

COUNTERING HATE

Philanthropy's Role Against the Violence of White Supremacy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 2022



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



MAS
MINNESOTA

Muslim
American
Society



SAINT PAUL
& MINNESOTA
FOUNDATION

On Tuesday, March 15, 2022, over fifty leaders from philanthropy gathered in Minneapolis to discuss philanthropy's role in addressing the violence of white supremacy. Imam Asad Zaman of the Muslim American Society of Minnesota and Rev. Curtiss DeYoung of the Minnesota Council of Churches set the stage by sharing the history of violence against houses of worship that prompted the first summit in 2019.

Nadege Souvenir of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation convened a panel of national leaders: Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA); and Prof. Arjun Sethi of Georgetown University Law Center and Vanderbilt University Law School. Their engaging and insightful dialogue looked through several lenses - criminal justice, education, and faith - at the violence caused by white supremacy. They offered insights from their experiences and challenged philanthropy to think differently to create real change.



In the second half of the morning, gathered philanthropic leaders were charged to answer questions about philanthropy's role in countering hate. In strategic conversations, attendees discussed the meaning of the "violence of white supremacy," foundation activities in response to the racial reckoning, and how philanthropy is uniquely positioned to counter the violence of white supremacy. This is what emerged from those roundtable discussions:

- 1 White supremacy must be named, demystified, and described explicitly. The notion that white supremacy also injures white people should be explored as an addendum to how it primarily harms BIPOC people.
- 2 We must consider the dual nature of philanthropy as a benevolent giver and a product of oppressive capitalism. How can philanthropy authentically address the wealth equity gap created by white supremacy?
- 3 When addressing the impact of white supremacy and the work toward racial equity, how is success measured? It was suggested that the community help identify desired outcomes.
- 4 The issue of accountability for foundations was named often. Who are foundations accountable to? How do foundations use their unique power for change? Can accountability to their boards be partnered with accountability to affected communities?





From your event hosts, thank you.

We are grateful for your presence at Countering Hate: Philanthropy's Role Against the Violence of White Supremacy on March 15, 2022. We look forward to seeing you at the next convening in 2023.



MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

