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The Attack on CRT & Anti-Racism is a Threat to Our Democracy

In June of 2020, during the summer of racial reckoning after the world recoiled upon seeing the vicious murder of George Floyd by police officer Derek Chauvin, Americans responded unequivocally with the largest protests in U.S. history. Over twenty million people joined Black Lives Matter in the streets prompting difficult conversations about systemic racism and historical and contemporary violence against Black people. This tremendous outpouring of support for racial justice was swiftly met, however, with a right-wing propaganda war on Critical Race Theory (CRT), antiracist education, diversity equity inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and the truth about this nation's history and present. Conservative think tanks began organizing a racial backlash, [clawing back racial justice progress with an onslaught of anti-CRT legislation banning the discussion of racism and sexism in the nation's public K-12 classrooms](#). Our students, educators, and multiracial democracy have suffered greatly because of this coordinated and well-financed disinformation campaign. And the proliferating campaign against anti-racism doesn't stop there. The attacks on CRT and "Don't Say Racism" bills have evolved into "Don't Say Gay" bills, gender injustices, and an anti-semitic culture of violent threats.

We saw the deadly logical conclusion to which white nationalism leads when an 18 year-old radicalized white supremacist drove over 200 miles on May 14, 2022 to slaughter Black people at the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York. Ten Black Americans were massacred that day. It is well known that the 18-year-old terrorist —fully a 21st century product born and raised after Jim Crow segregation was declared unconstitutional — posted a hate-filled manifesto online that professed allegiance to the global conspiracy doctrine known as [the great replacement theory](#). The Buffalo massacre drives home the horrifying reality that we must once again live under the threat that racial terrorism can take our lives at any place, at any time.

African American Policy Forum

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