



# The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together

## Heather McGhee

Board chair, Color of Change, the nation's largest online racial justice organization. Former president of Demos, the inequality-focused think tank.  
Author, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*.

## U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren

First woman ever elected to the Senate from Massachusetts in 2012, and re-elected in 2018.  
Author of the bestsellers *This Fight Is Our Fight*, *A Fighting Chance*, *The Two-Income Trap*, and *All Your Worth*.

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7:00 PM Central**  
**[www.bit.ly/McGheeFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/McGheeFANWebinar)**

**AND: "The Sum of Us" book giveaway! Details on registration page.**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**,

in partnership with Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bennett Day School, Chiaravalle Montessori School, Compass Health Center, Connections for the Homeless, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, Foundation 65, Fusion Academy, Kenilworth D38, Latin School of Chicago, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Near North Montessori School, New Trier High School D203, New Trier Parents' Association, North Shore Country Day School, Pope John XXIII School, Porter-Gaud Parents' Association, Regina Dominican High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, Science and Arts Academy, St. Athanasius School PTO, Stevenson High School D125, VillageMD, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, and Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.).

This event is #freeandopentothe public and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+ [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HEATHER MCGHEE AND U.S. SENATOR ELIZABETH WARREN (D-MA)**  
**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7:00-8:00 PM, The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together, a FAN webinar feat. Heather McGhee. Interviewer: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). REGISTER: [www.bit.ly/McGheeFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/McGheeFANWebinar). **BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY!** FAN is giving away 500 copies of The Sum of Us to guests randomly selected from the Zoom attendance report. All details on the webinar registration page.**

**Heather McGhee's** specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?

Ms. McGhee embarks on a deeply personal journey across the country from Mississippi to California to Maine, tallying what we lose when we buy into the zero-sum paradigm—the idea that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others. Along the way, she meets white people who confide in her about losing their homes, their dreams, and their shots at better jobs to the toxic mix of American racism and greed. This is the story of how public goods in this country—from parks and pools to functioning schools—have become private luxuries; of how unions collapsed, wages stagnated, and inequality increased; and of how this country, unique among the world's advanced economies, has thwarted universal healthcare.

But in unlikely places of worship and work, Ms. McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend: gains that come when people come together across race, to accomplish what we simply can't do on our own.

***The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*** is Ms. McGhee's brilliant analysis of how we arrived here: divided and self-destructing, materially rich but spiritually starved and vastly unequal. She marshals economic and sociological research to paint an irrefutable story of racism's costs, but at the heart of the book are the humble stories of people yearning to be part of a better America, including white supremacy's collateral victims: white people themselves. With startling empathy, this heartfelt message from a Black woman to a multiracial America leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than zero-sum.

Ms. McGhee chairs the board of Color of Change, the nation's largest online racial justice organization. She is the past president and now Trustee Emeritus of the inequality-focused think tank Demos.

Ms. McGhee will be in conversation with **U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren**, who in 2012 became the first woman from Massachusetts elected to the United States Senate and was re-elected in 2018.

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