



Over the past six months a group of people in Colorado, in collaboration with Together Colorado, convened a multi-faith, multi-racial group of faith leaders committed to working towards racial justice in our state. The leadership group has been meeting since July 2015 to craft a **Moral Document for Racial Justice** which will serve as *a manifesto for action*. We invite you to read the document and participate in the next action steps. **See the text of the Moral Document below.**

Throughout the spring and summer we will be scheduling appointments with key municipal, regional and state level officials to present the Moral Document, with all the signatories, and start the conversation to move Racial Justice in Colorado. Help us get 500 signatures and make a real impact in these meetings.

TAKE ACTION for Racial Justice:

1. **Sign the MORAL DOCUMENT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE on-line TODAY** at:
<http://goo.gl/forms/GOfRx51LsL>.
2. **HELP US EVEN MORE** to reach even more people:
Forward this message to your colleagues and invite them to sign-on as well.

We want to acknowledge the hard work of the leadership team who birthed the Moral Document and are leading the way with faith leaders across the state to ***work together to bring morality and humanity back into the lives of our communities***. They can be contacted directly at:
faithandjusticeCO@gmail.com

Apostle Lewis Brown
 Rev. Nelson Bock
 Rev. Tawana Davis
 Rabbi Bernie Gerson

Rev. Amanda Henderson
 Rev. Jann Halloran
 Pastor Del Phillips

Moral Document for Racial Justice From Faith Leaders of the State of Colorado

Preamble: We, the people of faith of the State of Colorado, in order to reform and realize a truly moral union; to establish true justice, ensure domestic tranquility and equality, promote the general welfare of all, and secure the blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity, do establish and set forth this Moral Document for all inhabitants of the State of Colorado.

We hold a strong and abiding conviction that these rights and privileges are not the ideas of any government or individual. Rather they are born in the heart, mind and will of God. These rights are divine in their source, divine in their validity, and divinely desired for every human being.

Statement of Purpose: This Moral Document is written and presented to leaders of faith everywhere in our State. It is a collective call to solidarity and to action in response to systemic problems that profoundly threaten the wellbeing of our people and stand as roadblocks to our success as a community.

We intend that this document call to account all those in authority who have been entrusted to lead, govern, protect and serve ALL of the citizens of Colorado, not just a privileged few. Further, we are united in our call for processes that will genuinely remedy these systemic problems, bring healing to the hurting, and foster a culture of true equality and justice for our beloved community.

We call all those entrusted with leadership to move from a place of complacency to a place of action; from a state of dividedness to a state of solidarity; and from acceptance of the status quo to belief in radical change for the good of all people.

The Problem: In order to form *this moral and just union*, we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all people are created equal, and yet not all are treated equally, specifically in our criminal justice, educational, housing, health care, immigration, and employment systems. In all of these arenas People of Color are systematically and relentlessly marginalized by racism; these individuals, made in the image of God, are economically disenfranchised, victimized by brutality and violence, and hindered from accessing the resources and opportunities critical to achieving quality of life.

We, the united voice of conscience, representing multiple faiths and races, demand freedom, liberation, and justice for all People of Color – whether Black, Brown, Latina, Indigenous or Asian - in the State of Colorado.

Our country is responsible for the genocide of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the kidnapping, enslavement and rape of generations of African Americans. Further, both of these communities continue to be targeted by severe ongoing legal and economic discrimination. We see that we are living within a legacy of genocide and slavery, and we will call out this legacy when we see it. We will no longer be complicit or silent when we see this ongoing injustice in places of businesses, government halls or the media.

We name the national government, the State and its agents, as well as city, county and local entities, as complicit in the brutal murders of our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, and children; in the dehumanization of People of Color; and in the unfair treatment and unequal opportunity to live life within society free from oppressive restriction imposed by authority and/or White privilege. We hold those named accountable and demand systemic change.

Our Lament: We pray that this Moral Document clearly states our anguish and pain for the people affected by the many ills of injustice. We weep over the devaluing of life, the disrespect and dishonor of those who have been divinely created. We bemoan the inhumane treatment, criminal brutality,

killings and mass incarceration of marginalized Black and Brown people at the hands of our criminal justice systems.

We are perplexed that some people or groups appear to be seen as less worthy of opportunities that are naturally and readily available to others. We decry the conditions of poor education, substandard housing and endemic poverty that many of our people are living within. We decry the process of determining a child's future based on a 3rd grade reading level and the disparaging allotment of funding to public schools in low- to middle-income areas. We decry the current system of metrics which prioritizes the building of prisons, including for-profit prisons, instead of building an educational system to nurture, teach and transform lives. We are saddened by our State's refusal to see, acknowledge and act with haste, determination and compassion to relieve this suffering. We are troubled by the lack of healthcare afforded to poor, marginalized Communities of Color regardless of immigration status.

We decry exponentially higher rates of poor health and shorter life expectancies for People of Color, especially within the Black community. We bemoan the high unemployment rates persisting in Communities of Color, most particularly in the Black community. We decry the outcomes of unemployment: high crime rates, drug and alcohol abuse, broken families, criminal activity and despair in these communities. We decry the White privilege that is evident in our institutions, institutions that govern the unfair and inequitable treatment of People of Color.

Our hearts are broken, our prayers for mercy and relief are fervent. Even in this state of travail, our resolve is fixed and strong and we will not relent until people and powers are moved to action. We must see change occur at every level.

The Solutions:

- 1) We demand citizen review boards for all levels of police and sheriff authority in our State. There must be a separate, independent, system of appeals for police misconduct.
- 2) We demand decriminalization of Black lives and People of Color through an overhaul of the justice system [and systematic public conversation and education, especially in the White community].
- 3) We call for renewed public efforts to address the needs of Indigenous People.
- 4) We demand equal opportunity to acquire standard resources in public schools in low- to middle-income areas, including books, technology, well-trained and well-paid staff, and enrichment and extra-curricular activities during and after school.
- 5) We demand improved health care systems and universal access to care.
- 6) We demand fair and equal access to training and development programs, livable-wage employment, and educational/trade opportunities for Communities of Color; especially in the Black community, which is impacted at a far greater rate than other ethnic groups.
- 7) We demand the inalienable right to life promised by our country's Constitution. We demand that the right to pursue happiness, liberty and freedom be accorded to ALL People of Color, including members of the Black, Brown, Latina, Asian, and Indigenous community.

Proposed Partnership: We extend a good faith and heartfelt invitation to the readers of this document to join us. Together we will develop and enforce a cohesive strategic partnership. We will work together in earnest to address and resolve our problems, eradicate injustice and create the moral and merciful union God intended for our State and all of its citizens.

With the grace and assistance of heaven, we will see these changes, soon and in our days.

Sign TODAY at: <http://goo.gl/forms/G0fRx51LsL>.