

To me, racial justice means that we dismantle institutionalized racism. It means that people of color feel safe in our community and everywhere, able to pursue their hopes and dreams and livelihood on equal footing. It means we see how the history of slavery has echoed through the centuries creating a society where racism is so deeply ingrained in our institutions (criminal justice and otherwise) and in our minds, even when we don't want it to be. Racial justice means we do everything in our power to change this. It is important that in doing this work, white folks, like myself, take the lead from and are accountable to People of Color. H.492 and S.116 have been created and tirelessly advocated for by People of Color lead organizations. Speaking to the white folks in the Senate and House who comprise the majority there--it is crucial that we follow the lead of People of Color and pass this into law. The lives of our fellow black humans and ultimately, the freedom of us all, depend on it.

-Rebecca Dalgin, Montpelier