

NEWSLETTER

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



## Day Eleven - Environmental Justice

Despite wanting the best for their families, people with limited means are often less geographically mobile, and have fewer affordable choices when deciding where to live. Their voices are not often heard in society's decision-making process. This has led to residents with low incomes, and often also people of color, living in areas with high rates of air and water pollution, such as industrial areas, near highways, or in close proximity to toxic waste sites.

Studies have shown that people of color are exposed to more pollutants than white people. Pollution and particulate matter exposure have been linked to asthma, low birth weights, high blood pressure, and other adverse health outcomes. This is environmental racism.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, an Associate Professor at Michigan State University, used science to prove that children in Flint were exposed to lead and went public with her findings to bring light to the crisis. Her book, [What the Eyes Don't See](#) is her first-hand account of how the crisis unfolded. [Watch her TEDMED talk to learn more](#) (16:06 minutes).

## Today's Challenge

**Option 1:** Read The [Atlantic's coverage](#) (10 minute read) of the EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment's 2018 report that showed how people of color are more likely to experience exposure to pollutants.

**Option 2:** [Have you heard of environmental racism?](#) Watch this 3-minute video on how numerous systemic issues contribute to differences in exposure to potentially harmful environmental conditions.

**Option 3:** Check out the [Principles of Environmental Justice](#) (3 minute read) developed at the National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit with help from Dr. Dorceta E. Taylor, University of Michigan professor and Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for The School for Environment and Sustainability.

**Option 4:** Listen to [Mustafa Santiago Ali](#) (10:37 minute podcast), former EPA staffer on why marginalized communities deserve a voice in environmental policy.

## UWMI Staff Pick

No staff pick today.

Tomorrow's topic: [Wealth Gap and Financial Stability](#)

