



## **LMLIP anti-racism statement**

July 8, 2020

As a collaborative initiative that supports the successful integration of newcomers, the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership (LMLIP) has been deeply involved in promoting co-existence and creating a welcoming community. Since 2017, LMLIP has been organizing anti-racism and anti-discrimination activities, such as the annual *All are Welcome Here event*, *1000 Acts of Welcome* campaign and *All are Welcome Here* lawn signs.

LMLIP strongly condemns all racism including racism against Black people, Indigenous Peoples and People of Colour and commits to continuing its work in educating about racism and its impact, in creating a more open and welcoming community for all individuals, free of racism and discrimination.

Recent protests in the United States, Canada, and around the world against violence experienced by racialized people have highlighted the pervasiveness of anti-Black racism. While this violence may have shocked onlookers, it has brought to light an ugly fact: racialized people experience racism and discrimination on a daily basis, whether it is in subtle, overt, violent, or systemic ways.

Racism is also deeply embedded in structural inequalities, policies and practices of organizations and institutions, and can be seen through the systems-level marginalization of people. It is indisputable that pervasive and systemic racism against Black people, Indigenous Peoples and People of Colour exists in London and Middlesex -- in our workplaces, in schools, and in our neighbourhoods. Racism intersects with, and is accentuated by, other forms of religious and ethnic discrimination, as well as xenophobia. An example of accentuated discrimination is Islamophobia. Racism erodes opportunities for those who experience it and impedes the ability of society to reach its full potential to achieve equality, justice, and collective well-being.

Racism comes in many forms and can be seen in acts, behaviours or assumptions, whether these acts or views are conscious or unconscious. The LMLIP is heartened to see a growing awareness by the community of the impact of racism and appreciates and supports the collective efforts to end all racism.

The LMLIP will continue to facilitate community-led solutions to end racism by providing learning opportunities and working collaboratively with residents, all levels of government, businesses, publicly funded organizations, and the not-for-profit sector. This will include anti-racism campaigns, sharing resources, promoting education and awareness of the impact of racism and discrimination, community research, and encouraging our members and the broader community to participate in anti-racism training and education. Please join us to start or further your journey of understanding racism so that you can be part of the solution and make London-Middlesex a place where we can all work, play and grow: visit <https://london.ca/immigration/community-support/LMLIP>, find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or contact [hhussein@lmlip.ca](mailto:hhussein@lmlip.ca) or [mariad@lmlip.ca](mailto:mariad@lmlip.ca).



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