

Committee for Ministry on Racism Report Supplemental to Report in DIAs

SEYM Summer Executive Committee Meeting
8 Eighth Month 2020

Greetings, Friends,

I'm giving you a new commandment...to love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13:34, **New International Version**)

This report supplements the CMOR report in the Documents in Advance for this meeting.

The Committee was grateful to recently hear through Vicki Carlie of the ongoing discussion St. Petersburg Meeting has been having on Black Lives Matter. St. Petersburg Monthly Meeting will write their own statement on issues of systemic racism if SEYM does not draft one. Katie Green, CMOR member, reported that New England Yearly Meeting suggested that their monthly meetings write their own statements in order to support wider engagement among Friends with this crucial concern. Tallahassee Meeting has about completed their statement, which will be published in the newspaper, the Tallahassee Democrat.

The focus of our committee right now will be on the recently emerged concern reported by Kody Hersh of the need to care for young People of Color within Southeastern Yearly Meeting. One of our young adult Friends has lifted up their painful experience of the reality of inherent racism in our mostly white meetings and Yearly Meeting, with the intent that youth of color “can experience a faith community without the violence of white supremacy.” CMOR has agreed to join a Zoom meeting with the Youth Committee to learn more and to address this vital concern. We are grateful to the young adult Friend for lovingly lifting this concern up for resolution and healing.

Jane Westberg, CMOR member, recently shared with us the following excerpt from the UK Medical Journal, **Lancet**: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31682-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31682-2/fulltext)

*Colonisation is a fundamental determinant of Indigenous peoples' health. Indigenous is a term defined by dislocation, and the effects of that displacement are felt by Indigenous peoples around the world. **Aug 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, is a chance to look at the continuing effects of territorial removal, the destruction of people, culture, and languages, and the lack of self-determination (the right to determine one's own social, cultural, and economic development), and their impact on Indigenous peoples' health. Any attempt to address the health inequities of Indigenous peoples will require governments to finally grapple with these foundational factors and enact and enforce the rights of Indigenous peoples to self-determination and territorial sovereignty.*

We hold all of what is included in this report in prayer, seeking guidance for continued way forward.

Trusting in the Spirit,

Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR)
Susan Taylor, Co-clerk

