

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee,

I hope this finds all of you well. I am sharing with you my research and perspective on Racism that has caused so much hurt and sorrow, death and destruction for 401 years in our country. The urgency of now must be pursued relentlessly and resourcefully by enacting HB 6662 while we remain safe ourselves and serve those who place their lives in our hands as well while they pursue their own goals in recovery. We must be careful not to influence their involvement in our personal goal in the realm of Civil Rights, Health Equity and Individual liberty. We must also stay vigilant about the incessant threats of being infected with COVID 19.

[I have been studying and writing on Imperialism Genocide and Racism for decades. I want to share this compendium with you because I don't know what](#) may be helpful and the people who shared were quite clear about the pervasive nature of the deep divisions in our country which is robbing us of much untapped potential. How many life changing discoveries that rival madame Curie and Einstein have been silenced. I can supply you charts from Prof Raj Chetty [he proved the case that **Place matters**] of the horrendous loss of potential invaluable lives. I was quite amazed when I first came to America 50 years ago that despite the Constitution [I carry the Constitution in my coat pocket and share this with others] or because of the designation for a 3/5 person value to people of color the zip codes and urban designs enforced de facto segregation in malignant forms in Boston and later in CT... [I am eager to work with](#) the leaders of this Lantern highlighting safe places gathering of like-minded individuals. [The PPP and the Information framing the PPP](#) about the deadly consequences of racism that has seriously undermined the health and well-being of people of color [are in this anthology. I want to share this memorable quote among so many noble thoughts of our beloved, Revered martyred brother Martin, "We must decide that Today is – "the day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway" And even if this were to tragically happen we must be ready to render all the care in a most humane and compassionate manner.](#)

In my letter to Prof Drew Faust of Harvard University [ you will come upon this when you scroll down I have categorized the attachments which will make it easier for you focus to archive and curate this anthology in more helpful ways.

I have added four new items besides the PPP to the correspondence with former President of Harvard University:

- A. Three stories from CBS. Two are from this morning. One story is a heartwarming story by Mr. Steve Hartman about "remarkably unremarkable" vignettes of tolerance fortitude and restraint from different regions of the country that is enlightening and hopeful. The next one from this morning is deep, dark and ugly and still festering. It is from Tulsa OK. Ninety nine years ago hundreds of African Americans were murdered and a flourishing section of Tulsa 36 blocks was burnt to the ground. No body was held to account more recently a 46 year old black man was shot and killed as we was walking towards the stalled car with his hands up [Police Helicopter camera.] The female police officer was acquitted scot free. The third story from CBS is from Dec 2019. It reported that ground penetrating radar had found a large pit in the Green wood District also known as Black Wall Street that could hold 100 bodies was detected. There were statements made that excavations would be forthcoming. But six months later and it is no longer winter when the possible pit- ground defect was found but I have not heard anything. I wonder if any of you have heard of new developments. A lot of people including me would like the remains to interred in the ground of a AME Zion church were people can finally mourn their beloved relatives who were taken from them plus they had to stifle themselves and endure this horrible torture for 99 years The only structure that survived was I believe the basement of this church.
- B. The next document has great resources from one of the colleagues from the Am Assoc of Comm. Psychiatry to explores the dimensions of Racism, it effects and counter measures. 450 members gathered for a productive Zoom meeting on Thursday night. It went on to 10 Pm from 8 PM. We have plans to work on. Two of our members Michael Compton, MD and Ruth Shim, MD have written a detailed, lucid book on the Social determinants of Mental health. There are great charts that establish the essential links. When I am able to find Dr. Shims vital presentation last Thursday from June 4<sup>th</sup>, I will be glad to send it to you Sheila when I find it.

