REST IN POWER
THE TRAYVON MARTIN STORY

EPISODE ONE: STAND YOUR GROUND
THEME: Why do we feel unsafe?

HASHTAG: #TrayvonMartinStory

FEATURED GUESTS:
• Alan Jenkins, The Opportunity Agenda
• April Reign, #OscarsSoWhite
• Rashad Robinson, Color of Change

DESCRIPTION: The Opportunity Agenda has partnered with Paramount Network to examine the theme of safety and what values are enforced in its name. This guide, and the discussions stemming from its use, are meant to assist viewers in processing the content of the Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story docuseries and to spread awareness about the intersection and impact of racism on safety.

QUESTIONS:

1) Trayvon Martin’s brutal killing by George Zimmerman spurred a national conversation on race, racism and racial justice and ignited a powerful movement across the country. What impact did the news of Trayvon’s death have on you?

2) George Zimmerman maintained that he felt unsafe in the presence of an unarmed Black teenager. How do people’s backgrounds, experiences and pre-conceived notions in the U.S. shape the way they think about and experience safety?

3) The Twin Lakes gated community decided to institute a Neighborhood Watch because of safety concerns about the residents of local Section 8 subsidized low-income housing. What set of beliefs might that reflect?

4) Do you see instances in your community where racial and other stereotypes, rather than facts and evidence, might drive the creation of laws and programs like the Twin Lakes Neighborhood Watch decision? What should happen instead?

5) It was reported that Zimmerman had a history of calling the police on Black people. How does his behavior connect to our country’s history of vigilantism to assert control over people of color?

6) While developing arguments for the case, Zimmerman’s lawyers show a reluctance to ‘bring race into it’. Why is it important to have an open conversation about race and racism in our country? How can that help to promote safety for all? What are you doing to help that happen?