



# VOICES FOR JUSTICE

*in the Movement to End Homelessness*

As part of our [Commitment to Racial Equity](#) and in light of the racial justice awakening in this country, Funders Together is 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, during this transformational movement, 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.



In the youth and young adult homelessness space, we often hear the phrase **nothing about us without us**, which means that youth and young people with lived expertise of homelessness should not just be included in the designing of solutions to homelessness, but also have real decision-making power. [True Colors United](#), a Funders Together partner, put this important value into practice in both the process used to create their statement, [True Colors United for Black Lives](#), and in the statement's content.

Written by the staff of True Colors United and the [National Youth Forum on Homelessness](#), this statement is deeply intersectional. It clearly acknowledges how white supremacy is foundational to systems like policing, housing, and healthcare, and how that foundation leads to present-day disparities, inequities, and violences against Black people. The

highlighting of intersecting systems is echoed in the statement's acknowledgement of intersecting identities, reminding us that "Police violence has been deemed a national public health crisis for Black people, migrants, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, LGBTQ communities, and particularly those who are at intersecting identities and experiences."

After focusing the statement on grounding truths about racism, police violence, and homelessness, we're offered five calls to action, including the reallocation of police funding, asking nonprofits who serve young adults experiencing homelessness to support and facilitate youth activism, and a call for white people and non-Black people of color to refrain from taking actions that could place Black protesters at risk of further violence by following the leadership of Black organizers.

By ending with a recommitment to racial equity in the work at True Colors United, we are reminded that even racial equity leaders in our movement need to ensure that our work **consistently** uses a racial equity and justice lens.

**[Read the full True Colors United Statement here.](#)**

**Learn more about the process behind the statement at our 2020 Virtual Funders Institute next week!** Twiggy Pucci Garçon, Senior Program Director at True Colors United will be joining us for the plenary at the [Funders Institute on August 13](#) to discuss the statement and the importance of living into our values in every aspect of our work.

To learn more about this plenary, [take a look at our working agenda](#). You can [register for the Funders Institute here](#).

Funders Together to End Homelessness

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