How To Give

For secure online giving, visit: https://tinyurl.com/mpvarnl

This short web address will redirect you to the right location within Brown’s secure giving site to donate to the Center.

You can also give by check or credit card using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Contact Info

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Visit us in our renovated 19th-century house, which includes a gallery exhibition space, the stunning glass wall art piece Rising to Freedom, and a symbolic garden. To learn more about the work of the Center, please visit: brown.edu/slaveryjustice

Friends of CSSJ support the Center’s efforts to foster deeper understandings about the issues of justice, human rights, and freedom today. By becoming a Friend of the Center, your generosity will allow CSSJ to continue to convene innovative scholarly and community education programs that encourage conversation and reflection on the history of slavery and contemporary issues of bondage.

“We were both involved in the civil rights movement as Brown students in the ’60s. The Rev. John Crocker and Professor Peter McGrath taught us about social justice and strategies of protest against unjust laws. This experience shaped our professional careers through the years. The development of the Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice rekindled our desire to join Brown’s continuing effort to be true to the human complexities of its past while holding out the promise of a more inclusive and just community on campus and beyond.

The work of the Center is part of the distinctive mission of Brown and helps to make our University unique. We urge you to join with us and become a Friend of the Center.”

—Friends of CSSJ Co-chairs,
Ann Coles ’63 and Tom Bale ’63

Center for the Study of SLAVERY & JUSTICE
Who We Are

The Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ) is a scholarly research center with a public humanities mission. Recognizing that racial and chattel slavery were central to the historical formation of the Americas and the modern world, CSSJ creates a space for the interdisciplinary study of the historical forms of slavery while also examining how these legacies shape our contemporary world. The Center’s work is currently organized around the following research clusters:

A COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF SLAVERY: a collaborative project between CSSJ and Harvard University, focused on creating a network of scholars from a variety of national and international institutions focused on the history of slavery.

EDUCATION AND RACE: focuses on questions that explore the implications for policy and pedagogy when we deepen our knowledge about the intersections between race, racism, schools and other forms of social inequality.

FREEDOM ARCHIVE: creates an inventory of materials in Brown University Library’s Special Collections related to slavery and abolition to help scholars more easily access them.

GLOBAL CURATORIAL PROJECT: as exhibition and curatorial project presents both the global interconnectedness of Atlantic slavery and the slave trade, as well as illuminates an alternative view about the history of our global modernity.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: explores contemporary forms of human bondage and engages in public programing around this issue.

IN THE RED AND THE BLACK: examines how Africans and Native Americans along the northern Atlantic seaboard and in the early Caribbean interacted – exchanging knowledge and beliefs about plants and material culture.

INVESTIGATING THE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM: focuses on prisons and relations between the police and communities of color.

RACE, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: examines how historical understandings of race, many rooted in racial understandings of the black body during the times of slavery influence our contemporary health landscape today.

What We Do

Brown has become the model and the standard bearer for the nation’s most prestigious universities when it comes to confronting historical ties to slavery. Other universities take inspiration from the rigorous work of the 2006 report of the Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice that gave rise to CSSJ. As the public history of slavery is developed by museums and institutions worldwide, CSSJ is central to efforts to interpret and grapple with the history and legacy of slavery. CSSJ’s work supports both scholarly research initiatives and community programming. Our support of innovative new scholarly work on race, health, social justice, historical injustices, and democracy has a deep impact on some of the most complex issues of the 21st century. The CSSJ also convenes community programming, including youth education and empowerment programming, teacher training on the history and legacies of slavery, and public projects that seek to share the history of people of color through educational markers throughout the state of Rhode Island.

What Your Gift Supports

PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROGRAMMING

Your gift will help support the Center’s public humanities programming. CSSJ’s public humanities work aims to share a more nuanced understanding of the past and connect the public to this history through gallery and traveling exhibitions; outreach and educational programs for teachers and local students; and community initiatives that seek to publicly acknowledge the history and legacies of the slave trade. Additionally, the Center is a leading partner in the Global Curatorial Project, a partnership with seven of the foremost museums in the world including the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. This project is re-envisioning curatorial practice and how museums work with communities.

CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH IN PRESSING AREAS

Your gift will help support the Center’s scholarly work by supporting researchers and students who are investigating some of the most pressing contemporary issues and historically rooted problems. These issues include how economic and social conditions produce poor health and intersect with structural racism; examining the relationship of historical injustice to democracy; unearthing and exploring the varieties and importance of the interactions between captive and free Africans and Native Americans along the northern Atlantic seaboard and the Caribbean; exploring the implications for teaching and educational policy where school systems intersect with race, racism, and other forms of social inequality; bringing together scholars of slavery with different regional specializations to inform traditional comparative debates; and enhancing the research capacity of the Center and the University by supporting the acquisition of rare archives of movements and important personalities that have made contributions to social justice.