage social networks and family functioning, decrease high school graduation and employment rates, increase risk for involvement in violence and violent victimization, and worsen mental health outcomes and long-term opportunities<sup>8</sup>. Data has shown that through the different stages of arrest, referral to court, and placement in secure detention higher rates of violence among black adolescents, particularly armed violence, even after controlling for demographic factors such as family structure, residence, and socioeconomic status<sup>9</sup>. The criminal justice system has also seen such as mass incarceration, policing, and within the criminal justice legal field as well.

### **Mass Incarceration**

The reality of mass incarceration within the United States of America effects the federal and state level of individuals. The prison system has grown exponentially since the 1950's. When Reagan took office in 1980, the total prison population was 329,000, and when he left office eight years later, the prison population had essentially doubled, to 627,000. This staggering rise in incarceration hit communities of color hardest they were disproportionately incarcerated then and remain so today<sup>10</sup>. Increased incarceration has led to felony convictions that have increased racial equity through devastating the level of voting, political engagement, the legal system at the local level and the health of families. The costs of mass incarceration are not simply collateral consequences for individuals but are borne collectively, most notably by African Americans living in acutely disadvantaged communities that experience high levels of policing and surveillance<sup>11</sup>. In the United States of America, we have 2.3 million people within prison or jail. A growing body of research considers how misdemeanour offenses, or other relatively minor infractions against the law, shape the way people interact with the police and the judicial system even in the absence of spending time in prison or jail. Excessive and unnecessary traffic stops uniquely concentrated among African Americans fuel racial inequality in experiences with a maze of criminal justice procedures and their consequences<sup>12</sup>. Whether it be public policy, criminal justice actors, society and the media, and criminal behaviour African Americans have experienced unequal enforcement of the law. The struggle for civil rights has been linked to the history of perceptions of race and crime, has led society to choose to fight racial economic equality using the criminal justice system (i.e., incarceration) instead of choosing to reduce racial

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<sup>8</sup> Gase, Lauren, Beth Glenn, Louis M Gomez, Tony Kuo, Moira Inkelas, and Ninez Ponce. "Understanding Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Arrest: The Role of Individual, Home, School, and Community Characteristics ." *Race and social problems Vol. 8, Iss. 4*, 2016: 296-312.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> Cullen, James. *The History of Mass Incarceration: From Alexis de Tocqueville to Ronald Reagan, the forces that have shaped the current state of our prison system*. July 20, 2018. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/history-mass-incarceration> (accessed November 09, 2023).

<sup>11</sup> Pettit, Becky, and Carmen Gutierrez. "Mass Incarceration and Racial Inequality." *The American Journal Of Economics and Sociology Vol. 77, Iss. 3-4*, 2018: 1153-1182.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

disparities through consistent investments in social programs (such as education, job training, and employment, which have greater public benefits). We must also ensure diversity in criminal justice professionals to achieve the economic equality that King fought for prior to his death<sup>13</sup>. At the state and local level there has been a war on drugs, accountability, and the need for improvement of legislative oversight. Allowances may provide police with motives to keep crime/arrest rates high since arrest are a measure of their efficacy and demand and are now tied to federal funding. Impoverished rural communities began seeking to use prison constructions as part of their economic development strategies. Putting the pieces of the puzzle together leads to the following system of mass incarceration more punitive crime policies and a national push for the drug war (for political gain), which led state and local law enforcement to shift their focus to policing and punishing less serious lawbreakers<sup>14</sup>.

### **Policing**

Law enforcement is tasked with working on behalf of a local, state, or federal government entity that will help the individual enforce the law by discovering, deterring, rehabilitating, or punishing individuals who violate governing societies laws. There have been issues with equity as some community members feel as though when police patrol their zones or areas, there are treated in a manner that would justify some review of patrolling operations. Targeting high crime areas has proven to be successful at reducing crime. Another consequence of having areas with a higher police presence is that more individuals will be stopped and eventually arrested in those areas. The heightened exposition of minorities to police increases the feeling of pressure in these communities, subsequently producing negative repercussions for both the individuals and society as a whole<sup>15</sup>. Society has seen some forms of racial inequalities within police patrolling. Citizens feel as they have been inexplicitly targeted due to the structural differences between population groups and the correlation between crime level and minorities presence. Voluntarily depriving high-crime areas of much-needed security gives rise to an ethical dilemma. These consequences include protest marches, social unrest and riots, which might lead to a surge in violence and crime<sup>16</sup>. Racial justice and equality in law enforcement have been reviewed by experts via the means of Resolution 47/21. To further transformative change for racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement globally. Examining systemic racism in law enforcement and the criminal justice system, the excessive use of force, racial profiling, and other human rights violations by law enforcement officials against Africans and people of African descent, and how domestic law, policy and practices may lead to disproportionate and

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<sup>13</sup> Cox, Robynn J.A. *Where Do We Go from Here? Mass Incarceration and the Struggle for Civil Rights*. January 16, 2015. <https://www.epi.org/publication/where-do-we-go-from-here-mass-incarceration-and-the-struggle-for-civil-rights/> (accessed November 07, 2023).

