

AN URGENT CALL TO ANTIRACIST ACTION

WE, white antiracist activists and our allies, are agitated and disturbed by the continued domination of the United States by white Euro-American culture. We challenge the continued centering of white values, the political formation of whiteness, and the continued marginalizing of people and communities of color. We no longer await and expect the formation of a multiracial democracy with patience and complacency. We believe Frederick Douglass spoke truthfully in saying “*power concedes nothing without a demand.*” For this reason, and,

BECAUSE white people rarely engage in collective actions as a means to antiracist ends;

BECAUSE many white people have engaged in past and present collective actions to advance a program of white supremacy;

BECAUSE the antiracist efforts of white people are often invisible;

BECAUSE models still reinforce racism as a problem that people of color must solve alone;

BECAUSE there continues to be a basic and erroneous belief that whites have no stake in changing a racist society, and in fact will lose power, position and privilege if they do;

BECAUSE many white people have learned from, been educated by, and accepted the leadership of people of color in antiracist action;

BECAUSE many white people wish to eliminate white supremacy and bring forth a nation where power and access to resources are available to people of all racial backgrounds;

BECAUSE many white people believe and insist that the central values of our nation must become multiracial in character and people of all racial backgrounds must be substantially present in the highest seats of power;

BECAUSE many white people understand the proper work of white people engaged in antiracism is to act upon and change the nature of our institutions and our communities, and to work with other white people within our nation to persuade them of the truth and justice of our cause;

BECAUSE many white people historically and presently have worked for these ends, and many have dedicated their lives, both in ongoing deeds and in final consequence, so that a sacred history of struggle and a living cohort of elders in this cause now exists;

BECAUSE our white youth understand they have inherited a racial structure in our nation based on white supremacy and this demeans their relationship, moral standing, and common purpose with youth of color;

BECAUSE many people of color have befriended, protected and supported white people in their antiracist efforts;

BECAUSE many people of color have formed alliances with, guided, and encouraged antiracist efforts by white people;

BECAUSE many white people acknowledge the practice of white antiracism as one and only one part of the greater, more prolonged, more costly and more significant historic and present struggle by people of color for justice in our nation;

AND BECAUSE these efforts have left much still to be done,

THEREFORE, let a call be made to all white antiracists and their allies to prepare and assemble in a great convention and associated events across the nation in the year 2003, in a manner and method accountable to a multiracial process, in order to raise our voices, proclaim our goals, bolster our leadership, and advance our actions directed to the immediate and lasting disempowerment of white supremacy, and the creation of a fully empowered multiracial society.

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