- C. The next document has reports from the Lancet on the effects of Police killing of unarmed Black men, the dimensions of Racism that doesn't stop with the horrible crimes perpetrated by people wearing Police Uniforms.
- D. There are two among many more reports of the disproportionate loss of black lives. This what the **"HuffPost in July. "Now is not the time to stay silent about these injustices. Black men and women have raised their voices to declare that black lives matter and to say the names of those who have died unjustly."**

I am very grateful Sheila, Laura and others organized this memorable and landmark Lantern session. As I sat and listened it was painfully clear and sometimes chillingly so that the speakers shared painful and scary aspects of their lived experiences what I have been archiving, speaking and writing about for some times because of the intertwined history of Racism in the United states, Imperialism, Colonialism Genocide in in African and Asian Countries for over 400 years. I am very proud of all those who shared. These essays a represent for me a way to transmute my tears of anguish and deep sorrow and gasps of horror into tangible forms that can be shared and collectively worked on because there is so much unfinished work to be done before we can reach reconciliation and be capable of putting together a Beloved community envisioned by our beloved martyred Leader, our brother Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and the Episcopal church. I am attaching my ideas on this entitled Reconciliation- Beloved community MLK and Episcopal Church. I have used the Heart diagram before when the Mr. Eric Garner was murdered and other atrocities followed from Dec. 2014 Ann knows about my writings from that time. The third of these Entitle Right is right has an accompany CD that Ms Ann Webster created from my song list. I am forever grateful for this Cd entitled "Equanimity and Peace." The essay "We can't breathe 4a" has an EKG graphic going into flat line- Originally when Mr. Eric Garner was murdered I created this with a black felt pen but later I was able to find my way with the help of others to create the graphics for this report and the next "My responses to the deadly national convulsions." That is how I experienced the tumult in our country then and I feel it is resurfacing again viciously. Thank you all for being interconnected with me and with each other to hold us all up to do our part what ever it may be to create a beloved community by working towards a more perfect union.

[I wanted to share this letter and attachments sent to President of Harvard University on August 4<sup>th</sup> 2016, in advance of the momentous event that was planned for April 6<sup>th</sup> when Hon. Rep. John Lewis \[a living Legend and hero like Ms. Harriet Tubman and Ms. Rosa Parks\] was scheduled to install a plaque in Wadsworth House to acknowledge the role of Harvard in the business of Slavery and the University's decision to retire after 80 years the Crest of the Law School \[HLS\] because of the symbols of the past connections to Slavery.](#) My Son is graduate of the Law school . We are grateful that the horrid racist symbolism were removed from the Crest.

[I wanted to let you know it is important for great institutions, organizations, branches of Govt. individuals and even for nations to undergo the process of acknowledging the Truth about oppression and be committed to an active process of rec-conciliation. I really admired Nobelist Rev. Desmond Tutu who organization the truth and reconciliation Commission and the process of acknowledging, accepting the past and making a commitment to eschew such abominations as were extant through time in the future. It is interesting the Jurist who became the Chief Justice decided to put the highest Court in the most dreaded prison. He himself was crippled by a bomb blast by apartheid architects. He forgave his assailants and their organizations. I had the honor of meeting him in at the UConn Law School where he was the keynote speaker when my son graduated.](#)

[Chief Justice Sachs was born into a South African family of Lithuanian Jewish background. He attended the South African College School \(SACS\) in Cape Town. As a second year law student at the University of Cape Town, where he earned his LLB, he took part in the Defiance Campaign.<sup>\[2\]</sup> Three years later, in 1955, he attended the Congress of the People at Kliptown, where the Freedom Charter was adopted.](#)

[Atty. Albie Sachs started practice as an advocate at the Cape Bar aged 21, defending people charged under racial statutes and security laws under South African Apartheid. After being arrested and placed in solitary confinement for over five months for his work in the freedom movement. He taught us about reconciliation by forgiving the members of the South African Police who rigged a bomb to annihilate the opposition of this slender quiet spoken](#)

**Jurist.** They failed but he used the opportunity to live by the code of Mahatma Gandhi who was totally opposed to the principle of an eye for an eye etc. and build reconciliation between all parties. They succeed in converting the Robben island's gruesome penitentiary into the Supreme court of Republic of South Africa. I was able to say few words to this amazing vital force in all our lives. I have been studying Mahatma Gandhi's message through his words and actions for more than 50 years.

After the bombing, he devoted himself to the preparations for a new democratic constitution for South Africa. He returned to South Africa and served as a member of the Constitutional Committee and the National Executive of the African National Congress. Many of Sachs's best-known judgments are on discrimination law. He was the main author of the majority judgment in *Prinsloo v Van der Linde*,<sup>[7]</sup> which established the connection between the right to equality and dignity. He was the author of the Court's majority judgment in *Minister of Home Affairs v Fourie*, in which the Court declared unconstitutional South Africa's statute defining marriage to be between one man and one woman.

