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Statement on Racism

As Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry, an International Congregation of over 1300 women and 1250 associates missioned in 17 countries, **we feel compelled to speak out against the violence that is prevalent in our world today stemming from racism.** We stand in prayer and solidarity with all those who have lost their lives in senseless acts of violence due to the color of their skin, or their economic and social status, or their gender or sexual preference, or their country of origin.

“Racism is one of the most persistent and destructive sins in our world.” (St. John Paul II) It is both an individual and social sin. **It is a sickness of the soul shaped by white privilege and white supremacy.** As Sisters of St. Joseph, we continue to rally against, and condemn, racism in all forms. It is a reality that challenges our attitudes, perspectives, actions and the very way we live our lives.

As a religious congregation, composed predominately of white women, **we are conscious of the legacy of racism that we know exists,** but now more than ever we are forced to confront the ugly and violent nature of racism in action.

As women of faith, we know that **Jesus stood with the poor, the marginalized, the outcast, those persecuted and beaten,** that is to say, those in our world today who are victims of oppression and aggression.

Speaking out and condemning racism is but one part of our responsibility. **We must also acknowledge our part in the complicity of institutional racism as we accept our white privilege.** We must have the courage to acknowledge our part in this sin of racism, and find the courage and faith to change within our Congregation and move our families, our church, our regional and national governments to respect and honor all races.

As we work to dismantle racism, we start by examining our own attitudes, **our own willingness to listen, to learn from, to support and elevate the black voices** from within our sisters, partners in mission, and in our world at large.

We voice our support for the initiatives recently begun by the United Nations to discuss and debate systemic racism and police violence. We must hold accountable elected leaders of every country, political leaders in each state, and law enforcement organizations that accept, condone, and approve this violence as appropriate actions. This is not only a US problem, it is a global problem, and we encourage the United Nations Human Rights Commission to seize the momentum generated throughout the world **demanding that violence and oppression in all countries be investigated by an independent Commission of Inquiry, and to prosecuted the violators.**

We can and must do better. We ask God's blessing on the struggles that lie ahead as we work for a world where justice and peace are enjoyed and guaranteed for all.

The General Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry:



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