



A Public Statement to the Community from the Kingston Community Advisory Council

The Kingston Community Advisory Council is deeply concerned with and troubled by the acts of discrimination, bigotry, and violence that have occurred in Kingston, Washington, both in the past and at present. The Kingston community stands with the students that were victims of blatant racism at a 2021 KHS basketball game.¹ We denounce the hateful and violent act of domestic terrorism committed by a Kingston community member in 2022.² We acknowledge and support those who have endured racial slurs and vandalism in our community. History has proven through repeated unspeakable tragedies that racism and white supremacy are not only toxic ideologies, they are also deadly.³

The Council recognizes our youth and other community members who have suffered through racism in our community for far too long. We support and stand with the brave work of the Kingston youth,⁴ and all local youth,⁵ who are making a public stand against racism to create a more equitable and just community for all.

Pursuant to Kingston's Welcoming Resolution dated September 8, 2021, our community must strive to become more welcoming and to respect the innate dignity of all people. An awareness and understanding of racism and other forms of discrimination in our community is necessary to achieve this goal. We encourage youth and community members to continue reporting racist behavior and actions to the proper authorities, including but not limited to, school administrators, law enforcement, the Kingston Community Advisory Council, the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights, and the Washington State Human Rights Commission.

We understand the concerns of our youth⁶ that school administrators and community members have failed to adequately address and correct racist behavior in our schools. We urge our school leaders to take these students' concerns seriously and to address these issues promptly and thoroughly. We additionally encourage our community to have open discussions about racism and other forms of discrimination and to educate ourselves about the impacts of racism in our community and beyond.

We encourage increased community involvement with local organizations and initiatives that address racism, such as the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights, Kitsap Equity, Race And Community Engagement (ERACE) Coalition; Kitsap Standing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ); Kitsap Advocating for Immigrant Rights & Equality (KAIRE); Kitsap Strong; and Kitsap Racial Equity & Empowerment Fund (KREEF).

¹ <https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2021/12/15/kingston-high-investigating-racist-fan-behavior-basketball-game/8909670002/>

² <https://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/2022/03/03/kingston-man-alexander-david-friend-charged-stockpiling-incendiary-devices-domestic-terrorism/9366089002/>

³ <https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/american-racism-and-the-buffalo-massacre>

⁴ <https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/walkout-at-khs-to-protest-alleged-racism/>

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AWtqX8iKEVI7Hz-t7zDKzMo5GmFg0qzy/view>

⁶ <https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/walkout-at-khs-to-protest-alleged-racism/>;
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AWtqX8iKEVI7Hz-t7zDKzMo5GmFg0qzy/view>

We applaud the work of the Kitsap County Public Health District in declaring racism a public health crisis through Resolution 2021-01. We additionally celebrate the Kitsap County Council for Human Rights' Statement to the Kitsap County Community denouncing racism in Kitsap County and encouraging our community to help create a caring, supportive, and safe environment for all.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of August, 2022, by the Members of the Kingston Community Advisory Council.



Jessica Jetter, KCAC Co-Chair



Alena Wolotira, KCAC Co-Chair