As part of our Commitment to Racial Equity and in light of the uprisings in protest of anti-Black racism and police brutality, Funders Together will be sharing statements, articles, and other resources that highlight the voices of Black leaders in the fields of philanthropy, homelessness and intersecting systems. While it’s important for white leaders to speak up, in this transformational moment, we can further our commitments to racial equity by listening to, learning from, and incorporating the recommendations of Black leadership into not only our grantmaking but also into the structures of our organizations.

Last week, ABFE, a membership-based philanthropic organization that advocates for responsive and transformative investments in Black communities, released their statement requesting action from philanthropy against anti-Black racism. ABFE has been a critical partner in Funders Together's journey to become an anti-racist organization. Their staff have been thought-partners to our leadership and their trainings have better equipped our board to lead Funders Together’s racial equity work.

ABFE grounds us in their statement, writing, “Our long-term goal is to free Black people from disparate treatment that result in the racial disparities we see in COVID-19, police
brutality and on almost every indicator of well-being. To get there, we must dismantle the structures (institutional policies and practices) that disadvantage and marginalize Black people as well as the false narratives about Black communities that allow for continued inhumane treatment. This will lead to stronger Black communities. Philanthropy has a critical role to play and must step forward.”

Their statement lists ten action-places for philanthropy to focus our efforts in order to advance racial justice and equity, including investing in Black-led organizations, focusing on policy and systems reform, engaging Black leaders and community in solutions, incarceration reform, focusing on gender and LGBTQ equity within Black communities, and more. As ABFE reminds us, to be in this work for the long haul, we must take a holistic and deep approach to our racial equity grantmaking, and ABFE provides us clear actionable steps we can take to do so.

Read the full ABFE Statement here.

ABFE has also called for members of the philanthropic field to stand in solidarity with their statement by signing their call for philanthropy to take action on anti-Black racism.

Funders Together to End Homelessness
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