

**Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA (RTRVA)** is an intentional evolution of the **Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia** that further concentrates our efforts on the intersection of trauma and equity. This community-led initiative catalyzed by Voices for Virginia's Children empowers advocates with lived experiences to ignite the change they wish to see in their community.

**CAMPAIGN FOR A TRAUMA-INFORMED VIRGINIA:** The Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia was created for the purpose of influencing state policy to become more trauma-informed. The Campaign worked towards this by preventing exposure to trauma and by adopting trauma-informed and evidence-based practices in child and family-focused settings. The ultimate goal of the Campaign was to connect local-level challenges to innovative best practices and advance state-level opportunities for investments in trauma-informed policy and practice.

**COVID-19 & THE MODERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:** In June 2020, Virginia trauma-informed community network leaders of color convened to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on at-risk communities and the modern civil rights movement. They felt an innate urge to respond and react to the two pandemics, COVID-19, and racism as a public health crisis. In response, there became a clear need to concentrate efforts on the impact of cultural, racial, and historical trauma on marginalized communities. This influenced them to launch Virginia's first-ever Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week, which served as the launch of Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA, a campaign that implements the mission and goals of the week over a longer period of time.

**RACIAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WEEK: 8/2 - 8/8/20:** The mission of Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week was to empower the voices and experiences of marginalized communities in acknowledgement of truth to promote healing, reconciliation, and justice. The goals of Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week were established collectively:

- To educate Virginians on the impact of cultural, historical, and racial trauma.
- To encourage allies to participate in advocacy and activism to deconstruct systems of oppression.
- To promote equity, inclusion, and justice to combat systematic racism and oppression.
- To tell the truths and the stories of Black, Indigenous, Communities of Color, including the retelling of history and the experiences of communities of color.
- To promote diversity and inclusion of communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, individuals on the IDD spectrum and individuals with disabilities, and other oppressed communities.

The event consisted of 30 virtual programs, which included art showcases, yoga restoration activities, children's book reading, and faith-based healing. Discussions centered on inequities in public health and the foster care system, food insecurity, maternal-infant health, best practices for equity in organizational leadership, equity in data, as well as trauma-informed services. Following the event, the initiative transitioned into the Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia campaign to implement the goals longer-term. [You can view a debrief of the week here.](#)

**RACIAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION VIRGINIA:** The Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia mission is to empower the voices and experiences of marginalized communities in acknowledgement of truth to promote healing, reconciliation, and justice. The initiative promotes education and awareness of conditions that exacerbate trauma and inequities to adopt and support policies that dismantle and transform those systems. The initiative strives to do this through:

- **GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY:** Training advocates to ignite change in their communities

- **POLICY:** Creating unified policy agendas for Voices
- **COLLABORATION:** Amplifying and supporting the work of partner coalitions

Year-long goals of Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia are implemented through the work of the coalition and its committees: executive, engagement, education, partnerships, advocacy & activism. [Join the coalition or its committees here.](#)

### LEARN MORE!

1. Visit the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia mini-site.
2. Visit the Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia page.
3. Subscribe to Trauma-Informed VA or Racial Truth & Reconciliation news.
4. Join the Racial Truth & Reconciliation coalition or its committees.
5. Prepare for the [Campaign for a Trauma-Informed VA: Racial Truth & Reconciliation Advocacy Day.](#)

To connect or invite us to speak to your congregation, organization, network, coalition, or group, email [chloe@vakids.org](mailto:chloe@vakids.org). Sign-up to receive emails and action alerts from [Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA.](#)