At that time [when I was attending the graduation of my son who was in the USMC in UConn LS] and even later when my son graduated from HLS I didn't realize the connection of the HLS to Slavery as symbolized by the three sheaves of wheat emblazoned on the crest of HLS. These crests were everywhere with banners fluttering in the breeze. Sometimes we are unable to or unaware of or unwilling to act even if we are aware of the connection to Slavery of asking questions and seeking justice and reconciliation. Had I been aware of these connections I probably would have asked the Chief Justice Albie Sachs of the Constitutional Court of South Africa just how to go about confronting the past and getting the HLS crest retired years ago. It is our business in our best interest as human beings to examine our hidden biases or knowledge gaps that allows symbols of bigotry or bias and prejudice to govern us in our towns, state, nation. Equal Justice under law must be the law of the land as it is dispensed across the land.

The SPLC- Southern Poverty Law Center recommends each and every one of us do what we can to promote tolerance and fight hate. They suggest the following as starters:[I have made explanatory edits. VM] I am a humble and grateful exceptionally fortunate recipient of a Certificate signed by Ms. Parks and Mr. Morris Dees from 2002 as a Founding member of the National Campaign for Tolerance.

1. Speak up when we hear slurs [in my case I saw the sheaves of wheat and "assumed" these represented the wealth generated by an agrarian economy-without thinking about the connection between agrarian wealth and slavery in the United States]
2. Let people know that biased speech is unacceptable as our prejudiced acts-especially people who have their hands on all of key levers that move the various sections of society.
3. Apathy towards and quiet acquiescence of the robust vestiges of the "Peculiar Institution", Jim Crow and the attacks on the VRA especially Section 4 is just as dangerous as actively felt and expressed hate in various overt and covert ways.
4. Cross social boundaries. Seek out opportunities to interact with people who are different from you in many dimensions.
5. Complain to media outlets when they appear to be promoting or supporting stereotypes.
6. Look within not just one time but over time for indications of biases that engenders bigotry, division and hate. Take a test at [www.hiddenbias.org](http://www.hiddenbias.org)
7. Encourage your local Police departments and staff of Law enforcement entities including Jails, lock up and prisons to identify bias-motivated criminal acts as Hate Crimes.
- 1-8. Eternal vigilance is thr truly the price fo liberty. I have to be aware of what is happening within me and between me and all others who interact with me [especially in Health care] and the communities at all levels in our Towns, States and our Nation.

With my best wishes. I welcome your comments. Please share as you see fit. Much gratitude and affection for all those who stand shoulder to shoulder in this moment of grave peril.

I am paraphrasing President Lincoln from his letter to Ms. Bixby, " Without the aid of Almighty God we cannot succeed with his aid we cannot fail. Failure for all those involved in this campaign for Individual liberty is not an option.

Sincerely,

Dr. Velandy Manohar, MD.

From: velandy manohar [mailto:velandy\_manohar\_md@comcast.net]

Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 1:01 AM

Subject: The Urgency of Now! "The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history"- Dr. MLK Jr's Sermon -04 04 2016 at Riverside Church [Read on Section A 1-9]

Importance: High

Dear and respected Madame President, [Prof Drew Faust]

There are three parts to this letter.

I seek your indulgence Madame President because I believe this is a crucial moment in our History in America. The political situation is very concerning and motivates me to shout out this message which was part of the Sermon Dr. King delivered nearly 50 years ago in Riverside Church.

We must decide that Today is – “the day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway” [Dr. MLK Jr]

Introduction: Your recent Op Ed “The Past never dies or disappears”

This provides an absolutely perfect context to adopt Dr. Kings mission and make it our own today. We can pick up the standard and do everything we are able to complete this mission- It is in our power.[With God’s Grace]

I read your recent Op- Ed. I am very grateful that you went on the record and named the 4 African Americans who were enslaved in the United States and explained the decisions to install the Plaque and retire the Crest. I humbly and whole heartedly endorse these insights:

“...The past never dies or disappears,” Faust wrote. “It continues to shape us in ways we should not try to erase or ignore. In more fully acknowledging our history, Harvard must do its part to undermine the legacies of race and slavery that continue to divide our nation.”

