**Diversity & Inclusion Groups in CT**

**Hebron**

**Coalition on Diversity and Equity (CoDE) -**

Co-chairs: Amy D’Amaddio, [adamaddio@gmail.com](mailto:adamaddio@gmail.com); Donna Jolly, [dojolly@comcast.net](mailto:dojolly@comcast.net)

[Hebroncode10@gmail.com](mailto:Hebroncode10@gmail.com)

The Coalition on Diversity and Equity (CoDE) was formed in July 2020 by a group of town residents following the death of George Floyd and the first-ever rally for racial justice in Hebron. Since then, we’ve grown to focus on the towns of Hebron, Marlborough, Andover and Columbia and surrounding communities. Our mission is to build more diverse, equitable and vibrant communities. Our goals include increasing community awareness and equal access to housing, education and jobs.

To achieve these goals, we partner with and support the work of Town Committees and Commissions, Boards of Education and school leadership, faith communities, and nonprofit organizations.

[facebook.com/Hebron-CoDE](https://www.facebook.com/Hebron-CoDE-104649288341385)

**Portland**

**Portland Social Justice Coalition -**

[portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com](mailto:portlandsocialjustice@gmail.com), Liz Hibino, chair

facebook.com/Portland-CTSocialJustice

The PSJC was formed in July 2020 and partners with other groups and organizations in town to create positive opportunities for dialogue and education. We are a growing network of Portland residents, parents, employees, former students, and community members who are dedicated to helping our town be the best it can be. Our mission is to identify the needs of our community by listening, learning and having the difficult conversations necessary to empower our fellow community members to raise their voices and begin to bridge the gaps to create a more equitable, inclusive community. All who live, work, or are otherwise invested in Portland are welcomed to join the coalition.

**Bolton**

**Bolton Commission on Diversity & Inclusion –**

The Commission consists of up to 15 members as appointed to it by the Board of Selectmen. Members are empaneled for a term of one year following the first meeting of the Commission. The Commission seeks to address issues pertaining to Town government and community, diversity and inclusion.

Amanda Gordon - Chair

Kawan Gordon - Vice Chair

(terms expire November 10, 2022)

[Diversity Commission - Bolton, Connecticut (boltonct.org)](https://town.boltonct.org/boards-commissions/diversity-commission)

**Colchester**

[**Colchester Openness to Respecting Equity (CORE) Commission**](https://www.colchesterct.gov/your-government/core-commission)

The commission, which began in 2022, serves as an advisor, thoughtfully promoting and advocating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within the town.  Commission members will partner with the community to bridge, support, elevate and celebrate the diversity of people, perspectives, and cultures.  The goal is to foster a community built on collaboration, understanding, and inclusive dialogue.  As the community grows, ensuring equity and cultivating opportunities for both businesses and residents will be essential for Colchester’s success.

Shawn Pelletier, Chair, 860-334-6184

Amy Domeika, Vice Chair

**Middletown**

[**Middletown Racial Justice Coalition**](https://www.middletownrjc.org/) –

Precious Price, Director/Community Organizer; 860-316-4459; [precious@middletownrjc.org](mailto:precious@middletownrjc.org)

The Middletown Racial Justice Coalition intends to interrupt and dismantle institutional and systemic racism through community-led action, healing, and organizing. By cultivating a coalition of Middletown community members, leaders, agitators, and decision makers, we work to re-imagine and spark transformative change in people, systems, and institutions in order to create racially equitable outcomes.

There is also a **Middletown Anti-Racism Task Force** https://www.middletownct.gov/1240/Anti-Racism-Task-Force

**Lower Connecticut River Valley area**

**The Valley Stands Up ─**

<https://thevalleystandsup.org/>

[thevalleystandsup@gmail.com](mailto:thevalleystandsup@gmail.com)

The Valley Stands Up is an independent civic group created to unite our diverse communities in the Lower Connecticut River Valley area through outreach, organizing, and advocacy to support the dignity and human rights of all.

**Glastonbury**

**Glastonbury Martin Luther King Community Initiative (GMLKCI)** –

[www.glastonburymlkci.org](http://www.glastonburymlkci.org)

[glastonburymlkci@gmail.com](mailto:glastonburymlkci@gmail.com)

**GMLKCI** is a not for profit corporation (501(c)(3)) whose mission is to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community. **GMLKCI’s goals are to:**

* Increase knowledge and understanding of the life and philosophy of Dr. King to inspire others to continue his work
* Bring the concept of inclusivity to the community
* Engage community members in activities that foster meaningful relationships and dialogue
* Engage youth to support their development of community building leadership skills

David O’Connor, [davidandprem@yahoo.com](mailto:davidandprem@yahoo.com)

**TALK – Truth in Action with Love and Kindness**

<https://talk-action.org/>

Contacts: Bruce Bowman, President – [prez@talk-action.org](mailto:prez@talk-action.org); Anne Bowman ([abbowman@gmail.com](mailto:abbowman@gmail.com)); Jill Grieveson ([jillg@talk-action.org](mailto:jillg@talk-action.org)); Pam Lucas ([music5swim@cox.net](mailto:music5swim@cox.net)); Lisa and Rick Eldridge

info@talk-action.org

TALK is a non-partisan group of people who want to foster dialog about social and political issues and to educate ourselves about those same issues. We will also fight injustice and protect basic rights for all people through truth, compassion and nonviolence.

