

EXCERPT



***Beyond Hashtag Activism***  
Comprehensive Justice in a Complicated Age

May 26, 2020 | \$22, 288 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-4589-7

The world is not as God intends it to be. But complex problems warrant more attention than quick posts on social media. How can we actually make a difference? Helping us accomplish change through a range of strategic avenues, activist Mae Elise Cannon shows us how to channel our passions to care effectively for our neighbor and the world.

## Go Beyond #MeToo, #LikeAGirl, or #WeAccept

#MeToo. #LikeAGirl. #WeAccept. The internet and social media have changed the face of social justice advocacy with hashtag campaigns. These movements have accomplished much in raising awareness and spreading the word about important justice issues like global poverty and gender discrimination. Hashtag activism can be understood as the social media world's engagement of thousands of internet users who express their opinions, stand in solidarity around certain issues, and show support for causes they care about via different social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and others. Hashtag activism is a great place to start, but our social justice advocacy must move beyond the limits of likes, sharing, and click rates.

*Beyond Hashtag Activism* seeks to enter into social media realities while calling readers and the church toward a more comprehensive perspective to justice issues. Much has changed over the past decade in terms of Christian engagement with social justice in the United States. On one hand, American Christians have made significant progress through the support of international development organizations like World Vision and Compassion International in addressing the realities of global poverty. The number of children dying every day from preventable causes has decreased over the past several decades by half—from more than thirty thousand children a day to around fifteen thousand children a day. Much work is still to be done, but progress is being made on addressing the realities of extreme poverty around the world.

On the other hand, Christians in the United States has never been more divided on issues of social justice. Conservative evangelicals, in a 2018 letter titled "The Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel," claimed social justice is dangerous to the core tenets of the gospel. In contrast, a gathering of progressive evangelicals met in Chicago in September 2018 to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Chicago Declaration of Evangelical Social Concern. Bible-believing evangelicals of color are becoming increasingly disenfranchised with "white Christianity" and are giving up on movements toward reconciliation. Racial and political divides have become more extreme with the election of President Trump.

*Beyond Hashtag Activism* enters into these dual realities and the growing divisions within evangelicalism in the United States. It articulates a holistic reading of the gospel of Jesus Christ that is inclusive of core principles of social justice, including responding to the needs of the poor in the United States and around the world; addressing the realities of racial inequities and white supremacy; acknowledging and calling to account the mistreatment of women domestically and internationally; and wrestling through questions on the horizon with which the evangelical church will have to address.

Certainly "comprehensive justice" is an audacious claim. This book doesn't cover all that there is to cover on questions about the church, civil society, advocacy, activism, and biblical justice. Rather, it seeks to integrate many of the most critical aspects of domestic and global injustice in a way that doesn't view them in isolation from one another, but rather seeks a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and intersectional approach as we ask the question of how God might call us to respond as Christian individuals and as the church. Our individual solutions to complex problems are not enough. The

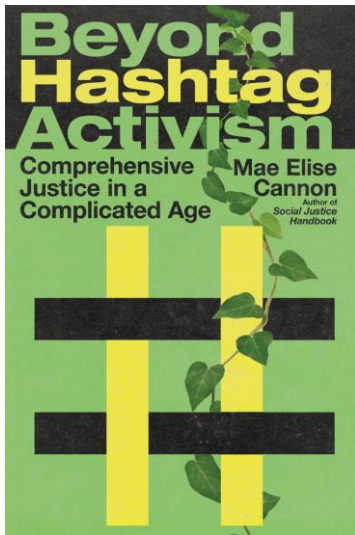


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only way the church will be able to have effective mechanisms and strategies for responding to any type of injustice is to pursue comprehensive methodologies that look at the common themes, trends, and dynamic aspects of broken and unjust systems. A comprehensive approach must be employed to bring change and healing to people, places, and communities where power is abused.

—Adapted from the introduction



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BIO



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## **Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, *Beyond Hashtag Activism***

**Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon** is the executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). She formerly served as the senior director of advocacy and outreach for World Vision US on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

Cannon earned her doctorate in American history with a minor in Middle Eastern studies from the University of California-Davis, and she holds an MDiv from North Park Theological Seminary, an MBA from North Park University's School of Business and Nonprofit Management, and an MA in bioethics from Trinity International University.

Cannon is the author of *Social Justice Handbook* and *Just Spirituality*, and coeditor of *Evangelical Theologies of Liberation and Justice*.

### ***Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World***

Cannon provides a comprehensive resource for Christians who are committed to social justice. She presents biblical rationale for justice and explains a variety of Christian approaches to doing justice. A wide-ranging catalog of topics and issues gives background information about justice issues at home and abroad, and gives you the tools that you need to take action.

### ***Just Spirituality: How Faith Practices Fuel Social Action***

Cannon opens the annals of activist history to see if there is a correlation between great acts of compassion and advocacy and great depths of prayer. Looking at the lives of Mother Teresa, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., and others, Cannon finds a depth of spiritual practice at the root of courageous social action.

### ***Evangelical Theologies of Liberation and Justice*, edited by Mae Elise Cannon and Andrea Smith**

In this insightful resource, evangelical academics, activists, and pastors come together to survey the history and outlines of liberation theology, opening a conversation for developing a specifically evangelical view of liberation that speaks to the critical justice issues of our time.

Visit Cannon's website and read her blog at [maecannon.com](http://maecannon.com).  
Follow her on Twitter: [@maeelisecannon](https://twitter.com/maeelisecannon).



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