

Seattle Buddhist Center Racial Justice Statement

Black lives matter.

The Seattle Buddhist Center (SBC) is committed to working to share resources and training, and to take action where we can, towards ending the oppression of Black, Indigenous and People of Color in our own community and around the world.

At the core of the Buddha's teaching is the understanding that greed, hatred and ignorance are the root poisons of human suffering. Our practice as Buddhists is to undermine these poisons both in our own hearts and in the world, and to give expressions to that work in our community.

We offer the hand of friendship and solidarity on the basis of loving-kindness to people of all races and cultures. We pledge to listen carefully to groups and individuals who have experienced prejudice and oppression, and to educate ourselves to understand more fully their context and the obstacles in their path. We are committed to respecting and upholding the dignity and agency of all peoples and to promote their flourishing on the basis of the principles of kindness and compassion.

We recognize that we cannot understand fully the experience of others and that we may express prejudice. We are committed to learning, and in this way, expanding our empathy and our vision of human communion.

While we reflect on the racial and social injustices of the world, we will also look at the effects of racism on our own Buddhist community. Awareness is revolutionary. We recognize the need for a more proactive approach to creating a community that is welcoming to all. We will work to prioritize these initiatives.

Buddhism is a path of action based upon awareness and non-violence. We stand in solidarity with all of those who bring awareness to acts of harm, to indifference, or to any conditioning that supports the systemic roots of oppression. We are committed to finding effective and compassionate ways to uproot these tendencies in ourselves, our communities and in society.

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