Leadership Now Project Business for Racial Equity Pledge Reaches 1000+ Signatures

Washington, DC. -- Our nation’s founding principles of liberty and justice for all have always been compromised by the reality that black Americans were enslaved when those words were written. American democracy will never be resilient or representative until we fully acknowledge and address that history with actionable reform.

In pursuit of concrete, anti-racist action, the Leadership Now Project - a group of business leaders devoted to improving democracy and capitalism for all Americans - launched the Business for Racial Equity Pledge last week. Leadership Now is proud to announce that today on Juneteenth, commemorating the freedom of the last enslaved Americans, the pledge has 1,000 signatures from CEOs, executives, academics, and supporters across the US.

Authored by six Black business leaders and Harvard Business School alumni, the pledge asks individuals to advance eight actionable, anti-racist initiatives in their companies in 3 key areas: policing reform, safe ballot access, and economic inclusion. It offers specific ways companies can invest, use their political influence, and make changes within their business.

Over the past two weeks many corporations have committed to diversity. Leadership Now’s pledge provides a tangible path to action. Signatories include Craig Robinson, Former Global Head at PoweredbyWe, Lisa Lewin, Founder of Ethical Ventures, Tamer Mokhtar, Founder All Americans Vote, Ann Fudge, Former CEO of Y & R, Greg Shell, Managing Director at Bain Capital, Janice McNair, CFO of EZ Texting, Omar Johnson, Founder at Opus United, Mia Mends, COO Sodexo, Eddie Fishman, Member of the Executive Committee, DE Shaw, and Reid Hoffman, Partner at Greylock Partners. They are joined by CEOs and executives across finance, real estate, tech, and media, alongside academics from leading business schools including Harvard, Stanford, and Columbia. This group collectively holds the power to shift corporate policies, capital, and culture.

The pledge is just the start. It helps leaders to identify and focus on the most important leverage points to respond to systemic racism. We are encouraged by the extraordinary response and look forward to working with signatories and partners on industry-specific leadership and action. We call on all business leaders to join the 1,000+ in committing to the real work ahead.

For the pledge and its signatories, see here.
For our latest newsletter update on the pledge, see here.

https://www.leadershipnowproject.org/businessforracialequity