President Faust, along with Georgia Rep. John Lewis, who holds an honorary degree from Harvard, will install the plaque on the Wadsworth House April 6. It will recognize Bilhah, Venus, Titus, and Juba — four slaves who worked for previous university presidents prior to the end of slavery in Massachusetts in 1783.

“...While we accept the request to change the shield, we do so on the understanding that the School will actively explore other steps to recognize rather than to suppress the realities of its history, mindful of our shared obligation to honor the past not by seeking to erase it, but rather by bringing it to light and learning from it,” their letter said.

I realize I have written on these events earlier, but the more I read, study and think about what we have come through, where we stand today and where we are headed. I feel the more we appear to successfully close the chasm of racial inequality, the more we become aware of the deep divisions that still divide communities in so many domains with devastating effects on the health and wellbeing of all of the people in the USA particularly people of color.

!

I would like to humbly recommend that between now and the planned conference in 2017 we need to review the call for action in this inspired sermon delivered by Dr. Martin. L. King Jr in the renowned Riverside Church on April 4 1967 and prepare detailed plans for effective transformative strategies. Tomorrow will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this profound and instructive sermon. I have attached the full text and am providing excerpts:

1. A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual societies. {Refer to R. Tagore’s poem “Where the mind is without fear”

*VM} This call for a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all men "A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies.*

- 2. ... On the one hand, we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, **but that will be only an initial act.** [If I may suggest similar to installing the Plaque and retiring the Crest] **One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway.** True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."*
- 3. ...**We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today.** We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked and dejected with a lost opportunity. The "tide in the affairs of men" does not remain at the flood; it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is deaf to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residue of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words : "Too late."*
- 4. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace . . . and justice throughout the developing world — a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act we shall surely be dragged down the long dark and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight. Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter— but beautiful — struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response.*
- 5. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men, and we send our deepest regrets?*
- 6. Or will there be another message, of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost?*
- 7. The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.*
- 8. And if we will only make the right choice, we will be able to transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of peace. If we will make the right choice, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.*
- 9. If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when "justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." It will be 50 years ago tomorrow April 4<sup>th</sup> that Dr. King delivered this exceptional sermon on spiritual reawakening and political revolution beyond Vietnam.*

## II

In this section I want to share the historical perspective that I have developed to inform people in the community at large and among HC professionals about the roots and the long shadows cast by Slavery and Jim Crow on in pervasive and in some instant pernicious ways.

1. Racism and economics "The Half Has Never Been Told," Edward E. Baptist
2. The Architecture of White Supremacy still evokes pain
3. Architecture- Constructing Inequality
4. Architecture of inequality

- [5. Civil War and Resource material for Sept 2015 conference.](#)
- [6. Race, Culture and Urban design](#)
- [7. Race- 06 18 15](#)
- [8. Race – The Nation 3](#)
- [9. Materials on Race Relations](#)
- [10. Race based prejudice in the USA](#)
- [11. Race- Criminal Justice- Fact Sheet NAACP](#)

### III.

- [1. Race, racial discrimination and health outcomes](#)
- [2. Disparities- Poverty-race-culture- sources of Information](#)
- [3. Culture Race Disparities RFI: I was a member of a Team that prepared the response to the RFI](#)
- [4. Disparities- preparation for RFI response to National institute of Minority health and Disparities \[NIMHD\]– one of the National Institutes of Health \[NIH\]](#)
- [5. Race and Race Based Discrimination](#)
- [6. \*\*Disparities and Racism PPP\*\* – short presentation to generate discussion- I used in the attachment- “ Civil War – Letter and resource material” during the discussion particularly- The Americans: Daniel J. Boorstin, ‘Negroland’ by Margo Jefferson, 'Black Man in a White Coat, Ta-Nehisi Coates’s ‘Between the World and Me’ this is in addition to all the Surveys, Population based research and evidence based research.](#)

[I welcome your responses.](#)

[I remain,](#)

[Yours sincerely and most respectfully,](#)

[Velandy Manohar, MD.,](#)

[Distinguished Life Fellow- AM. Psychiatric Association](#)