



#BannedWords

What are Trump's #BannedWords and why do they matter?

On September 22, 2020, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13950, titled "[Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping](#)," which bans racial justice work in federal government. This ban extends to all federal employees, agencies, contracts, and grants.

In particular, the Order directs federal employees to look for certain keywords and to take action to end any programs, grants, or contracts that include them and punish any employees who use them. **The #BannedWords include: "systemic racism", "unconscious bias", "critical race theory", "white privilege", "positionality", "racial humility", and "intersectionality."**

Within weeks of the Executive Order, hundreds of anti-racist programs were cancelled. Countless more have been pulled. Trump's intention is to attempt to stop a historically unprecedented racial justice movement in its tracks by censoring the language that we use to name racism. Each of these #BannedWords illuminate racism's broad and deep impacts. **We can't end racism if we can't name it.**

Because of our justice movements, these #BannedWords have become part of everyday language. According to our research, U.S. media used the words "systemic racism" more in June 2020 than in the previous 30 years combined. This is because the majority of Americans recognize and want to have measured, meaningful conversations about the historic and continuing impact of white privilege and racism.

Trump's Executive Order is anti-free speech, anti-American, and anti-freedom. Yet if it is not rescinded, it could have a chilling effect on racial justice work far beyond federal government, potentially impacting businesses, arts institutions, schools, and universities.

Race Forward is organizing in communities, governments, the arts and culture sector, education, and everywhere racial justice work is done to prevent this from taking place. **Join us in fighting to stop Trump's Executive Order!** Call on the Biden administration to rescind the Order and issue a new EO [centering racial justice](#) in all of its work.

What can you do?

- Have your organization join hundreds of others in signing [our open letter](#) supporting conversation and action to end racism in all American institutions.
- [Subscribe to our email newsletter](#) to learn more about how you can join the fight against systemic racism.
- Join our **#BannedWords campaign**.
- Use the hashtag **#BannedWords** to tell your stories in social media about how you use these banned words to fight racism
- Use the hashtag **#BannedWords** to ask the Biden Administration to rescind the EO and issue a new one that centers racial justice in all of its work.

VISIT OUR #BANNEDWORDS CAMPAIGN PAGE: <http://raceforward.org/bannedwords>



For Social Media

Here you will find suggested social media posts and hashtags – we encourage you to post these messages across your social platforms, using the campaign hashtag and banned terms as much as possible. Instead of being silenced, help us amplify these critical concepts and move the national conversation about race *forward*.

Social handle

@RaceForward

Campaign Hashtag

#BannedWords

Banned Terms

#SystemicRacism
#Intersectionality
#UnconsciousBias
#White Privilege

Sample Posts and Tweets (For Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram)

- Share how the Executive Order may have impacted you. (If you do, you should also use the hashtag #TruthBeTold.)
- Shoot a video explaining how you use these banned words to fight racism.
- Have a discussion with a friend using as many banned words as you can.
- Talk about why you are committed to fighting for racial justice.
- Be creative!

Some suggested language for your posts:

To fight against racism, we must be able to talk about it. Trump's exec order banning terms like #SystemicRacism, #Intersectionality & #WhitePrivilege aims to reverse the progress Americans have made in facing our country's history & practicing anti-racism. @Transition46 #BannedWords

Thrilled to see @RaceForward introduce their #BannedWords campaign at #FacingRace today, pushing back on the White House exec order banning diversity training, concepts, & terms like #SystemicRacism, #UnconsciousBias, & #Intersectionality. @Transition46

More than ever before, Americans are seeking meaningful ways to talk about race and anti-racism work. The White House ban on terms like #SystemicRacism, #Intersectionality, & #UnconsciousBias is an attempt to censor those conversations. @RaceForward @Transition46 #BannedWords

The Trump Admin says terms like #SystemicRacism, #UnconsciousBias, and #whiteprivilege are divisive; but if we can't name it we can't change it. @RaceForward @Transition46 #BannedWords

Trump has banned antiracism training & work w/in the federal gov. But Americans know we can't end racism if we can't talk about it. Join @RaceForward. Let's talk about #intersectionality, #SystemicRacism, and #UnconsciousBias. @Transition46 #BannedWords

To the Biden administration: Rescind Trumps #BannedWords EO 13950! And honor the BIPOC vote by issuing an Executive Order to center racial justice in all your work! <http://bit.ly/46racialjusticeplatform>

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