



Giraffe Heroes Project

#StickYourNeckOut

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Dear John,

As promised, seven more heroes for your Summer of 2021. This is *our* part of the work. Yours is helping us find more people who are sticking their necks out for the common good!

Look around you. Who are the people, male or female, making good change, no matter how hard it is? [Click here](#) to tell us about them. It's important because...

As long as there are Giraffes, there's hope.

—Ann Medlock Founder

*These are "teasers," quick looks at new Giraffe Heroes
people who are sticking their necks out for the common good.
For their full stories, click on their names, in blue.*



[Opal Lee](#) is largely responsible for making Juneteenth a national holiday, commemorating the day the last enslaved people in the United States were told that they had been freed—June 19, 1865. Born in 1926, retired public school teacher Lee has been a community organizer and a long-time campaigner for making Juneteenth a national holiday. To call attention to that day, she walked half miles a day for years, between her home in Texas and Washington DC, where Juneteenth was first made. She did that walk again on Juneteenth 2021, *a US national holiday*.



[Maximilienne C. Ngo Mbe](#) leads a Cameroon organization that promotes human rights and safety in Central Africa—including attorneys and journalists—from both governmental and non-governmental sources. She has been threatened and attacked, as has her group's headquarters. The danger is so great that she has moved her children out of the country for their safety.



Indian journalist [Priya Ramani](#) was sexually harassed during a job interview, but she didn't speak out until she wrote a magazine article almost 25 years after the incident, without naming the man. The following year, during the #MeToo movement, she let everyone know the person was a high-ranking official at the State for External Affairs, a former journalist. Other women soon made similar accusations. A lawsuit against Ramani for defamation. If he won, she could have gone to prison for two years. Instead, his refusal to settle, and a storm of social criticism aimed at her, Ramani was acquitted.



[Omari Salisbury](#), a Seattle talk show host and journalist to cover the 2020 protests, was physically and subjected to deafening blasphemous action on his cell phone. He intervened and physically helped protect anyone in need and saw his “coverage” picked up by the world. Salisbury’s commitment to his community—he’s never sold his soul.

[Bryan Stevenson](#) has used his Harvard law degree not to become wealthy but to represent and champion the wrongfully convicted and the condemned, returning them to their families and communities. He convinced the US Supreme Court to declare it unconstitutional to condemn children to death or to life imprisonment without parole, and he spearheaded the creation of the “National Lynching Museum,” determined to see that such horrors never happen again.



Immigration services officer [David Tuckman](#) assisting refugees—never mind rushing to a hospital, unable to help. He wouldn’t infect anyone, he returned. He’s been helping people since leading a teen.

Tuckman has run shelters in wilderness to fires and hurricanes, and trained Cross first aid and rescue techniques.

[Wang Yu](#) is a human rights attorney representing women, children, activists, and other people in China who have been deprived of their rights. She's been imprisoned, tortured, harassed, and continually threatened. The government has taken away her license to practice law but she continues to advise and assist Chinese citizens in trouble.



There.

*We've taken you around the world
giving you heroes far and wide.
We hope you're as heartened as we
by their courage and their compassion.*

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That storybank is on [our website](#),
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PO Box 759 Langley, WA 98260
Phone: 360-221-7989 | Fax: 360-221-7817



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