

NEWPF 2021 Juneteenth Message

Northeast Women in Public Finance once again stands in support of the African American Community and would like to acknowledge and celebrate Juneteenth. Juneteenth is symbolic as it commemorates the official end of slavery after the Civil War. Many slave owners in dissenting states did not recognize President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation declaring that slaves were free on January 1, 1863. It was two years later, on June 19th, 1865, when Major General Granger traveled to Galveston, Texas to ensure that the remaining enslavers comply with the President's directive, that Juneteenth became the symbolic date representing African American freedom.

In the last year, we have seen some progress. We have seen the conviction of George Floyd's murderer. Our country has its first African American and Asian American female vice president. Yet we still are confronted with senseless acts of inhumanity. Recently NEWPF denounced the escalation in assaults and intolerance toward the Asian American and Pacific Islander community as well as all others who have experienced inequitable treatment.

We feel compelled to condemn injustice and discrimination, recognizing that it is not enough to simply be "not a racist," allies and advocates must actively be "anti-racist." We must continue to listen and learn from one another in safe and inclusive environments with respect for different backgrounds and perspectives.

NEWPF condemns all forms of violence, discrimination, racism, harassment and xenophobia. We believe we all have a responsibility to stand up against racism and injustice, wherever and whenever we witness it.

As an organization we want to reinforce our message of solidarity with the African American community on Juneteenth and reaffirm our commitment to a diverse and inclusive environment. We recognize that as industry leaders more will (and should) be demanded of us on an individual level in our communities and on a professional level within our organizations to be actively anti-racist, serve as allies and continue to be vigilant as these issues will continue to be topical and of concern every day. NEWPF looks forward to rising to the meet this challenge.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” – Martin Luther King Jr.

Ways to join the conversation:

- Donate to or Volunteer with Racial Justice Organizations
- <https://colorofchange.org/>
- advancingjustice-aaajc.org
- napawf.org
- apawomen.org/
- Sign petitions
- Call your elected officials