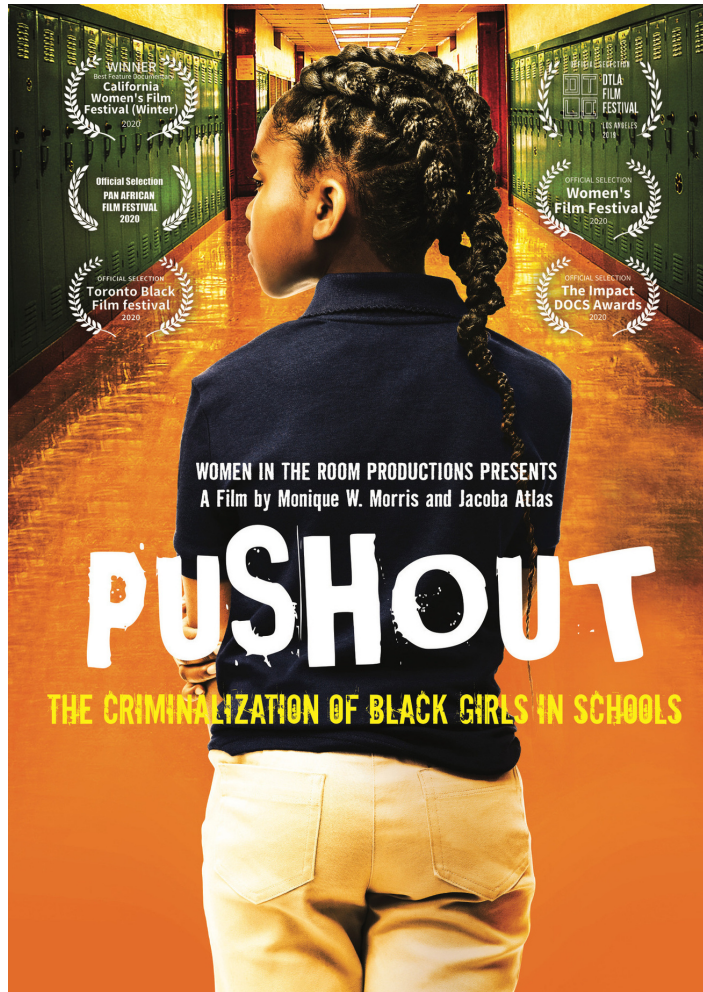


# PUSHOUT:

## A COMMUNITY DISCUSSION



### WHAT IS "PUSHOUT?"

Black girls are being **disciplined**, **suspended**, **arrested**, and **"pushed out"** of the K-12 school system at a higher rate than their white counterparts. This unjust system often creates **a pipeline to prison** for many Black girls.

**Pushout: The Criminalization Of Black Girls In Schools** explores not only the problem of this inequity, but seeks solutions from the community, the school system, and society to work towards change.

*Watch with us...*

**Saturday,  
July 10, 2021:**

**2:30-4:00pm via zoom**

Film *Not Rated*, (79 min.) (2019)

Watch anytime with your Malden, Boston, or Chelsea Public Library card at: <https://boston.kanopy.com/>

*Talk with us...*

**Saturday,  
July 10, 2021**

**4:30-6:00pm via zoom**

Erga Pierrette  
Moderator



### panelists



Jennifer Hedrington



Abdel Sepulveda



Alexandria Onuoha



Thora Henry

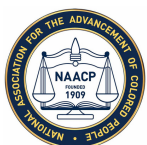


Eric Henry



Melanie Rush

**You Must Register For The Event At:** <https://bit.ly/3z8nRTY>



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**Erga Pierrette**  
**Moderator**

Erga Pierrette is a licensed clinical social worker who is passionate about social justice for all. She earned a BSW from Salem State University where she became the First Black female Student Trustee. She holds an MSW from Simmons University. Erga is a community organizer who is dedicated to disrupting racism and bringing people together. Erga is a co-convenor for Malden Community Organizing for Racial Equity (MaldenCORE), Co-chair Malden Cultural Council, President of IRACE, inc. This group organizes and facilitates the Pharnal Longus Race, Culture, and Ethnicity High School Workshop annually for students and educators. She believes that "it takes one person to make a difference but it takes a group of people to bring forth change!"



**Jennifer Hedrington**

Jennifer Hedrington is the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year 2021. She has been teaching for 16 years. While attending Law School, she found her calling to become an educator. Her teaching philosophy is teaching in color through the lenses of love, which allows her to educate the whole child while celebrating the uniqueness of each student. Jennifer understands that teachers are a powerful motivating force in the lives of students and have the ability to shape society's next superhero or villain.



