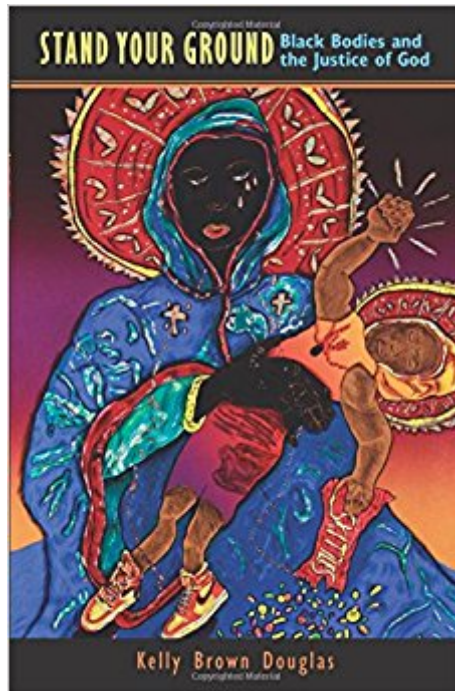




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# Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies And The Justice Of God



## Synopsis

"If Trayvon was of age and armed, could he have stood his ground on that sidewalk?" --President Barack Obama  
The 2012 killing of Trayvon Martin, an African-American teenager in Florida, and the subsequent acquittal of his killer, brought public attention to controversial "Stand Your Ground" laws. The verdict, as much as the killing, sent shock waves through the African-American community, recalling a history of similar deaths, and the long struggle for justice. On the Sunday morning following the verdict, black preachers around the country addressed the question, "Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?" This book is an attempt to take seriously social and theological questions raised by this and similar stories, and to answer black church people's questions of justice and faith in response to the call of God. But Kelly Brown Douglas also brings another significant interpretative lens to this text: that of a mother. "There has been no story in the news that has troubled me more than that of Trayvon Martin's slaying. President Obama said that if he had a son his son would look like Trayvon. I do have a son and he does look like Trayvon." Her book will also affirm the "truth" of a black mother's faith in these times of stand your ground.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The author strikes a good balance between political theology and analysis. Names in the news, including Michael Brown, combine with her own personal perspective as a mother to give the narrative poignancy and timeliness. Stand Your Ground raises important spiritual and social questions. --Publishers Weekly  
Douglas' book is a clarion call to all in the United States, regardless

of race, gender, class or faith, to acknowledge our sordid and painful past and to work together to transform the American dream of equality and opportunity into a reality for all. --National Catholic Reporter  
Kelly Brown Douglas is an accomplished scholar with a prophetic theological voice that speaks to Christians in the pews and the theological academy. --Christian Century

Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas is Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Director of the Religion Program at Goucher College, Baltimore, MD, where she holds the Susan D. Morgan Professorship of Religion. Prior to coming to Goucher College she was Associate Professor of Theology at Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, and served as Assistant Professor of Religion at Edward Waters College, Jacksonville, FL. A native of Dayton, OH, Dr. Douglas was ordained in 1985 at Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church --the first black woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest in the Southern Ohio Diocese, and one of only five nationwide at the time. In 2012 she was the first to receive the Anna Julia Cooper Award by the Union of Black Episcopalians for her "literary boldness and leadership in the development of a womanist theology and discussing the complexities of Christian faith in African-American contexts." Essence magazine counts her "among this country's most distinguished religious thinkers, teachers, ministers, and counselors." She is widely published in national and international journals. Her other books include *The Black Christ*, *What's Faith Got to Do with It?* (both from Orbis Books) as well as *Black Bodies/Christian Souls*, and *Black Bodies and the Black Church: A Blues Slant*. She is also co-editor of *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection*.

Excellent written and researched!!!! Kelly Brown did a masterful job at incorporating the "stand your ground" mentality to not just the current social disorder but the past sociological dysfunction of our nations past. Bravo!!!!

I was told of history I was not aware of. Reading this made me aware of why our justice system is so unjust.

Great Book. Our Book club read and discussed it. I would recommend it to everyone.

For my library collection and reading later.

Great book! A terrific expose on how the US got into the racial mess it's in.

It was a great buy.....love it and it came on time

Compelling

In this amazing book, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas traces the roots of "Stand Your Ground Culture" all the way back to 98CE, then brings it forward with the Pilgrims and traces its development to the present day. What's more, she puts her finger on the beliefs that provide a "sacred legitimating canopy" for the policies and procedures that lead to the prison-industrial complex. After this careful tracing of history, she spends the last third of the book looking at the transformational qualities of Black Christian faith, ending with how we all - white, black or in between - can use our moral imagination to live into a better world. Throughout the book, she avoids detouring into arcane arguments by highlighting her identity as the mother of a black son along with that of scholar and theologian to keep the book centered between feeling, believing, thinking and acting.

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