

The Starbucks to Jailhouse Pipeline

Chicago Responds to Black Men of Philadelphia Arrested for
"Drinking Coffee While Black" with Starbucks



BOYCOTT!

By Phillip Jackson, Chairman, The Black Star Project

Everybody loves Starbucks and we do too! But this effort is about more than loving Starbucks. It is about how corporate America has conspired to do little or nothing as Black Americans exist in a policy-enforced, downward, social and economic spiral that will virtually wipe out every penny of median Black household wealth by the year 2053. Every penny!!! Currently, the median Black household wealth is \$1,700.00 and the median White household wealth is \$117,000.00.

All of these things together -- dirty schools and ineffective education for Black children; massive under-employment and unemployment for Black people; hyper-incarceration through the school house to jail house pipeline (and now the Starbucks to jail house pipeline) -- contribute to the rapid social and economic demise of Black people in America.

American wealth was produced off the backs of and lives of Black slaves. That wealth was passed down, directly or indirectly, to almost all White families today. We do not want White America to feel guilty, we want White America to understand that their advantage and their privilege of today is related to Black pain, sorrow, exploitation and death of yesterday. We

are not asking for guilt, just constructive engagement in righting this historical wrong and its evil financial manifestations today.

Corporate America owes Black America!!! Today it is Starbucks. Tomorrow Walgreens, General Motors, United Airlines, Target, Bank of America, Coca Cola, Aramark, Facebook, Amazon, Silicon Valley and so on. America's wealth and success today can be directly or indirectly connected to the enslavement and destruction of Black Americans in the past. And in so many ways, much of it is still happening today.

Black Americans systematically learn less, earn less, save less, dream less, are sick faster, die more, are incarcerated more, and are under-employed and unemployed more than any other group in America. This is no accident nor is there any structural plan for this to be different, ever.

Corporate America must get in the fight to help create and finance a "Marshall-type" plan for Black America. After all, their early actions helped to put Black Americans in our current condition. When Black men are arrested for drinking coffee while Black, corporate America must be challenge to change America!

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