Vision:

To inspire all citizens to become involved in the addressing the issues that involve them; to provide the best environment we can for future generations; to be open to discussions from all points of view.

Concerns:

Voter education

Voter’s rights

Affordable housing

Affordable healthcare

Protecting the environment

Immigration

Press freedom/news literacy

Gender issues

Membership dues: $25 ($10 for seniors/students)

## Wethersfield

## Equity Leadership Team -

## <https://wethersfieldct.gov/filestorage/295/681/Summary-Agenda-July_and_August-2020.pdf>

## The Town of Wethersfield has engaged in a collaborative multi-year partnership with the State Education Resource (SERC). SERC is an educational agency established in Connecticut General Statute under section 10-4q over 45 years ago. SERC’s purpose is to assist with the provision of professional learning opportunities that promote educational equity and excellence in schools and districts across the state through various training programs, technical assistance, resources, and other related continuing education activities.

## The Wethersfield Public Schools Board of Education, the Town, and SERC will partner to provide community-wide discussions around social justice and racial equity. It is the hope that this collaboration will promote understanding through community engagement and support.

## This new effort will develop a town-wide “Social Justice Strategic Plan” through personal reflections, problem-solving and decision making. Three levels will be created – a Steering Committee, an Equity Leadership Team, and the Wethersfield Social Justice Coalition. We are encouraging all residents and business owners to participate in the Social Justice Coalition to help guide conversations that support the development of the plan.

## Ingrid Canady, Executive Director, [canady@ctserc.org](mailto:canady@ctserc.org), (860) 632-1485 ext. 265

## Farmington

## [Taskforce on Racial Equity](https://www.farmington-ct.org/government/taskforce-on-racial-equality/charge-of-the-taskforce) ─

Created by Town Council on July 14, 2020

Charge:

To examine and create a plan to develop strategies and community partnerships to address racial inequality, to educate residents and to increase awareness about Black Lives by identifying areas of improvement in the Community and to recommend an Action Plan to eliminate factors that lead to inequality.

The taskforce is charged with these objectives:

1. To hold meetings with residents to identify issues in the community that have led to unequal treatment based on race and to engage residents through holding community forums, dialogue groups, and training workshops on implicit bias; to develop a campaign to increase public awareness of these issues.
2. To analyze the current Town services in collaboration with the Town Manager to increase transparency, to address racial inequality and to develop initiatives and measurable goals.
3. To collaborate with and support the Farmington Valley Health District in their mission to incorporate and adopt principles of social justice into everyday public health practice.
4. To support the Board of Education in their efforts to ensure anti-racism, social justice and equity within the PreK-12 school system in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools.
5. To analyze current procedures and policies of the police department in collaboration with the Chief of Police, including use of force; to increase transparency to address racial inequality and to develop initiatives and measurable goals in collaboration with the Chief of Police.
6. To encourage a diverse workforce by providing education and training to local businesses in the areas of racial inequalities; and to research possible incentives to increase the number of Black owned businesses in collaboration with the Economic Development Director.

Committee Members:

* Joseph Capodiferro, Town Council Liaison
* Edward Giannaros, Town Council Liaison
* Kay Higgins, Human Relations Liaison
* Bill Beckert, Board of Education Liaison
* Sarah Smith, Community Member
* Yahmina Penn, Community Member
* Nieka Thompson, Community Member
* Jeremy McLaurin, Community Member
* Chris Cloud, Community Member (Chair)
* Jessica Harrison, Community Member
* Tanner Musznski, Farmington High School Student or Recent Alumni
* Isaac Varghese, Farmington High School Student or Recent Alumni

Non-Voting Members:

* Nancy Parent, Staff Liaison
* Kory Vincent, Police Department Liaison
* Anna Savastano, Clerk
* Various Town and School administration as needed

**South Windsor**

**Black Lives Matter subcommittee of Town Council -**

<https://www.journalinquirer.com/towns/south_windsor/town-mulls-funding-talks-on-anti-racism/article_4d5a1b04-051f-11eb-8501-bffbb561c062.html>

**Ellington**

**Ellington Equity ─**

James Fay, [info@ellingtonequality.com](mailto:info@ellingtonequality.com) or [ellingtonequality@gmail.com](mailto:ellingtonequality@gmail.com)

<https://www.ellingtonequality.com/>

As an organization we are working to ensure that everyone in our community, in our state and in our country be treated equally. We believe that no one should have fewer opportunities to succeed in life because of the color of their skin, where they were born, what they believe, who they love, their gender or gender identity or whether they have a disability (seen or unseen).

