



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 3, 2021

**ULC Press Contact**

Curtis Rogers

(202) 750-8658

[crogers@urbanlibraries.org](mailto:crogers@urbanlibraries.org)

## **North American Libraries Send Strong Message of Commitment to Racial and Social Equity**

*204 urban libraries sign statement aimed at achieving racial and social equity*

WASHINGTON – In a strong act of commitment to a more equitable society, 204 public libraries across North America have signed the Urban Libraries Council’s Statement on Race and Social Equity. This statement serves as a baseline upon which libraries can build policies and actions that make their communities more inclusive and just. The statement reads as follows:

*As leaders of North America’s public libraries, we are committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Our libraries can help achieve true and sustained equity through an intentional, systemic and transformative library-community partnership. Our library systems are working to achieve equity in the communities we serve by:*

- *Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies and practices*
- *Creating and maintaining an environment of diversity, inclusion and respect both in our library systems and in all aspects of our community role*
- *Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging disenfranchised people in the community and helping them express their voice*
- *Serving as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges*
- *Being forthright on tough issues that are important to our communities*

*Libraries are trusted, venerable and enduring institutions, central to their communities and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.*

The following libraries have signed on to the above statement:

## ALABAMA

Birmingham Public Library

## ALASKA

Anchorage Public Library

## ALBERTA

Bibliothèque de Beaumont Library

Calgary Public Library

Edmonton Public Library

Lethbridge Public Library

## ARIZONA

Pima County Public Library

## ARKANSAS

Central Arkansas Library System

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

Fort St. John Public Library

Surrey Libraries

## CALIFORNIA

Alameda County Library

Berkeley Public Library

Carlsbad City Library

Contra Costa County Library

Fresno County Public Library

LA County Library

Los Angeles Public Library

Marin County Free Library

Oakland Public Library

Oceanside Public Library

Pacific Library Partnership

Palo Alto City Library

Pasadena Public Library

San Diego Public Library

San Francisco Public Library

San José Public Library

San Mateo County Library

Santa Clara County Library

Santa Monica Public Library

Sonoma County Library

Sunnyvale Public Library

## COLORADO

Anythink

Aurora Public Library

Denver Public Library

Douglas County Libraries

Jefferson County Public Library

Poudre River Public Library District

## CONNECTICUT

Bloomfield Public Library

The Ferguson Library

Hartford Public Library

Manchester Public Library

New Haven Free Public Library

Norwalk Public Library System

Otis Library

Pequot Library

Russell Library

Wallingford Public Library

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DC Public Library

## FLORIDA

Broward County Library

Jacksonville Public Library

Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach

Miami-Dade Public Library System

Palm Beach County Library System

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

## GEORGIA

Athens Regional Library System

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

DeKalb County Public Library

Gwinnett County Public Library

## ILLINOIS

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Bloomington Public Library

Chicago Public Library

Oak Park Public Library

Schaumburg Township District Library

Skokie Public Library

## INDIANA

Allen County Public Library

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library

The Indianapolis Public Library

Johnson County Public Library

Lake County Public Library

## **IOWA**

Cedar Rapids Public Library  
Coralville Public Library  
Des Moines Public Library  
James Kennedy Public Library  
Knoxville Public Library  
Marion Public Library  
North Liberty Library  
Waterloo Public Library

## **KANSAS**

Johnson County Library  
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library  
Wichita Public Library

## **KENTUCKY**

Lexington Public Library  
Louisville Free Public Library

## **LOUISIANA**

East Baton Rouge Parish Library  
New Orleans Public Library  
Shreve Memorial Library

## **MAINE**

Portland Public Library

## **MARYLAND**

Anne Arundel County Public Library  
Baltimore County Public Library  
Enoch Pratt Free Library  
Howard County Library System  
Montgomery County Public Libraries  
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston Public Library  
Cambridge Public Library  
Springfield City Library  
Turner Free Library

## **MICHIGAN**

Detroit Public Library  
Grand Rapids Public Library  
Grosse Pointe Public Library  
Kalamazoo Public Library

Kent District Library  
Loutit District Library  
Monroe County Library System  
West Bloomfield Township Public Library

## **MINNESOTA**

Hennepin County Library  
Saint Paul Public Library

## **MISSOURI**

Kansas City Public Library  
Mid-Continent Public Library  
St. Charles City-County Library  
St. Louis County Library  
St. Louis Public Library

## **NEBRASKA**

Do Space  
Lincoln City Libraries  
Omaha Public Library

## **NEVADA**

Douglas County Public Library  
Henderson Libraries  
Las Vegas-Clark County Library District  
Washoe County Library System

## **NEW JERSEY**

Jersey City Free Public Library  
Newark Public Library  
Paterson Free Public Library

## **NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

## **NEW YORK**

Brooklyn Public Library  
New York Public Library  
Queens Public Library  
Rochester Public Library

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library  
Durham County Library  
Forsyth County Public Library  
Greensboro Public Library

## OHIO

Cleveland Public Library  
Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Cuyahoga County Public Library  
Dayton Metro Library  
East Cleveland Public Library  
The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County  
The Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County  
Stark County District Library  
Toledo Lucas County Public Library

## OKLAHOMA

Metropolitan Library System  
Pioneer Library System  
Tulsa City-County Library

## ONTARIO

Brampton Library  
Hamilton Public Library  
Kitchener Public Library  
Markham Public Library  
Milton Public Library  
Mississauga Library System  
New Tecumseth Public Library  
Ottawa Public Library  
Toronto Public Library  
Vaughan Public Libraries

## OREGON

Canby Public Library  
Estacada Public Library  
Gladstone Public Library  
Happy Valley Library  
Hillsboro Public Library  
Lake Oswego Public Library  
Ledding Library of Milwaukie  
Molalla Public Library  
Multnomah County Library  
Oak Lodge Public Library  
Oregon City Public Library  
Sandy Public Library  
West Linn Public Library  
Wilsonville Public Library

## PENNSYLVANIA

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh  
Free Library of Philadelphia

## RHODE ISLAND

Providence Public Library

## SOUTH CAROLINA

Richland Library

## TENNESSEE

Chattanooga Public Library  
Memphis Public Libraries  
Nashville Public Library

## TEXAS

Austin Public Library  
Dallas Public Library  
El Paso Public Library  
Fort Worth Library  
Frisco Public Library  
Harris County Library  
Houston Public Library  
San Antonio Public Library  
San Marcos Public Library

## UTAH

Salt Lake City Public Library  
Salt Lake County Library Services

## VERMONT

Hartland Public Library

## VIRGINIA

Alexandria Library  
Arlington Public Library  
Chesterfield County Public Library  
Fairfax County Public Library  
Newport News Public Library  
Prince William Public Library System  
Roanoke County Public Library  
Virginia Beach Public Library

## WASHINGTON

Bellingham Public Library  
Fort Vancouver Regional Library District  
King County Library System  
Kitsap Regional Library

Pierce County Library System  
Sno-Isle Libraries  
Spokane Public Library  
Tacoma Public Library

**WISCONSIN**

Madison Public Library  
Milwaukee Public Library