

Angela Yvonne Davis

A portrait of Angela Yvonne Davis, a Black woman with short, dark, curly hair, wearing a red turtleneck sweater. The portrait is centered and partially obscured by the text and a quote box.

“[Prison] relieves us of the responsibility of seriously engaging with the problems of our society, especially those produced by racism and, increasingly, global capitalism.” —Angela Y. Davis

Davis is a prison abolitionist, communist, former political prisoner, activist, feminist, and scholar.

In 1970, white Presbyterian Americans protested a Presbyterian church donation to her legal fund because of her politics, race, and militancy.

PHS materials demonstrate how Davis as a person came to be known as a problem under various labels: “The Angela Davis Incident,” “The Angela Davis Situation,” “The Angela Davis Affair,” “The Angela Davis Matter,” and “The Angela Davis Debate.”

A group of Black Presbyterians reimbursed the church’s treasury to curb the outcry and demonization of her by the church. Coretta Scott King referred to this kind of mistreatment, in general, as “triple bigotry”—based on race, gender, and politics.