Voices Statement on Racism in Utah Schools & Communities

Published: Wednesday, 27 October 2021 09:52
Written by: Moe Hickey



The recent reporting on widespread racism in the Davis School District is not just a wake up call to all Utahns, but the direct result of the legacy we have fostered by leaving racism unchecked, ignored, and accepted. Now is the time to take action.

We at Voices are committed and prepared to speak up and to work with other organizations to create a Utah where all residents regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or status can live free of hatred, racism, and bigotry.

Here are some of the ways you can help support the actions we are currently working on:

- Support our 100% Kids Coverage Campaign to help strengthen healthcare access for Utah families regardless of where they live or where they were born by sharing your story on health coverage here.
- Learn more about current Juvenile Justice issues disproportionately impacting youth of color in our state.
- Submit a comment on the proposed DACA rule to ask the Biden Administration to strengthen the DACA program rather than leaving it open to the possibility of removing workers permits to the hundreds of thousands of

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DACA recipients in this country.
- Read why we are pushing to get access to full day kindergarten for all Utah kids.

Our full statement can be found below or downloaded here.

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STATEMENT ON RACISM IN UTAH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

The recent reporting on widespread racism in the Davis School District must be a wakeup call to all Utahns. In light of the problems revealed by the DOJ's investigation, the State of Utah should undertake a full review of all districts and Charter schools to assess if similar problems are occurring elsewhere.

We must join together to respect all our students and contribute to safe and welcoming schools where they can thrive. In doing so, we need to focus our efforts on teaching and including the histories of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) through culturally relevant curriculum.

Racism is like a mold that starts out in the dark corners of our society. If not addressed openly and frankly, it will grow and become more toxic.

The following is a passage taken directly from the "Utah Compact on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion," which is posted in its entirety on the Salt Lake Chamber website:

> "We likewise pledge to foster cultures of inclusion in every aspect of our organizations and society while addressing social injustice and inequality, and condemning all forms of prejudice, bigotry, and discrimination."

As Executive Director of Voices for Utah Children I signed this agreement both as an individual and on behalf of our organization. I ask every person and organization that signed on to the Compact to take practical and decisive action to counter racism in our midst.

I promise that all of us at Voices are prepared to speak up and to work with other organizations to create a Utah where all residents regardless of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or status can live free of hatred, racism, and bigotry.

Sincerely,

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