



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 16, 2018

ULC Press Contact  
Paul Guequierre  
(202) 750-8657  
[pguequierre@urbanlibraries.org](mailto:pguequierre@urbanlibraries.org)

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

*137 urban libraries sign-on to statement aimed at achieving racial and social equity*

WASHINGTON – In a strong act of commitment to a more equitable society, 137 public libraries across North America 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:

## **ALASKA**

Anchorage Public Library

## **ALBERTA**

Calgary Public Library  
Edmonton Public Library

## **ARKANSAS**

Central Arkansas Library System

## **ARIZONA**

Pima County Public Library

## **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Surrey Libraries

## **CALIFORNIA**

Alameda County Library  
Berkeley Public Library  
Carlsbad City Library  
Contra Costa County Library  
County of Los Angeles Public Library  
Fresno County Public Library  
Los Angeles Public Library  
Marin County Free Library  
Oakland 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 Libraries  
Santa Clara County Library  
Santa Monica Public Library  
Sunnyvale Public Library

## **COLORADO**

Anythink  
Aurora Public Library  
Denver Public Library  
Jefferson County Public Library  
Poudre River Public Library District

## **CONNECTICUT**

Hartford Public Library  
New Haven Free Public Library  
Russell Library

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

District of Columbia Public Library

## **FLORIDA**

Broward County Library  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Miami-Dade Public Library System  
Palm Beach County Library System  
Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library

## **GEORGIA**

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System  
Chattahoochee Valley Libraries  
DeKalb County Public Library  
Gwinnett County Public Library

## **ILLINOIS**

Arlington Heights Memorial Library  
Chicago Public Library  
Oak Park Public Library  
Skokie Public Library

## **INDIANA**

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library  
Indianapolis Public Library  
Johnson County Public Library  
Lake County Public Library

## **IOWA**

Cedar Rapids Public Library  
Des Moines 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  
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

## MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library  
Cambridge Public Library  
Springfield City Library

## MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library  
Grand Rapids Public Library  
Kalamazoo Public Library  
Kent District Library  
West Bloomfield Township Public Library

## MINNESOTA

Hennepin County Library  
Saint Paul Public Library

## MISSOURI

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

## NEBRASKA

Do Space  
Lincoln City Libraries  
Omaha Public Library

## NEVADA

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

## NEW JERSEY

Newark Public Library

## NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System

## NEW YORK

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

## NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library  
Durham County Library  
Greensboro Public Library

## OHIO

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

## OKLAHOMA

Pioneer Library System  
Tulsa City-County Library

## ONTARIO

Hamilton Public Library  
Kitchener Public Library  
Ottawa Public Library  
Toronto Public Library

## OREGON

Multnomah County Library  
Hillsboro 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 Library and Information Center  
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

## **UTAH**

Salt Lake County Library Services

## **VIRGINIA**

Alexandria Library  
Chesterfield County Public Library  
Fairfax County Public Library  
Newport News Public Library  
Roanoke County Public Library  
Virginia Beach Public Library

## **WASHINGTON**

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District  
King County Library System  
Pierce County Library System  
Sno-Isle Libraries

## **WISCONSIN**

Madison Public Library  
Milwaukee Public Library