

TransCenter for Youth Condemns Racial Injustice

We are saddened and dismayed by the recent death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department and denounce the social injustices that play out everyday, in every state, and in every country. These unconscionable acts of hate, racism and the sheer disregard for human life have no place in our society.

Racism consists of two principal components: difference and power. It is a mindset that sees a “them” that is different from an “us.” Racism in America is the systematic mistreatment and disenfranchisement of people of color who currently and historically possess less power and privilege than white Americans.

As an organization that consists of several school communities, we decry all acts of racism, violence, discrimination, and brutality. These acts of injustices must be addressed by engaging in intentional and meaningful conversations that lead to peaceful and just action. We strive to instill in our students the importance of having a consciousness, showing respect for life, and most importantly doing what is right and just.

In alliance with many other state and national organizations we pledge to:

- Actively identify and challenge individual or systemic acts of racism and other forms of discrimination and bigotry in our organization and schools, exposing such acts through internal and external communications and publications.
- Express strong declarations of solidarity with people of diverse human and cultural backgrounds to eradicate forms of racism, bias, and prejudice in spaces of teaching and learning.
- Promote not only cultural diversity and the expansion of linguistic knowledge, but explicitly push for anti-racism by participating in ongoing professional development for educators to succeed in countering racism and other forms of bigotry.
- Support the enforcement of laws and policies that provide sanctions against racial and ethnic discrimination in education. Also, advocate for legislative reforms that will lead to policies that provide sanctions against discrimination in education based on race, ethnicity, gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, class, mental and physical abilities, nationality, migrant, immigrant, and refugee status.

For nearly 50 years, TransCenter for Youth, Inc. has transformed student lives by providing educational opportunities that include fostering an appreciation for equity, diversity and inclusion. We will continue to make a difference in our students’ lives so that they can continue the efforts to dismantle all systemic forms of racial injustices.

The tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Beonna Taylor, Joel Acevedo, Dontre Hamilton and Derek Williams will not be in vain; instead their loss will serve as a reminder that we all must participate in the fight for racial justice and equality. We take a knee to mourn for those who needlessly had their lives taken. We stand with communities that are distressed, angry, saddened, and are calling for change. No one person or agency can do it all,

but together, TransCenter for Youth, Inc. commits to working with other organizations to tackle issues of racism and social injustice, especially for our youth.

Shalom High School	Denise Pitchford and Joe O'Shea
NOVA	Patricia Bridges, Abigail Reese Kelley and Carol Butts
El Puente HS	Lynn Klipstine
Escuela Verde	Cynthia Gonzalez, Nicola Ciurro and Laurel Cutright
TransCenter for Youth	Daniel Grego, Nancy Meylink, Felita Daniels Ashley & Joey Zocher