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Liberatore, Federico, Miguel Camacho-Collados, and Sanchez Lara Quijano. "Equity in the Police Districting Problem: Balancing Territorial and Racial Fairness in Patrolling Operations." *Journal Of Quantitative Criminology* Vol. 38, Iss. 3, 2022: 1-25.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid

widespread interaction between law enforcement officers and Africans and people of African descent.<sup>17</sup>

### **Criminal Justice Legal Field**

Our criminal justice system will always have legal issues, especially since the pandemic of COVID-19. Our legal systems have created policies that have allowed for criminal cases to continue. As successive waves of the virus crested, prisons and jails became the sites of many of the largest novel coronavirus outbreaks in the nation. Although arrest rates plummeted as people stayed home to avoid contracting the virus, court dockets lengthened amid government-imposed shutdowns that shuttered public and private enterprises. Massive criminal case backlogs accumulated in municipal, state, and federal courts<sup>18</sup>. Racial disparities, whether a government shutdowns or pandemic conditions, relative to those who are released, those who are detained experience higher conviction probabilities, greater likelihood of incarceration, and longer periods of incarceration. In addition, the negative effects of pretrial detention are racialized. Relative to white people, people of color are more likely to be detained and detained for longer periods. If these effects of higher bail amounts held during the pandemic, policies that permitted remote arraignments could have deepened existing racial inequities in disposition and sentencing outcomes<sup>19</sup>. Racial equity within the criminal justice revolves around socioeconomic shifts in society such as the decline of the manufacturing sector, growing inequality and its disproportionate effect on communities of color, policy initiatives with foreseeable consequences for racial disparity, bias in discretionary decision making, and allocation of resources. Strategies designed to divert offenders from incarceration or to reduce corrections costs frequently do not proactively examine the likely impact of such reforms on existing racial disparities<sup>20</sup>.

### **Literature Review and Analysis**

Calls for racial justice have been heard loud and clear in the twenty first century and universities have been called into the fray to respond to the message. Minority students are marginalized experience micro-aggressions at higher levels than other students; experience the ill effects of school closing at higher levels; experience cultural imperialism; exploited by the educational system thereby increasing the school-to-prison pipeline; and suffer violence at higher

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<sup>17</sup> Nations, United. *Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement*. November 07, 2023. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/expert-mechanism-racial-justice-law-enforcement/mandate> (accessed November 07, 2023).

<sup>18</sup> Harris, Heather M. "The Impact of Remote Hearing Policies on Racial Equity in Criminal Case Outcomes During the Pandemic." *Journal of the Social Sciences Vol. 9, Iss. 3, 2023: 252-279*.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid

<sup>20</sup> Mauer, Marc, and Nazgol Ghandnoosh. *Incorporating Racial Equity into Criminal Justice Reform*. October 2014. <https://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/incorporating-racial-equity-into-criminal-justice-reform.pdf> (accessed November 07, 2023).

levels than non-black students<sup>21</sup>. Racial injustice seen through the lack of racial equity are viewed in a structural context. African American caseloads are treated differently between states and within states and could lead to lower spending. She also finds that SOD states spend more funds on cash support, work support, and family formation when compared to non-SOD states. SOD states also have a higher percentage of African American and Hispanic TANF caseloads and slightly higher cash benefits compared to non-SOD states<sup>22</sup>. To advance racial equity there needs to be a political ability to address racial issues and public relation issues that change the experience of the people in the United States. As the number of high-profile racial incidents increase, concerns about equality and justice should progress to priority considerations for public administration practitioners, researchers, and educators. Black people and African Americans (hereafter, Black) as one of the most vulnerable populations in the United States due to their overall lack of political and economic power stemming from the enduring the insult of slavery<sup>23</sup>. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there have been several attempts to revitalize African Americans within our urban communities through political and economic transformation. Following local, state, and federal agencies intentional racial bias has been dealt with. Black people in 2018 have not experienced progress when compared to their White counterparts in the areas of homeownership, unemployment, and incarceration – in fact Black people are worse off today than before the culmination of the civil rights movement. Gentrification, and 21<sup>st</sup> century manifestation of urban renewal, is seamless in the tradition of displacement, dispossession, and destruction for Black residents and their respective communities, institutions, and traditions<sup>24</sup>.

