



Council of Religious Leaders  
of Metropolitan Chicago

## **“For the Elimination of Racism”**

Statement for the City of Chicago’s 35<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Celebration | January 15, 2021

In a moment, members of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago will offer an interreligious reflection. It is not a prayer or a worship service. It is designed to create a setting in which each person can meditate or pray according to the dictates of their own faith tradition. Our hope is that these words will serve as a call for solidarity and justice in our city and as a reminder of the legacy of Dr. King.

We call for an end to discrimination in all its forms. That we may respect and value each person as possessing human dignity and recognize the solidarity of the human race as the basis for unity among all peoples.

That each of us may acknowledge our part in past mistakes and wrongs pertaining to discrimination and racism.

That we may recognize the harm we have caused, knowingly and unknowingly, through silence or speech, pertaining to discrimination and racism.

That we may begin a reconciliation among peoples who share a history of mutual mistrust, hatred, or aggression.

That each of us who has been a victim of racial prejudice may find the freedom to forgive those who have persecuted us and that our persecutors may have a change of heart.

That we may strive within our faith communities to make every element of human life correspond to the true dignity of the human person.

That we may honor those who have struggled in the past, and work with those who struggle today, for civil rights, economic justice, and the elimination of discrimination based on race.

That we may open the hearts and minds of those who allow another’s race to influence their relationships.

That we may work to influence the attitudes of others by expressly rejecting racial stereotypes and by affirming the cultural contributions of every racial group in our world.

That we may make a personal commitment to abolish social structures which inhibit economic, educational, and social advancement for the poor.

That we may advocate for fair access to housing, education, health care, and a sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.

That we may see each other as members of the same human family and direct our spirits to work for justice and peace so that all barriers which oppress our brothers and sisters will be removed.

That we may not be satisfied “until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”