



Resolution on Racism and Social Justice

(adapted from Penn State Dickinson Law School Faculty Resolution)

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the ongoing systemic and perpetual racial and societal injustices in this country, which have been passed on from generation to generation; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes that these injustices have existed since the legalization of slavery and been furthered by Jim Crow laws and the unequal treatment of Black Americans in every system in our society – economic, healthcare, housing, and criminal justice; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle especially notes and is appalled by the numerous killings that have been committed against Black Americans under the cover of law and recognizes the lack of meaningful accountability for these injustices; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the senseless brutality being committed by some of those employed to serve and protect who are operating under a pattern, practice, and culture fostering unequal treatment; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the need to have uncomfortable talks and real, honest, and transparent conversations directed towards addressing these injustices; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the need to understand how so many feel dismissed, frustrated, invisible, and disillusioned, resulting in constant fears for their personal safety and leading to bearing psychological and emotional scars; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes that racism is an incessant malady and a scourge to the goal of a civilized society and that systemic discrimination and unjust racial inequities continue to appall and to plague our nation; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes that we should not accept apathy, indifference, or silence to such ongoing violence and inequities, which otherwise allow hatred, prejudice, and intolerance to fester and grow; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the need to engage peacefully, through protests or other means to make a meaningful difference towards societal change; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes that we have an obligation to fight ignorance and intolerance, model inclusivity, and embrace our differences and the power that diversity allows; and

WHEREAS the Rotary Club of Seattle recognizes the need to stand in solidarity with our members, friends, community leaders and their families who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rotary Club of Seattle acknowledges that racism is an affliction that must be dismantled and we must do the work to become active antiracists in taking responsibility to condemn it, that we need to identify and challenge systemic oppression wherever it exists, that we are all accountable for doing the work necessary for policy changes that perpetuate racial inequities in our society, and that we will strive to become active allies of those who are the victims of racism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution be preserved in the records and minutes of the Rotary Club of Seattle's board and prominently displayed on the Rotary Club of Seattle's website.