STATEMENT ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Leave No Power on the Table

On this inauguration day, we find ourselves at a pivotal juncture in the ongoing struggle for racial justice, coinciding with the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

As we reflect on Dr. King's legacy of hope and resilience, we are reminded that the path to justice is often fraught with challenges. The incoming administration will undoubtedly test our resolve, particularly as the "war on woke" intensifies, threatening to undermine the progress we've made for our rights and freedoms over the past few decades.

Now, more than ever, we must remain vigilant in defending equity, inclusion, and a vision of an America that works for everyone. Securing multiracial democracy requires us to continue raising our voices in the face of today's dangerous headwinds. No matter the challenges, we must remain resolute in our demands for justice.

This means continuing to call out censorship in our schools targeting people of color, our histories, and our literature.

It means continuing to raise awareness about systemic racial disparities in schools, the justice system, the workplace, and health outcomes and pushing for meaningful policy solutions to these longstanding problems.

It means defending our frameworks – Critical Race Theory and intersectionality – from dishonest smear campaigns meant to distort these vital tools for understanding racial inequities in America. And it means standing up for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, currently under attack by charlatans who label any attempt to provide equal opportunity to people of color, "anti-white discrimination."

We can't be silent in the face of pressing issues that demand our voices and our attention under this new administration. We urge our supporters to stay engaged and active in the policymaking process. Participate in online events, sign petitions, and discuss the ways in which diversity, equity, and inclusion have been beneficial in creating more equitable spaces in our schools, workplaces, and public institutions. Go to school board meetings, get involved at the local level — leave no power on the table. Our collective voice is powerful, and it is essential that we utilize it to influence the dialogue.

While we acknowledge the strides we have made, we must assert with unwavering determination that we will not go back. The progress we've achieved is at risk, as initiatives like Project 2025 threaten to roll back decades of hard-won but still incomplete progress. In this moment of transition, let us carry forward Dr. King's vision, fueling our resolve with the understanding that the fight for justice is far from over. Together, we can build upon the struggles and movements of the past, while helping to create a more just and equitable future.

Statement from The African American Policy Forum
on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day:
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