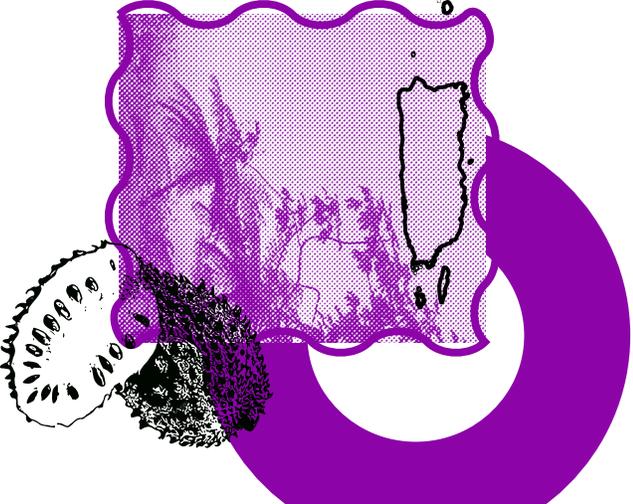


*Aqui que passa
Power is,
What's happening
Aqui to be called
Negrito
y Negrita
Means to be called
LOOSE. ♡*

"Puertorican Obituary" poem excerpt
Pedro Pietri



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BLACK LIVES MATTER
that includes
PUERTO RICAN LIVES
So let Abuelita know-
When she hears folk chanting

The Afro-Latinx experience in New York can be traced back to the late 19th century with Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a Puerto Rican historian, writer, and activist of German and African descent, who opened The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This zine intends to remind Puerto Ricans of the existence and work of folks such as Schomburg. Folks who found links between their lived experiences as Black Puerto Ricans and the experiences of Black Americans especially during the Great Migration in which Black Americans and Puerto Ricans simultaneously migrated to the north. It is only with this history in mind that we can fight Anti-Blackness as it is a seed that demands for us to water it in order to grow. A seed planted by colonialism. A seed which continues to sprout unless we combat the violence against Black people of all experiences within both the United States and Puerto Rico beginning with **1. Violence against Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Folks**

In Puerto Rico, much like in the United States, we are seeing an increased violence directed at trans and gender non-conforming folk. This violence is directly fueled by the hateful rhetoric of Politicians:

UNITED STATES	PUERTO RICO
Donald Trump, the President in support of North Carolina's Transphobic House Bill (a law which requires residents to use the bathroom that matches the gender on their birth certificate)	900 pages of Telegram texts were shared of Ricardo Rosselló, Governor, and Cabinet members exchanging homophobic messages.

It is leadership such as this that fuels violence against the Transgender Community*:

UNITED STATES	PUERTO RICO
Nina Pop's death, marked the 10th KNDOWN Trans killing in the US this year.	Alexa, also known as Neúlisa Luciano Ruiz, was the second Trans identifying person murdered in Puerto Rico this year.
Tony McDade was fatally shot by an officer of the Tallahassee Police Department.	Yampí Méndez Arochí marked the third homicide of a trans man in Puerto Rico this year.

and Mayor Bill De Blasio. On the night of curfew they both doubled the police presence from 4,000 to 8,000 officers and had them charging peaceful protestors from behind. Protestors were battered with batons and chased up to 8th avenue with pepper spray. Increase your Abuelita still doesn't see the parallels remind them that: Not only were the Young Lords, a self-professed Puerto Rican revolutionary nationalist organization, inspired by the Black Panther Party, 25% of their members were Black/African-American youth! To show the Black Panther Parties direct impact on the Young Lords one can look at how they adopted the Black Panther Party's 10 point program.

One of the points, The Free Food Program, was also formed to provide meals for ALL People of Color in need! Free food mutual-aid has since been adopted by most Bushwick organizations and The Free Breakfast Program has been implemented in Public Schools Permanently.

3. Police Violence Before and During Protests. At 9pm Puerto Rican Police told #RickyRenuncia protestors that they wanted the streets cleared. By 10pm they announced that their protesting would no longer be protected by the constitution as a pretext to what would then occur an hour later. Once 11pm struck police released tear-gas canisters and rubber bullets on non-violent protestors. To make the situation worse, police also blocked the streets so protestors could not leave. This is much like the day the 11pm curfew was set in NYC by Governor Andrew Cuomo

assault from 2004-2010. These cases, as documented by the ACLU, included broken jaws, traumatic brain injuries, and even death. It was also recorded that these victims were not resisting and a few were not even arrested after being brutally beaten. This is the level of force officers used during the #RickyRenuncia protests once curfew was instituted with only two hours notice.

(*There is little information shared regarding the cases of McDade and Aroch and both were misgendered in media reports.) Therefore when we yell Black Lives matter that includes the lives of Black Trans identifying folk! **WWW**

2. Targeting of Black Population Despite the history of racial mixing on the island, nearly 80% of Puerto Ricans identified as white on the 2010 census, which experts critiqued as both impossible and inaccurate especially considering how much the island's African ancestry influences their culture from the food to salsa music. This level of Anti-Blackness, and self-hate, feeds into how the police targets Puerto Rico's low income, Black and Dominican communities. According to Data provided by PRPD's Auxiliary Superintendency for Professional Responsibility, which oversees the internal administrative investigations of PRPD officers, civilians filed at least 1, 768 complaints against officers for excessive or unjustified force and

