

## Aspiring White Allies of Ohio

### Statement on White Supremacy at the Capitol

As a statewide collective, we condemn the violent display of white power at the Capitol this past week. The mob of armed white people wreaked havoc, harm and only highlighted how the United States is, and has always been racist and oppressive. It is not truthful to say, "This is not who we are," when discussing what is now known as the United States. This disregards centuries of settler colonialism, genocide, slavery, mass incarceration, oppression, power and privilege on this land.

We saw many white individuals discuss experiencing shock at this event because it was a blatant insurrection but it IS "who we are" as a nation. Our Statewide collective stands in solidarity and love with Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in acknowledging the vastly differences responses from Law Enforcement, as well as the ongoing harm and oppression within the United States. If different types of oppression cannot be seen and acknowledged, they cannot be resisted and transformed.

As we do anti-sexual violence and anti-domestic violence work in Ohio, we cannot and should not ignore how different types of violence intersect and have shared root causes that exist within our communities. **Racism is a public health crisis** and must be treated as such. There is work to be done and our hope is that we can continue to work together to address our own complicity and within our communities.

We cannot get comfortable in inaction or only reactive in temporary moments of outrage. We have to continue and sustain our work in calling in friends, family, colleagues when they do harm, continue to challenge ourselves to not perpetuate harm, and seek out tangible ways to address and resist racism. Take time to make a plan of action, such as donating to grassroots organizations, addressing harmful policies nationally and locally, and continue to work towards this dream of an anti-racist society.

In a tangible show of solidarity for Black liberation, the AWA strongly encourages our fellow white colleagues in the Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence fields in Ohio to attend the upcoming events, Putting Conversations into Practice, which will be held monthly. This series will be a way to put thoughts and words into practice.

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