

# A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to share with you *Making Black Lives Matter: Confronting Anti-Black Racism*, edited by Kevin Cokley.

This book is extremely important to all of us at Cognella. The idea for it was borne in the summer of 2020 in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. As a company and as individuals, we were enraged and heartbroken by the senseless violence, the lives lost, and the horrific reminders that systemic racism is alive and well in our communities and our institutions.

While it has always been important for us as a publisher to give a voice to historically underrepresented authors in academia, we knew we could do even more. We wanted to leverage what we do best—publishing—and also make a difference in a meaningful way. We decided we could make a significant impact by publishing a free ebook that highlights the contemporary battle for equity and the lived experiences of those in the Black community.

We asked renowned scholar and psychologist Kevin Cokley, Ph.D., if he'd be interested in editing the book. We were elated when he said yes, and his vision and partnership have been invaluable. *Making Black Lives Matter* has transformed from a kernel of an idea into a timely and essential book that features chapters written by Black scholars, practitioners, activists, and students. It explores the history and contemporary circumstances of anti-Black racism, offers powerful personal anecdotes, and provides recommendations and solutions to challenge anti-Black racism in its various manifestations. In short, it's the book we all need, here and now.

*Making Black Lives Matter* is a book that is meant to be shared. Our goals in publishing this book were to amplify the voices of those who need to be heard and to provide readers free access to critical scholarship on a topic that affects their everyday lives. We're proud to provide free digital copies of the book to anyone who wants to read it.

In the spirit of sharing knowledge, send *Making Black Lives Matter* to your friends, family, and colleagues. Discuss it in your next book club. Read the book to deepen your personal understanding of anti-Black racism in America and to cultivate or nurture your own anti-racist practices.

If you're an educator, use this material in your courses. There's no permission needed; start using it today if you're so inclined. Share copies with peers at your institution. Leverage the material to support your institution's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

The only restrictions imposed upon this content are as follows: 1) no person or entity has the right to sell this book, or any portion of it, for profit; and 2) if you are a professor

and using the book in your courses, the chapters are intended to be used in full. Please refrain from cutting and pasting or excerpting to ensure the integrity of the material is maintained.

We can't express enough gratitude to Kevin Cokley and the phenomenal contributors who were willing to share their experiences, expertise, and unique viewpoints to bring this book to life. Additionally, this project has been fueled and championed by the passion of the Cognella team, who have worked hard to publish a project that we hope will support the greater good. A special thank you to Emely Villavicencio for designing a gorgeous, award-winning cover and Kassie Graves for her editorial leadership.

And while this book is an exceptional achievement for all involved, and we couldn't be more optimistic about its potential impact on educators, institutions, individuals, and champions for change, we know that the work is not done. The fight for true equity is a marathon, not a sprint, and we will continue to do our part to promote justice and change at Cognella for all underrepresented and marginalized groups, today and every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bassim', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bassim Hamadeh  
Founder and CEO