



# COUNCIL OF ANTHROPOSOPHICAL ORGANIZATIONS

## **Council of Anthroposophical Organizations Commitment to Racial Justice, Equity, and Social Transformation**

The Council of Anthroposophical Organizations (CAO) is a committee of the [Anthroposophical Society in America](#). Members of the CAO are leaders of North America-based organizations and initiatives rooted in the insights and practices found in anthroposophy. As leaders, we are actively engaged in supporting the advancement of our particular fields in the light of current needs for social and cultural renewal.

For the past several years, the CAO has engaged in study and dialogue relative to diversity, inclusion, and racial equity. This dialogue along with an elevated awareness of social injustice, particularly within the United States, prompted several CAO leaders to establish the following commitment statement. This is a commitment of the signatories below, and does not represent a consensus of all CAO member organizations:

After nearly 100 years as a path of spiritual inquiry and practice, anthroposophy has informed the worldwide development of Waldorf education, biodynamic agriculture, medicine, research, economic activity and many other aspects of human culture and society.

Rudolf Steiner, founder of anthroposophy in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, offered profound insights that support the value and development of each human being. These inspirations inform our organizations' histories and worldview. Yet, we also acknowledge that Rudolf Steiner made statements that reflect harmful assertions regarding race and ethnicity. Racism, explicit or implicit, stands in direct conflict to the fundamental principles of anthroposophy. We take responsibility for and commit to working together to address any dehumanizing or disparaging aspects of our history.

We recognize how far we have to go as individuals and organizations in transforming ourselves, our biases, and our systems. As such, together and as individual organizations of the CAO, we commit to actively engaging in processes that contribute to the understanding of our history, to being present in service to racial justice, equity, and civic discourse in North America, and to finding a path forward that that uplifts the dignity of each and every human being.

Signed by

Beverly Amico, Executive Director, Advancement  
Association of Waldorf Schools of North America

Kathleen Bowen, Coordinator  
Center for Biography and Social Arts

Thea Maria Carlson, Executive Director  
Biodynamic Association

Susan Howard, WECAN Coordinator/Board Member  
Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America

Martin Ping, Executive Director  
Hawthorne Valley Association

Jasper van Brakel, Chief Executive Officer  
RSF Social Finance