



sanctuary  
INSTITUTE

Dear Sanctuary Network,

Over the past few months we've lived in a pandemic world of the unknown that is now compounded by the tragically familiar incidents of racism and oppression. We've gone from the surreal to the all too real.

As we build trauma-informed and trauma-responsive communities, understanding the pain and agony that trauma evokes, we must confront the embedded social traumas that impact each community. At this moment, the intergenerational trauma of systemic racism and oppression stands out as particularly devastating for African-Americans.

Once again, we find ourselves wrapped in the red, white, and blue traumatic reenactments of racial injustice and oppression that have haunted our country for generations. It's a collective disturbance that has truly gone viral. As in a death-inducing virus. Ahmaud Arbery... Breonna Taylor... George Floyd...

To view the searing images of Mr. Floyd on the ground, helpless and held immobile, with someone in a trusted position abusing their power and causing grave, and ultimately, fatal harm is to witness the latest example of the essence of trauma.

Through our trauma-informed perspective, we understand why we have seen the eruptions of pain, rage, and violence in our towns and cities across our nation. But understanding is not enough. Our Sanctuary Commitment to Nonviolence calls us to do all we can to create physical safety, protecting both people and property. That same Commitment tells us that the best way to achieve physical safety is by ensuring psychological safety - affirming that Black Lives DO Matter; ensuring social safety - seeing that all people are respected and valued within every community; and ensuring moral safety - removing the stains of injustice and systemic oppression from the fabric of our society.

ANDRUS and The Sanctuary Institute is committed to creating environments that promote healing, including healing from the intergenerational trauma of racism. We stand with those who are hurting. We support and align with those who are working for equity and justice.

We are fervently committed to re-scripting the seemingly predetermined story of our nation's future, where history repeats itself. To alter the present so we can create a new trajectory of equality, equity, and inclusion with no place for divisiveness, hate, and oppression. To banish blame, and to honor and respect every citizen's narrative of what's happened to them. We stand for a future built on hope.

We will continue to be a resource for those seeking the language and tools to do this difficult, but essential work. Truly life-affirming work. We encourage you to reach out if we can support you in this journey. WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.

In Solidarity,  
The Sanctuary Institute and ANDRUS

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."*  
James Baldwin

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