



## Writing Through Anti-Racism Statement

We are living through an especially crucial moment in history. Although today Writing Through works predominantly in SE Asia, we believe it is important to stand alongside the Black American community as it raises its voice. We must raise our voice as well.

At Writing Through, we have always worked to amplify the voices of the marginalized and oppressed. Everyone deserves to be heard. Our mission has always been to help encourage all people to know that they do, indeed, have a voice, and we help give them the tools to understand their thinking and express their thoughts. Change lies in the power of words and action. Change can be made when we speak up and speak out. We believe critical thinking is now needed more than ever. We all need to question ourselves and others, analyze our actions, engage in fruitful discourse and openly debate to make our voices heard, to learn and grow from our mistakes. Throughout history, creative writing has been a tool for catharsis, political engagement and activism. The literary, performative and creative arts have always been wedded to social justice. Through the arts, we can create voices for the empowered and empowering.

Now is the time for us all to acknowledge the grief and fear of people of color, and Black people in particular. Now is the time to speak up and speak out, voicing what is difficult and frightening to say out loud, but saying it nonetheless. It is the time to remember our history and hold on to its lessons. Now is the time to examine our intentions and then recognize that our actions are even more important. Now is the time to act.

This document is a living document. We know that it will evolve just as we as an organization evolve, especially as we bring our programs to the United States. We will take the following actions now with the knowledge that, with time, additional actions will follow as we have more conversations leading to greater understanding and sensitivity. Writing Through commits to: create with the help of people of color, including indigenous people, an anti-racism statement to be signed by all staff and volunteers to go along with our Child Protection and Social Media Statements work to increase representation by people of color and indigenous people both at the staff and board levels hold specialized Writing Through workshops, which create a safe space for people to come together as needed to discuss and write about issues surrounding systemic racism and white supremacy commit to continuing to work towards expanding our programming to include people of color and indigenous people create and continually revise a public list of resources where we can read and hear the voices of the marginalized and at-risk. We begin with the following poem spoken by its author, the Black American poet, Danez Smith:

[https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v%3DLSp4v294xog%26feature%3Demb\\_title&source=gmail&ust=1591971736393000&usq=AFQjCNGW9AHWYg4XBTr06M1ucuHypWkCLQ](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.youtube.com/watch?v%3DLSp4v294xog%26feature%3Demb_title&source=gmail&ust=1591971736393000&usq=AFQjCNGW9AHWYg4XBTr06M1ucuHypWkCLQ)