

## Statement from the Steinem Sisters Collection - Toledo Lucas County Public Library

“racism and sexism are intertwined . . . and cannot be uprooted separately.” — Gloria Steinem, *My Life on the Road*

The Steinem Sisters Collection was created in 2014 as an intersectional feminist lending library established to honor the work of Gloria Steinem and be a space for feminist education and activism. As intersectional feminists, we believe that we cannot address sexism without addressing all forms of oppression, including racism. Therefore, the Steinem Sisters Collection and The Steinem Sisters Advisory Board affirm the truth that Black lives matter and stand in solidarity with the peaceful protests happening throughout our community and country.

We continue to denounce all forms of historical oppression, systemic racism and discrimination through our work and our collection at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. However, something has been missing in this narrative of police violence and systemic racism - the stories of Black women. Two months before George Floyd died on that Minneapolis street, a Black woman named Breonna Taylor was shot at least 8 times while she was sleeping when a group of Louisville Metro Police officers broke down her door and entered her home without identifying themselves. However, Breonna’s name is not one that you often hear in the news and no justice has come to her family. We invite you to say her name and to say the names of other Black women killed in incidents of police violence. Please visit [#SayHerName](#), a project from the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies and The African American Policy Forum whose mission is to give voice to these women, so their names will never be forgotten.

Gloria Steinem is quoted as saying, “I’m using my torch to light other people’s torches. If we each have a torch, there’s a lot more light.” We hope you will find solace and light in the over 500 feminist books housed in the Steinem Sisters Collection and use that light to create meaningful change and dialogue as we work together to fight racism and all other forms of oppression.