

# THE TIME IS NOW

...for real, inclusive and transformative change.

**B**altimore's most serious challenges defy short-term solutions. The lack of jobs, the problems of crime and drugs, inadequate education, abandoned and boarded buildings, limited housing options and unfair policing practices are a consequence of structural racism.

Structural racism is the long-term result of laws, policies, attitudes and approaches based on skin color that have systematically benefitted many whites, but routinely disadvantaged and alienated many nonwhites. It has resulted in people of color—poor and middle class alike—living in a still-segregated city with the deck often stacked against them. A prime example of structural racism is the federal mortgage policy of redlining that denied mortgages to blacks, isolated them in neighborhoods with declining property values, and eroded the tax bases from which education is funded. Most Americans do not know this history even though it deeply affects our present.

Acknowledging the barriers that structural racism causes does not negate the challenges that families of all races have overcome with hard work. Nor does it minimize the personal responsibility required to succeed. It simply recognizes that many of our laws and policies have been deeply unfair to people of color and that we all continue to pay a steep price for that today.

Until structural racism is named, discussed and addressed, Baltimore cannot successfully “B’more!” Those who have signed this statement have pledged to advocate for real change and investment in Baltimore, for all its people in every neighborhood.

**Baltimore needs you.**

**Honest discussion, economic inclusion, policy change and our ongoing collaboration are the keys.**

**We cannot wait any longer.**

To learn more, please visit: [www.BaltimoreAspenWorkgroup.org](http://www.BaltimoreAspenWorkgroup.org)

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