**South Shore Area Branch of AAUW**

**Statement on Racial Justice**

The South Shore Area Branch of AAUW stands united in the pursuit of justice to end the violence of discrimination against people of color. We express our grief in reflecting on the countless lives lost and the vindictive subjugation of basic rights.

We condemn racism which is so deeply rooted in our country and demonstrated in many aspects of our lives -- from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. There can be no justice or equality when any individuals are treated with indignity and denied equitable access to health care, quality education, desirable housing and opportunities for job advancement and economic security.

We join other members in our communities as we fight for justice and lasting change. We stand in solidarity against racism at all levels – interpersonal, institutional and cultural.

The systemic oppression faced by Black families can be traced to historic injustices such as slavery, segregation, redlining areas of a city by race, unequal access to government programs, voter suppression and other ongoing institutionalized discrimination. These disparities span generations and perpetuate marginalization of many segments of our American society.

Our democracy thrives when individuals and groups are empowered to achieve and succeed.

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