



Defending Racial Equity: The impact of U.S. Supreme Court rulings on our shared vision



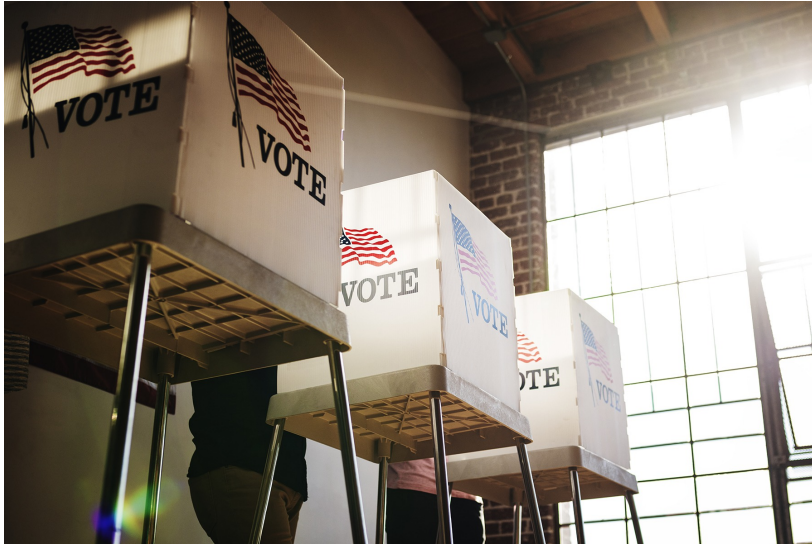
A just and equitable world is every child's birthright.

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) will release a series of rulings that are likely to have a generational impact on the work of racial equity in this country. So far, SCOTUS has upheld a key provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Rulings on a pair of cases on affirmative action in higher education will be issued later this month.

The cases are part of a concerted effort to undo policies, practices, and remedies that address systemic racism. For all who are dedicated to advancing our country's journey toward racial equity, this is an important moment to engage. As the decisions are released, we will update this page with new information about the cases, and resources on the impact of the decisions and share WKKF grantee reflections.



Background on U.S. Supreme Court Cases



Voting Rights

On June 8, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision for *Allen v. Milligan* in favor of Black voter representation in the state of Alabama. The opinion upholds Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits voting policies that dilute voter strength based on race. Due to this ruling, race can be considered in redistricting processes to ensure Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color have equal voting power at all levels of government. Moving forward, the fight for voting rights continues as we ensure Alabama and other states redraw their maps to be fairer, and more equitable for communities of color.

Reactions to the ruling:

W.K. Kellogg Foundation (<https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2023/06/allen-v-milligan-statement-on-voting-rights/>)

Legal Defense Fund (<https://www.naacpldf.org/press-release/historic-win-u-s-supreme-court-rules-alabamas-congressional-map-violates-the-voting-rights-act-by-diluting-black-political-power/>)

Alabama Values (<https://files.constantcontact.com/e47f9e7e801/52a8f704-b4ac-4e3d-99c9-1aa344e1beeb.pdf>)

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (<https://civilrights.org/2023/06/08/civil-rights-coalition-praises-supreme-courts-decision-to-protect-freedom-to-vote-renews-call-for-congressional-action-to-restore-the-voting-rights-act/>)

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (<https://www.lawyerscommittee.org/supreme-court-decision-in-allen-v-milligan-is-a-win-for-democracy/>)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (<https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/press-release/asian-americans-advancing-justice-aajc-applauds-court-decision-major-redistricting>)





Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

On June 15, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Haaland v. Brackeen* that rejected all challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The opinion upholds the constitutionality of ICWA, a 43-year-old federal law that protects the well-being and best interests of Indigenous children and families and affirms Tribal sovereignty over Native child welfare matters. Moving forward, states must protect and prioritize the safety and well-being of Native children and their families by incorporating ICWA into state laws.

Reactions to the ruling:

W.K. Kellogg Foundation (<https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2023/06/statement-on-icwa-ruling/>)

National Indian Child Welfare Association (<https://www.nicwa.org/press-release/in-a-major-win-for-native-families-supreme-court-upholds-the-constitutionality-of-icwa/>)

Protect ICWA
(https://d1fdloi71mui9q.cloudfront.net/UdsUXovTSNqpEnpBHsJw_ICWA%20Decision%20Day%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf)

Native American Rights Fund (<https://narf.org/protect-icwa-statement/>)

National Congress of American Indians (<https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2023/06/15/protect-icwa-campaign-initial-statement-on-brackeen-supreme-court-decision>)

NDN Collective (<https://ndncollective.org/ndn-collective-breathes-sigh-of-relief-re-icwa-decision/>)





Affirmative Action

Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard and SFFA v. University of North Carolina (UNC) focus on race-conscious admissions, known as affirmative action, and diversity in higher education. In both cases, SFFA asks the Court to overturn more than 40 years of precedent and prohibit the consideration of race in admissions for public and private universities. The removal of race as a factor in college admissions decreases student diversity across college campuses and disregards the systemic hurdles that students of color face on the path to receiving their college education.

Find out more about why these cases matter from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. (<https://www.naacpldf.org/case-issue/sffa-v-harvard-faq/>)

What does it mean to be in solidarity for racial equity?

Hear from the members of the Solidarity Council on Racial Equity (SCoRE) about how we all play a role – both as individuals and collectively – to come together and inspire others to dismantle racial injustices.

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Additional Resources

Below find additional resources from WKKF and its grantee partners that may be helpful for learning more about these court cases; their impact on children, families and communities; and taking action in support of racial equity your own community

▶ **Toolkits**

▶ **Racial Equity in the Business Community**
