



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

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10 June 2020

Statement on Nationwide Protests

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council stands in solidarity with those peacefully protesting institutionalized racism against people of color in our country. We recognize and understand the anger and frustration that stems from centuries of oppressive policies and know that none of us are free until all of us are free. Black Lives Matter - systems that support racism must be dismantled.

Like people with developmental disabilities, people of color are at higher risk for contracting and dying from COVID-19 – the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council recognizes that we all must work to reduce disparities in access to care and disparities in health care outcomes.

Like people with developmental disabilities, people of color are at risk for an escalated response in an encounter with law enforcement – the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council believes that change begins with acknowledgement of risk, better training and more accountability.

Like people with developmental disabilities, people of color are more likely to live in poverty and lack access to safe housing, quality food, and effective education – we must all work to create equity and accessibility for all people.

While we see the interconnectedness around issues that affect all vulnerable populations, the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council believes that the blight of racism in our communities is one that needs specific remedies that call for the voices, stories, and leadership of people of color. Our hope is that our leaders and policy makers will listen to, learn from, welcome and support leaders with lived experience of racism to create real and lasting change towards a more just world.

The Maine Developmental Disabilities Council is committed to creating a Maine in which all people are valued and respected because we believe communities are stronger when everyone is included.

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