Our criminal justice system has a discrepancy between blacks and whites, and this would be between police-civilian confrontations. Due to cynicism within our criminal justice system, racial equity creates a racial divide which has produced unfairness in our legal judgements. Discrimination even infiltrates the law itself, the best-known example being the notorious 100:1 provision of the Federal Crack Cocaine Law of 1986 (21 U.S.C. 841), which mandates the same five-year prison sentence for one hundred grams of powder cocaine (used primarily by whites) as for one gram of crack cocaine (used primarily by African Americans), despite the gram-for-gram pharmacological equivalence. These same disproportionalities are likely to be viewed by many whites as evidence of the greater criminality of African Americans rather than a bias of the CJS. Such perceptions are doubtless reinforced by news coverage, which tends to portray blacks as perpetrators of violent crimes<sup>25</sup>. Law enforcement work best with the community through their interpretation of an event. Their interpretation shows that there will be grossly unfair racial profiling and police brutality. Given the history of racial bias in the system, African Americans

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<sup>21</sup> Menifield, Charles E. "A Call for Racial Justice and Improving Equity in Policing, Education, and Childcare." *Journal of Public Management & Social Policy* Vol. 29, Iss. 1, 2022: 1-5.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid

<sup>23</sup> Lopez-Littleton, Vanessa, Brandi Blessett, and Julie Burr. "Advancing social justice and racial equity in the public sector Vol. 24, Iss. 4." *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 2018: 449-468.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

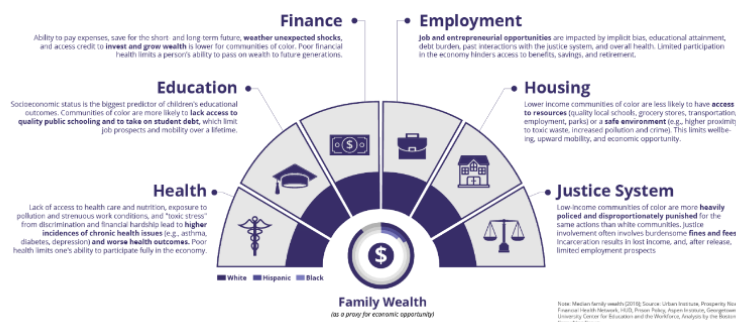
<sup>25</sup> Hurwitz, Jon, and Mark Peffley. "Explaining the Great Racial Divide: Perceptions of Fairness in the U.S. Criminal Justice System." *The Journal Of Politics* Vol. 67, Iss. 03, 2005: 762-783.



should be more vigilant to signs of discrimination in encounters between police and black civilians. Brutality and profiling are so familiarly to many African Americans that they constitute chronically accessible “scripts” that are frequently primed and likely to guide interpretations of ambiguous events. Blacks as a group are likely to view confrontations between police and black civilians as yet another instance of police discrimination<sup>26</sup>.

Social justice fuels criminal justice reform through three pillars: equity, justice, and community. There is a great importance base through race-conscious communications such as ideas, institutions, interactions, and individuals. The rights of individuals within our community generate an environment that upholds social justice. The soul of injustice breathes genocide, enslavement, inequality, voter suppression, bigotry, cheating, lies, individualism, exploitation, denial, and indifference to it all. The soul of justice breathes life, freedom, equality, democracy, human rights, fairness, science, community, opportunity, and empathy for all. Both souls can breathe in our institutions<sup>27</sup>. Racial equity and social justice run parallel to each as they help to address issues with unjustified acts of violence on marginalized communities. Scholars have found that individuals commit crime due to lack of education, finances, and socio-economic standards of living. We must acknowledge that racial equality and social justice show up in how we build our schools and colleges, what we teach in our classrooms, how our streets and colleges are policed, and who has access to education, healthcare, and jobs<sup>28</sup>.

