BLACK LIVES MATTER

JASMYN recognizes that we are at a painful but critical moment, and movement, in our country’s history. While we have posted a statement on our social media channels in support of efforts to address the racism and inequality people of color still experience in America, we thought it was important to address this directly to our email family as well.

The JASMYN Family stands in solidarity with our young people, our staff, and the Black community to condemn police brutality and racial injustice. We stand with young people of color and youth experiencing homelessness, who are often targeted by police and subjected to mass incarceration throughout their lives. We stand with LGBTQ+ young people of color, as we recognize the depths of structural racism and the intersectionality of oppressions that impact our communities. We stand with Black and Brown people, as we join the struggle to break down the powers of bias, privilege, discrimination, and systemic oppression. We stand with George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade and the hundreds of people whose names we have and have not yet heard, who were killed at the hands of the police. JASMYN joins with young people, and with Black and Brown people, in this movement for racial justice.

At JASMYN, safety, integrity, and respect for diversity are among our guiding principles, and this is why we are speaking out against racism and taking action to support our Black and Brown young people, staff, and community.

Leaning into our 25-year history, JASMYN will continue to create safe spaces for young people of color, helping them hold the complexities of their lives, the dangers of their everyday experience, and their dreams as they work for liberation from hatred and violence.

- We will strive to make JASMYN a workplace and community center that reflects racial equity, by listening deeply and examining our internal structures, policy, and leadership composition to ensure that we are centering racial equity in our organization.
- We will lend our voice to the calls to transform our community’s institutions and law enforcement, to hold them accountable to deep and lasting changes that affirm the lives of Black and Brown people, LGBTQ+ young people, and other marginalized communities.
- We will work in solidarity with others – youth, community partners, and institutions - to address racial health disparities and bring about racial justice so that our city becomes a place where LGBTQ youth and Black and Brown people are healthy, affirmed, and free to grow into their full potential.
- During this LGBTQ Pride month, we will walk in solidarity and with deep care for our young people, especially youth and staff of color, as we are Proud2BJASMYN.
We don’t have everything figured out yet, but JASMYN will continue to create opportunities for listening, especially to the Black and Brown people who are central to the JASMYN community.

Please feel free to reach out and share your ideas on how we can move forward.

Cindy Watson, CEO and R. Kelly James, JASMYN Board Chair

June 2020

**JASMYN’s Anti-Hate Statement**

As an LGBTQ youth organization grounded in social justice and youth empowerment and liberation, JASMYN stands with every community targeted through violence, oppression, aggression or systemic bias. We believe in equal rights for all people and the ability to live free of persecution by the State or other citizens. Recent attacks in Atlanta that left 8 people dead, 6 of whom were Asian-American women, devastated our community and reminded us that no one is free unless we are all free, from hate crimes, laws that disregard the needs of vulnerable people and systems that perpetuate ancient and unjust bigotry. With young people at the center of our mission, we are for social justice, justice under the law and a legal system that represents all citizens fairly.

#JASMYNforcommunity #JASMYNloves #JASMYNstandswithAAPI

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