



White women ultimately became exempted from chain gang labour; there was legislation barring white women from chain gangs. They were the only demographic protected from carceral punishment in this way, this codifies the race/gender normativity and highlights the ways in which carcerality and punishment operate in service of white womanhood and how carceral gendering enforced both white women's superiority and black womans distance from innocence.

So then when we look at contemporary anti-racist politics, we look at the ways that black humanity and personhood continues to be evaluated through the impossible to obtain lens of innocence within the white liberal imagination. In *Against Innocence: Race, Gender and the Politics of Safety* Jackie Wang makes a constructive framework for black personhood and victimisation that resonates very deeply with me and sits at the bedrock of what we're talking about. She writes on this phenomenon saying that innocence becomes the precondition for launching antiracist campaigns.

Campaigns where empathy can only be established if and when black people can pass rigorous tests of moral purity so for example;

We can agree, for the most part, that Tamir Rice was egregiously victimised because he was a child. Empathy was a product of his youthfulness and that's the same with Aiyana Jones but Mike Brown was not enough of a victim because he may or may not have committed strong arm robbery. Darren Wilson's testimony added to the process of what Frank B. Wilderson III refers to as 'niggerization' we now know that Mike Brown did not commit strong arm robbery but whether or not he did, should not affect if we believe that extrajudicial assassination is suddenly a reasonable punishment for robbing a convenience store.

We did not however see this overwhelming outpouring of empathy for CeCe McDonald a black trans woman who was convicted of second degree manslaughter after killing an attacker that violently confronted her with first racist and transmysoginistic language and then smashed a drink against her face.

She accepted a plea bargain of 41 months in prison in 2012, served 19 months in two different mens facilities (which is another story) prior to her release in 2014. Given the epidemic of murders of Black trans Women, is defensive violence not warranted? Is she not innocent enough? What makes her less innocent (and we're not using these measures of Guilt and Innocence that the state arbitrarily lays out)

What makes her less innocent is than say Marissa Alexander who fired a warning shot after her husband attacked and threatened to kill her. There was far more