### Racial disparities in economic opportunity limit access to the key enablers for promoting wellbeing and prosperity



Business Roundtable, *Racial disparities in economic opportunity limit access to the key enablers for promoting wellbeing and prosperity*, Washington DC, assessed November 07, 2023, <https://www.businessroundtable.org/equity>

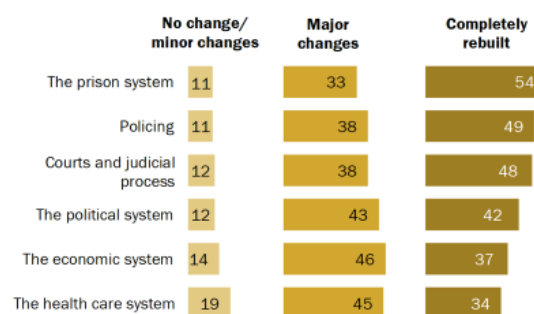
<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Rodriguez, Francisco, and Claudia Escobar. "The application of a racial equity and social justice framework to examine Vol. 2023, Iss. 202." *New directions for community colleges* Vol. 2023, Iss. 202, 2023: 145-158.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

### About half of Black adults say policing, prison system and judicial process need to be completely rebuilt

% of Black adults who say \_\_\_\_\_ needs the following kinds of changes for Black people to be treated fairly



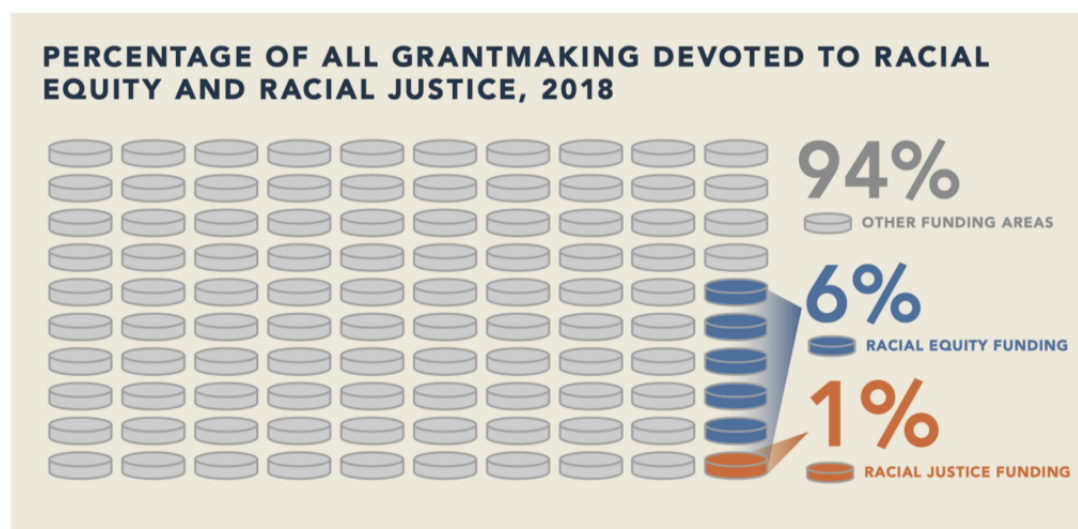
Note: Black adults include those who say their race is Black alone and non-Hispanic, Black and at least one other race and non-Hispanic, or Black and Hispanic. Share of respondents who didn't offer a response not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 4-17, 2021.

"Black Americans Have a Clear Vision for Reducing Racism but Little Hope It Will Happen"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Cox, Kiana and Edwards, Khadijah, *Black Americans Have A Clear Vision For Reducing Racism But Little Hope It Will Happen*, Washington DC, assessed November 07, 2023, <https://www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2022/08/30/black-americans-views-on-systemic-change/>



Tomkin, Anastasia Reesa, *Philanthropic Pledges for Racial Justice Found to Be Superficial*, Washington DC, assessed October 07, 2021, <https://nonprofitquarterly.org/philanthropic-pledges-for-racial-justice-found-to-be-superficial/>

## Solutions to Racial Equity

Researchers have been trying to generate solutions to racial equity and the data suggests a systematic approach regarding police stops, detention, and longer prison sentences. Policy reforms across each stage of the criminal justice system – pointing to drug sentencing reform, providing “second look” provisions for long sentences, eliminating revocations of community supervision for technical violations, and eliminating the death penalty as examples of reforms that could reduce racial inequality while maintaining public safety<sup>29</sup>. Criminologists have often had difficulty differentiating racial equity from racial equality because the interchangeable meanings are trying to reduce social inequalities primarily. Research tells us that the relationship between racial inequality in criminal justice and racial inequality more broadly is a pernicious and persistent feedback loop. These perpetuating effects of inequality can lead to continual criminal justice involvement for individuals, severely impacting neighbourhoods and communities. Key trends in crime and criminal justice disparities include homicide victimization, police interactions and arrests, pre-trial detention, sentencing/correction, and community supervision<sup>30</sup>. Whether it be at the cultural, organizational, or individual level there will be an immense means to address the legal, ethical, and financial costs of our criminal justice system as it has affected our civil liberties. Law enforcement agencies have disproportionately high levels of contact with BIPOC. Black and Latino individuals have more interactions with law enforcement agencies and are more likely to be detained or searched for contraband than their white counterparts<sup>31</sup>. The Black Lives Matter movement has called for institutional realignment of policing within our urban communities. A potential solution for the issues produced by law enforcement interacting with individuals perceived to be outside the group is to make efforts to ensure the individuals working in law enforcement live in or have some connection to the communities they serve. Hiring a law enforcement team that is representative of the demographics of the communities they interact with on a daily basis might decrease the likelihood of an officer engaging racist policing behaviour<sup>32</sup>.

