



July 2, 2020

Dear JBWS Program Participants,

JBWS stands against racism.

JBWS stands in solidarity with our Black survivors and bears witness to the pain of the recent killings of Black people in our country. We know that Black people's experiences with whom we work is impacted by a system that has supported and perpetuated exploitation and systematic oppression against them.

As an organization working to provide safety, support, and solutions for people victimized by domestic and interpersonal violence, we recognize both the privilege and the obligation that our role represents. Empowerment of its victims and advocacy for social reform are at the heart of our mission and at JBWS we recognize there is still work to be done within our organization and within our community and we are committing ourselves to be agents of change to respond to and eradicate racism.

We are committed to creating spaces for dialogues within our organization about how racism and other forms of structural oppression and structural inequalities affect us, our relationships, our organizations, and our communities. And we welcome having that dialogue with you: hearing about your experiences within our programs, reflecting and acting on necessary changes, and doing the work of an anti-racist organization.

We also recognize that survivors come to us with many experiences of power and control, whether in the form of interpersonal violence or racism or the many other forms of oppression, and they cannot be separated one from the other. We are here to support you across the breadth of your experiences and to hear the stories that make up your experiences of oppression.

We vow to continue working alongside you, all of us knowing that many of the systems where you seek help are biased. We promise to support you and advocate for the change necessary to achieve more justice, equity, and inclusivity within these systems.

In support,

Diane Williams
President/CEO