**Alexandria Onuoha**

Alexandria Chidera Onuoha was raised in the Somerville and Cambridge area and now lives in Malden. She is an applied developmental psychology Ph.D. student at Suffolk University in Boston. Alexandria is also the Director of Political advocacy at Black Boston, which is a community organization that strives to prevent racial inequalities and promote solidarity among Black Bostonians. In her role, she leads a team that cultivates relationships with government officials and non-profit organizations and helps push legislation that will positively impact Black youth in Boston. Alexandria Onuoha is also an Afro-Caribbean and Modern dance artist who uses her art to promote the positive development of Black girls and women and promote social justice efforts. She has performed at the Bates Dance Festival and other concerts.



**Abdel Sepulveda**

Abdel Sepulveda is a student-centered instructional leader with sixteen years of experience in education. His passion for teaching the whole student is only second to his commitment to create a more equitable and just society where everyone feels they belong and has the resources they need to be successful. He believes that teaching is the most sacred profession in the world as it deals with the most precious subjects in our communities: our children. Abdel earned a bachelor's degree in Industrial Microbiology from the University of Puerto Rico and two master's degrees, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Art, from St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore. He also studied school administration at the Northeast Consortium for Staff Development. Abdel has previously been a classroom teacher for children and adults, a union representative, and an assistant principal. He has taught professional development seminars on culturally responsive teaching, trauma informed classrooms, and equity in education.



**Thora Henry**

Thora Henry is a Sophomore at Mystic Valley Regional Charter School in Malden, MA. Her favorite subjects are biology and Latin. Her hobbies include playing music (piano, ukelele, electric & acoustic guitar). She also enjoys soccer, cross country, and Krav Maga.





Eric Henry

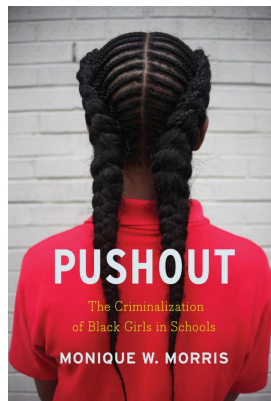
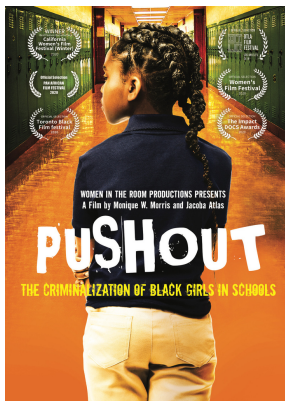
Eric Henry has lived in Malden for over 20 years. He has a BSEE from Northeastern University and is retired from the United States Navy. Currently he is a Sr. Operations Support Engineer at Eversource Inc. and he is the Founder of Mystic Valley Engineering Students Society (Junior Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers). Eric Henry is also a City of Malden Planning Board member, a United States Census worker, and the father of triplets with his wife Andrea.



Melanie Rush

Melanie Rush is a Research and Policy Assistant at the Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law & Justice. She graduated from Brandeis University summa cum laude with degrees in Politics and History, and a minor in Legal Studies. Before joining Massachusetts Appleseed, Melanie held research assistantships within the Brandeis Politics Department and the United Kingdom's House of Lords. She is passionate about utilizing research and advocacy to engage in essential social justice work and advocate on behalf of others.

**PUSHOUT: A Community Discussion** is based on the work of Dr. Monique W. Morris. Find out more about her documentary and books here:

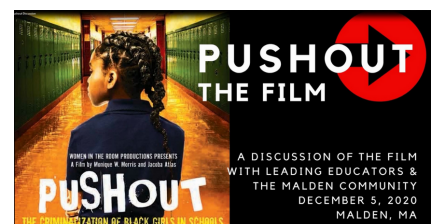


"Monique W. Morris, Ed.D. is an award-winning author and social justice scholar with three decades of experience in the areas of education, civil rights, juvenile and social justice. Dr. Morris is the author of *Sing A Rhythm, Dance A Blues: Education for the Liberation of Black and Brown Girls* (The New Press, 2019), which explores a pedagogy to counter the criminalization of Black and Brown girls in schools. She is also the author of *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (The New Press, 2016)."

[www.moniquewmorris.me](http://www.moniquewmorris.me)



You can also watch **PUSHOUT** on Kanopy with your current Malden, Boston, or Chelsea Public Library Card.



Watch our discussion of **PUSHOUT** from December 5, 2020 here: