



Message from the Sacramento Women & Girls Advancement Coalition

The Leadership Council of the Sacramento Women & Girls Advancement Coalition believes we are at an inflection point in the history of our nation, where all voices must be raised against racism, violence and misogyny.

This is the time to take a stand.

We join with other organizations and individuals to condemn police brutality and the use of lethal force that disproportionately impacts the lives of African American citizens, with painful and permanent reverberations for their families and communities.

Black Lives Matter.

Structural racism is a term of art – but it is embodied in individual attitudes and actions and in institutional policies and practices.

Together, they perpetuate stereotypes and a callous disregard for the histories, circumstances, hopes and dreams of people of color – men and women, boys and girls.

We need to be conscious of racial, class and gender bias and how that is communicated through deed and demeanor.

And we need to make a more conscientious effort to convey consideration and respect to everyone that we interact with – from all walks of life, living in all our neighborhoods, visiting from across our borders.

George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. Sandra Bland. Trayvon Martin. Pamela Turner. Freddie Gray. Korryn Gaines. Eric Garner. Atatiana Jefferson. Tony McDade. Shantel Davis. Stephon Clark. Joseph Mann. Mikel McIntyre.

May their memories be a blessing.

Their spirits call out, asking us to be our better selves, to realize the unrealized potential of our nation's founding on the principle of equality for all.

We have a choice: we can work together to create communities that are vibrant quilts of many colors – or we can watch as they are rendered apart, shredding our democracy in the process.

At the Sacramento Women & Girls Advancement Coalition, we, like many, are angry, shaken and bereft, faced with the cascading events of the last few weeks.

One piece of this moment's misery is the dread of more betrayal: continued police brutality, lip service but no systematic change, more black men and women murdered.

At the same time, we know that respect, diversity and purpose are the building blocks of healthy communities.

And we strongly believe that now is the time not only for deepening personal resolve to combat racism, but also to implement structural changes that will put us on a path to equity – from changing the nature of policing to ensuring housing, healthcare, childcare and basic income.

That is why we commit to continue working with allies to build a stronger and more equitable community.

And that is why, even amidst our pain and anger, we align ourselves with hope for the future.

