

HEALTH HAPPENS IN YOUTH MEDIA

Special Edition:

California youth respond to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the killing of Trayvon Martin.

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[Youth Media for Building Healthy Communities](#): Each week in the 14 BHC places, young people knit together experiences at school, at work, at home and in their neighborhoods to tell stories about how health happens.



Myles Bess is a 17 year-old African American, the same age as Martin. Since the Zimmerman verdict, Myles has been searching for solutions to what he sees as racial injustice in America, and starts to find some answers in a dialogue with black men, young and old. This report aired on [NPR's All Things Considered](#) is on the week's [Youth Radio Podcast](#).

A Richmond teen reacts to the “not guilty” verdict: the overwhelming feeling is that black and brown people are not respected by the law. Read Monet Boyd's column, “*For the colored boys in the black hoodies,*” on [Richmond Pulse](#).

Bianca Brooks is troubled by the media and public responses to the outcome of Zimmerman's trial, saying many are framing the issues surrounding this case as black and white, instead of focusing on what can be done to protect future Trayvon Martins — like working to end Florida's Stand Your Ground law and others like it. “*This week should be about honoring Trayvon's memory, consoling his family, and rallying to change the “Stand Your Ground” law. Instead, it has turned into an ideological race war, using Trayvon Martin as a means to confirm our own prejudices against one another.*” [Youth Radio](#).

Merced youth reporters reached out to their peers to get a better idea of the local reaction to the verdict. “*The verdict in this trial sends a negative message to young people of color because it shows that racial stereotypes are still around.*” [We'Ced](#).

Born and raised in Oakland, a young reporter feels a vivid connection to the dialogue, characters and story in the film “Fruitvale Station,” especially in light of the Zimmerman verdict. “*Covering the Oscar Grant saga so closely, taught me a lesson about becoming emotionally involved in the doings of America's justice system.*” [Youth Radio](#).

In the midst of protests, conversations and soul-searching, VoiceWaves Youth Reporters discuss issues of race,

profiling, and how prejudice has affected the way they view other people. What are the lessons we should learn from this experience? And the reporters try to tackle the hardest question, What Now? Their conversations are on [Voicewaves](#).

A birthday party was taking place when one Oakland youth got the news about Zimmerman's "not guilty" verdict. Not surprised, but still defeated, young people marched in Oakland, unsure what to do next. [Youth Radio](#).

During a disorganized protest after Zimmerman's acquittal, the windows of Youth Radio's downtown Oakland office were smashed. Youth Radio participants describe their feelings in response, and say they will keep working despite the vandalism. *"I felt betrayed, because what we do is so in line with...what people are protesting for."* Read more on [Youth Radio](#).

[A panel discussion on KALW's Your Call](#), about how the Zimmerman case is affecting communities of color, featured [Youth Radio](#) producer Brandon McFarland and others.

In 2012, immediately after Trayvon Martin's murder, youth media responded:

Youth in San Diego participated in a Candlelight Vigil. *"I walk home sometimes, and this could happen to me."* Watch a video produced by the [Teen Producers](#) at [Media Arts Center](#) San Diego.

Oakland youth related their own experiences to Trayvon Martin's story. *"Being young and black, you're always looked at, you're always suspicious."* [Youth Radio](#).

A collection of multiracial voices comment on the Trayvon Martin tragedy and its aftermath. *"I do understand Florida's laws may be different to those we have in California but that does not change the fact that a grown man killed a teenager for no relevant reason."* [Richmond Pulse](#).

As the shooting of a black teenager in Florida continues to spark national dialogue, Oakland youth relate their own experiences to Trayvon Martin's story. *"Being young and black, you're always looked at, you're always suspicious."* [Youth Radio](#).

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