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Dear AMI/USA Community:

This is an extraordinarily difficult time for our nation. The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor and so many who came before are tragic reminders of the systemic racism and injustice that continues to exist in our culture. We acknowledge the profound grief, pain, anger, and injustice felt across the Black community and in our AMI/USA community. The tragic deaths of our fellow citizens have laid bare racial inequity, challenged our humanity and left us emotionally raw. A call for systemic change is loud and clear, not just in the US, but also around the world.

AMI/USA denounces racism and stands beside all of those who work on behalf of social justice. We recommit to our mission and work to affect meaningful change — to unpack hierarchy, privilege, bias, and structures that benefit certain communities and disadvantage others through our programs and services. We stand unyielding in our commitment to critically interrogate systemic racism and unconscious bias in our organization and in our community. We recognize we have much work to do.

The path to peace is education. As Montessorians, we understand that the formation of man begins at birth and that for change to occur, we must begin with the child. This quote from Dr. Montessori, taken from an address to the International Montessori Congress in 1937, underscores our mission:

“All our efforts will come to nothing until we remedy the great injustice done the child, and remedy it by cooperating with him. If we are among the men of good will who yearn for peace, we must lay the foundation for peace ourselves, by working for the social world of the child.”

We have a collective responsibility toward this social mission for peace. Those who were born into privilege need to reach out to our communities that are suffering, listen, and validate their experiences while offering support. Our goal is to be a cohesive community that lifts up all of its members. We are humbled to stand beside you and serve you in this important mission.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Hall
Board Chair, AMI/USA