## Biblical Worldview

Racial equity does not directly correlate to the Bible however, through virtues, there is parallelism to one’s ability to love one’s neighbour or being able to be a charitable or helpful person. There are many parables in the Bible but one that articulates the above virtues will be

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<sup>29</sup> Lowry, Megan. *To Reduce Racial Inequality in the Criminal Justice System, Government Should Explore Ways to Reduce Police Stops, Detention, and Long Sentences, Says New Report*. November 15, 2022. <https://www.nationalacademies.org/news/2022/11/to-reduce-racial-inequality-in-the-criminal-justice-system-government-should-explore-ways-to-reduce-police-stops-detention-and-long-sentences-says-new-report#:~:text=The%20report%20recommends%20governments%20> (accessed November 07, 2023).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid

<sup>31</sup> Rose, Julia C., Cormac MacManus, Jacquelyn MacDonald, and Diana Parry-Cruwys. "Mitigating Racial Inequity by Addressing Racism in the Criminal Justice System: A Behavior Analytic Approach." *Behav Anal Pract*. Vol. 15, Iss. 2, 2022: 635-641.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid

The Parable of the Good Samaritan. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, a man is travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On his travels, he is attacked by a group of robbers who strip him of everything that he owns and beat him. While lying on the ground, a priest and Levite pass by him and do not provide any assistance. However, a Samaritan does stop and provide some care for the traveller. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. Look after him, he said, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The expert in the law replied, the one who had mercy on him. Jesus told him, Go and do likewise<sup>33</sup>. Our criminal justice system is the foundation for the legal system rule of law. Individuals that break the law in any way are brought upon charges that will eventually lead them into our penal system. With the United States of America being the largest producer of criminals in the world, there is often lack of racial equity. A good Samaritan, in any criminal incident, will take the time to understand the situation of the individual before they went criminal. Due to socio-economic issues, like the man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho, they will endure robbers. These robbers will try to steal an individual's livelihood in society to the point that they lash out and commit a crime. Without Samaritan's there will be individuals in society who will fall by the wayside and will be on the receiving end of injustice from our criminal justice system. We all need to ask GOD for patience and humility when dealing with racial equity in the United States of America.

### Conclusion

In summarization, a revelation of the human spirit directly pertains to one's ability to explain and justify key characteristics as they relate to natural, theological, and ideological means of the human spirit. A revival or awakening of the human spirit will primarily start from the foundation of the infrastructure that has created the United States of America. The United States of America was created on the Christian belief system which gave birth to our criminal justice system and legal system. Statesman that run this country founded the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment Section 1 states all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the States wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws<sup>34</sup>. This equal protection underneath the laws directly relates to racial equity. Racial equity is a term that is identified within our

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<sup>33</sup> KJV. *Luke 10:34-37*. United States of America: KJV, 2023.

<sup>34</sup> Constitution. *Fourteenth Amendment Equal Protection and Other Rights*. November 12, 2023. <https://constitution.congress.gov/browse/amendment-14/section-1/#:~:text=No%20State%20shall%20make%20or,equal%20protection%20of%20the%20laws>. (accessed November 12, 2023).

criminal justice system and our legal system. The key issues within our criminal justice system and legal system are police retention/recruitment, lack of resources, ineffective prosecution and public defenders, sentencing disparities, and lack of understanding of the socioeconomic status of the criminal or violent offender. There has been a lack of consideration for human dignity and fair treatment under our laws. Without consideration for the advancement of racial equity, there will be a lack of improvement in equity, diversity, and inclusion. Socio-economic standings for an individual detail housing, education, medical, and more. These issues, if they decline in any way, have proven to be determining factors into why individuals commit crimes. Typically, in our urban communities, African Americans and Hispanics have had to deal with unequal treatment within our criminal justice through mass incarceration, policing, and the criminal justice legal field. There several different ways the individual can achieve racial equity, no matter where they are, through interworking relationships in the community, establish venues where individuals can talk about different races, and working to get minorities elected to office, and organizing protests and rallies. In conclusion, the morality of the government will be challenged towards racial equity because once this is achieved minorities who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by poverty and inequality will find civil rights, equity, and racial justice.

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