



Youth Justice Ontario, Anti-Racism Statement

Youth Justice Ontario, an association representing over 50 member agencies providing youth justice services in Ontario, acknowledges Canada's history of systemic racism and the need for structural and institutional change.

Youth Justice Ontario is committed to the work of anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism and ongoing learning about the impacts of systemic practices rooted in colonialism on the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) and their communities. We must continue to examine and address how white privilege and superiority impact our members, and the people and communities we serve.

We recognize that as an association we have a lot of work to do to continue the journey of learning how we as individuals and as an association contribute to oppression and anti-oppression. We are committed to listening, learning, and strengthening our capacities and actions.

YJO supports and will facilitate knowledge exchange opportunities within the scope of our role as a provincial association and to commit to actions which address anti-racism. We will do this by leveraging existing resources to support the voice, actions, and leadership of others in this space.

We will continue to have uncomfortable conversations to help dismantle the systemic racial barriers that for generations have blocked social and economic progress for Black and Indigenous peoples. We know that the first step towards change is to speak up. We commit to no longer being silent or neutral as we move towards tangible action and change.

The YJO board thanks the membership, who tasked us with this journey. We look forward to immediate and ongoing collaboration with our members.