The doctrinal loss of race-conscious affirmative action and the fact that there currently no moderate swing justice on the bench who is likely to help reverse the Court’s position on affirmative action, could be, somewhat paradoxically, a liberating moment for advocates of racial justice, enabling them to reshape constitutional memories with respect to race. Reclaiming diversity is thus essential not because it might eventually influence the Court, but because it works to democratize constitutional memory and initiate its reshaping from the grassroots level as a pluralist society, in ways that reflects varied real life experiences of race in America. University deans, administrators, school principals, CEOs, student organizations and others who support efforts to diversify their institutions, can and should become “memory activists,” [[1]](#footnote-1) and strategically change their narratives about why these efforts are important in a way that more accurately reflects the past and how it resonates today.

1. Yifat Gutman & Jenny Wüstenberg, *Challenging the meaning of the past from below: A typology for comparative research on memory activists*, 15(5) Memory Studies 1070 (2022) (defining “memory activists as actors (individual or collective), who engage in the strategic commemoration of the past in order to achieve or prevent change in public memory by working outside state channels.”). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)