



***Assalaamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatahu***

Dear Austin Peace Academy Family,

Insha'Allah this reaches you in the best of health and Imaan.

As protests, sparked by George Floyd and Breonna Taylor's horrific deaths, denouncing the deep-rooted systemic injustice and inequality that exists in our society gain momentum, we wanted to let you know that Austin Peace Academy stands in solidarity with the African American community and in support of the anti-racism movement.

Several of our APA families are personally affected by these events and along with many others, are struggling to understand their role in working for justice and equality in our country. It is incumbent upon us to start by looking within and letting go of our own personal prejudices, along with listening, learning and examining how our actions, thoughts, and behaviors can consciously and unconsciously uphold the deeply rooted pattern of privilege and systemic racism in our country.

***"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black, nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action."***

(The last Sermon of Prophet Muhammad)

Despite this message, as Muslims, we are well aware of the reality of our community's shortcomings and know that racism does exist – from outright discrimination to subtle and imperceptible behaviors in how we treat others based on differences in skin color. This is a shared responsibility and we are all obligated, both individually and collectively, to do our part in confronting and addressing it. This is the time to have important conversations with each other and our children about our own biases and stereotypes, about how we may treat others based on these.

We must talk clearly about how, as Allah's creation, we are enjoined to stand up for justice and equality at all times. Some of you may feel that these are difficult conversations, or that your children are too young. But both [research and practice](#) point to the fact that children as young as 3 years old perceive and create impressions of one another based on our physical traits including skin color. Talking about this actually empowers our children to be more proactive about establishing justice in small ways now so that they will translate into bigger actions as they grow.

May Allah (s) protect us all from harm and from doing harm.

***JazaakumAllahu Khair,***

Ms.Diana Abdi

Head of School

Austin Peace Academy