

RACIAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION VA

WHAT IS RACIAL TRUTH & RECONCILIATION VIRGINIA?

CAMPAIGN GOALS: To empower the voices and experiences of marginalized communities in acknowledgement of truth to promote healing, reconciliation, and justice. The campaign seeks to advance policies that dismantle systems that perpetuate racial trauma, oppression and inequity.

Voices covers several core policy topics that address the severe effects of systemic oppression and institutional inequity. Our areas of specialty include:

- early childhood education
- family economic security
- foster care and adoption
- health and wellness
- mental health
- trauma-informed care
- equity

Due to our multi-faceted nature and through the organization's unified policy agendas, Voices is poised to produce racial equity impact statements across issue areas to highlight a policy agenda item that centers equity.

COALITION OF PARTNERS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Voices serves as the convener and hub to the Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia coalition which consists of direct-service professionals, policymakers, individuals with lived experience, students, youth, and parents. Our goal is to connect local communities, which include community members, organizations, public and private sectors, families, and youth, with opportunities to influence laws and policies that affect the lives of children and families.

The Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA coalition assembles advocates who are committed to racial advocacy and equity work across many sectors. There are five committees to mobilize and advocate for change:

- **EXECUTIVE:** The executive committee serves as the liaison between the external partners, the coalition, and its committees. The committee includes the chair, vice chair, secretary, the co-chairs of each committee. The committee is tasked with the responsibility to serve as a protector and ambassador of the mission and goals of the coalition to ensure all programming is authentic and just. The executive committee provides coaching, planning, and technical assistance, and support to the coalition members in order to implement the goals of committee and the broader coalition goals.
- **EDUCATION:** The education committee connects coalition members to ongoing personal and professional development opportunities around cultural competency, implicit biases, trauma-informed care, equity, diversity and inclusion. The committee members engage with individuals with lived experience, organizations, and public officials to shed light on systemic and institutional best practices and challenges to achieving an equitable and just society.
- **ENGAGEMENT:** The engagement committee connects with rural, urban, and suburban communities and parents and youth serving organizations overtime to build authentic relationships with individuals that are impacted by the mission and goals of the coalition. The goal is to build trust with community stakeholders in an effort to ensure that advocates feel empowered and prepared to ignite the change they wish to see in their communities.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** The partnership committee engages with partners in solidarity committed to the coalition mission and goals. The committee encourages partners to integrate equitable policies of change within their organizations and networks. Committee members engage with organizations that serve diverse demographics in an effort to catalyze organizational and institutional change within their spear of influence.

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- **ADVOCACY & ACTIVISM:** The advocacy and activism committee leads awareness and community-building events to promote justice. The committee works to connect local-level trends to deconstruct systemic, social, and institutional barriers to achieving an equitable and just society for all. Members of the committee plan and execute advocacy trainings, resources, community assessments, workshops, and events to leave coalition members empowered and prepared to advocate and to support partner policy initiatives and Voices policy agenda.

Through the work of the coalition's committees, Voices will play an active role in shaping a unified policy agenda that aligns with the organization's policy goals as well as issue areas identified by the campaign. This level of advocacy includes Voices identifying opportunities to mobilize advocates to support Voices' policy initiatives and the work of partner coalitions addressing issues ranging from food access to paid leave.

CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES: Voices launched Virginia's first-ever Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week in August 2020, which was recognized by Governor Ralph Northam through a proclamation. What began as a week-long series of events to raise up and empower the voices of marginalized communities, transformed into the Racial Truth and Reconciliation VA coalition. Since its launch, the initiative has gained the support over 14+ public officials, 50+ community leaders, 37+ partners in solidarity, 300+ coalition members, and a digital reach of over 1,000. The initiative has the support of Virginia's trauma-informed community networks and geographic representation from every region of the state.

JOIN US IN AMPLIFYING THE VOICES AND TRUTHS OF THE PEOPLE!

LEARN MORE AT:

<https://vakids.org/our-news/blog/racial-truth-reconciliation-va>

1. Learn more Racial Truth & Reconciliation Week by visiting our archives section.
2. Receive Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA news by subscribing to our listserv.
3. Join our efforts by becoming a Racial Truth & Reconciliation VA coalition member.
4. Help us accomplish the work by joining one of the coalition's committees
5. Learn about the Campaign for a Trauma-Informed Virginia: Racial Truth & Reconciliation Advocacy Day.

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