

## **The State RJ Council's Statement on Racial Justice**

*Racial inequities and injustices have no place in our society. Recent events such as George Floyd's murder force all of us to ask again whether we are doing enough to transform systems that unjustly impact communities of color. Until Black Lives Matter, we cannot say that every individual matters. Our restorative values compel us to hear the voices and stories of our sisters and brothers, to stand against racism and other forms of oppression, and to commit to a vision of equity rooted in thriving communities where all are valued and can reach their full potential.*

*As a Council, we hold in common the truth that restorative justice, at its best, holds transformative opportunities to address harm and for individuals and communities to heal. Dr. Fania Davis writes powerfully in her *Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice* of our need to fully reckon with the twin traumas of genocide and slavery, and wisely counsels: "We who dedicate our lives to social change have a chance to succeed only if we also devote ourselves to individual and collective healing." We honor restorative justice facilitators throughout Colorado who are offering safe spaces for people to connect and talk openly about the harms suffered from both our past and current realities. We encourage community members to seek out and explore restorative practices as one way to create paths forward out of our collective brokenness.*

*Mere words fall far short of the transformative changes called for at this time. As a Council, we must act more boldly to realize our vision: to make restorative values and practices the norm, with broad and equitable access, throughout as many systems and contexts in Colorado as possible. To this end, we must listen carefully to those whose voices are too often silenced and find ways to support community-led restorative and transformative justice initiatives. We must also continue to join system partners in creative ways to integrate restorative values and practices more deeply and equitably throughout Colorado's systems, with eyes open to discover and support innovative collaborations with local community programs and resources.*

*Find us at [www.rjcolorado.org](http://www.rjcolorado.org) for more information on restorative justice resources in Colorado.*