

Statement on Racial Injustice from Martha's Vineyard Museum

Like so many, we are deeply troubled by the events unfolding across our nation. We too feel angry and discouraged by the unjust and unaddressed acts of violence perpetrated against black and brown Americans. Despite the dedicated efforts of many people, some of whom we are proud to call members of our Island community, it is clear we still live in a nation unable to live up to its pledge of justice for ALL. As a museum, we are asking ourselves, "What can we do?"

Secretary of the Smithsonian Lonnie G. Bunch said on Sunday, "History is a guide to a better future and demonstrates that we can become a better society — but only if we collectively demand it from each other and from the institutions responsible for administering justice." The Martha's Vineyard Museum is committed to partnering with our community. As historians and story-tellers, we can provide a framework for understanding the past in order to create a better future. We know that history is too often written only by the powerful, and that museums have too often amplified their voices while ignoring or silencing others. While not perfect, your museum is dedicated to collecting and telling ALL the histories on the Island — elevating the voices of the voiceless, bearing witness to the overlooked, and challenging the myths that have given aid and comfort to injustice. We have much to learn, but we are here to listen and hope that you'll join us in the ongoing conversation.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture recently launched *Talking About Race*, a new online portal designed to help individuals, families, and communities talk about racism, racial identity and the way these forces shape every aspect of society, from the economy and politics to the broader American culture.

The online portal provides digital tools, online exercises, video instructions, scholarly articles and more than 100 multi-media resources tailored for educators, parents and caregivers—and individuals committed to racial equality. To view the portal, visit:
<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage.