Ellington Equality is committed to social justice through advocacy, awareness and education. We promote equality in our community through status, rights and opportunity.

**Coventry**

**PowerUp Coventry –**

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/486415865613484/?fref=mentions>

Therese Parsons,

Mission: to give a voice to the unheard, educate our community on social issues, represent the underrepresented, and create meaningful change for the oppressed at every level in Coventry.

**Manchester**

**PowerUp Manchester –**

<https://powerupmanchester.org/>

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3173773826013890>

Karen Prescott, founder

Our mission as an organization is to give a voice to the unheard, educate our community on social issues, represent the underrepresented, and create meaningful change for the oppressed at every possible level in Manchester.

PowerUp Manchester (one of many branches of PowerUp CT) started days after the murder of George Floyd to call attention not just to his murder but also to systemic racism through the US, CT and right in Manchester.

**PowerUp East Hartford**

**PowerUp UConn**

**New Britain**

**New Britain Racial Justice Coalition -**

[http://nbrjc.org/](http://nbrjc.org/?fbclid=IwAR2_GoETAqJpsOgJYztgj9h6lNCevwcTYXQ0nx1bP5fszsJ-4IO3OA9cU1M)

(860) 386-5030

<https://www.facebook.com/nbrjc/>

To empower people in the New Britain Area to challenge racism through political education, coalition-building, electoral engagement, policy advocacy, mutual aid and direct action.

**Old Lyme/Lyme**

**Lyme-Old Lyme Partnership for Social Justice -**

<https://www.facebook.com/LOLPartnership4SJ>

[LOLPartnership4SJ@gmail.com](mailto:LOLPartnership4SJ@gmail.com)

FB page: https://www.facebook.com/LOLPartnership4SJ

A group of area volunteers working to energize local efforts that support education reform, affordable housing and police accountability in Lyme, Old Lyme and New London County.

Mission is to educate area residents on important topics of social justice and call attention to opportunities where citizens can support local, state and national social-justice efforts.

<https://lymeline.com/2020/11/groups-fighting-for-social-justice-co-host-teach-in-in-old-lyme-wednesday/>

**Old Saybrook, Essex, Old Lyme, Lyme, East Lyme, Deep River, Westbrook**

**March for Justice –**

Spearheaded by Maryam Elahi, President of Community Foundation of Eastern CT

Contact: Dennis Tulimieri, Jr., [dennis.jr@tulimieri.com](mailto:dennis.jr@tulimieri.com)

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/362927464665426>

We are residents and neighbors living in Old Saybrook, Essex, Old Lyme, Lyme, East Lyme, Deep River, Westbrook and other communities committed to standing up for human rights and justice. We are outraged by centuries of structural racism in this country. We stand with Black Lives Matter. We listen, learn & act. We understand that silence is not an option and we will not be bystanders to white supremacy. We aim to be allies and antiracist. We are respectful, nonpartisan and inclusive. We welcome all who share our values. We educate ourselves and join in weekly marches that are respectful and peaceful. Join us - Wednesdays at 5:30. We rotate our weekly marches between towns. During winter months, we pause our marches and do educational and advocacy work online.

Our goals are: 1. to bring greater equity in our communities through incorporating historically relevant materials into education and use arts and culture to share this information (like the Underground Railroad trail), 2. to work for health equity for all (one way to start is for our towns to join the 16 CT towns that have adopted the “racism is a health crisis” resolution and started collecting data), and 3. to adopt more welcoming zoning laws to make housing affordable and inclusive in this region.

We aspire to partner with town selectmen/women, Planning Boards and Board of Eds, teachers and school officials, artists and art institutions, historical societies, Health Equity Solutions and the 24 (plus) businesses which support the March for Justice. As our movement has grown from one town to cover many towns, we have changed our name from "Old Saybrook March for Justice" to "March for Justice.”

**Suffield**

**ABAR Suffield -**

**Facebook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/388878475429979>

<https://thesuffieldobserver.com/2020/07/new-local-group-promotes-social-justice/>

We are a group of Suffield citizens, who in partnership with social justice activists from the greater Hartford-Springfield area, seek to create a world free of implicit bias and racism. We initially came together to organize a Black Lives Matter rally in Suffield in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Amaud Arbery, and Breona Taylor, and have since evolved into a group committed to making Suffield a more inclusive and welcoming town truly committed to liberty and justice for all. ABAR is an acronym for anti-biased/antiRacist.

**Somers**

**Somers Advocates for Social Justice -**

<http://www.somersadvocates.org/>

email: [somersadv@outlook.com](mailto:somersadv@outlook.com)

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Somers-Advocates-for-Social-Justice-Somers-for-Black-Lives-100330375202305/>

A not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization that advocates equity and justice for historically marginalized, disenfranchised, and oppressed peoples in our community

Mission:

We listen, learn, educate, train, and activate individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, schools, and businesses to invest in interrupting racism, bigotry, and prejudice whenever encountered. We achieve our mission by fostering and facilitating the sharing of stories of racial biases — both unconscious and deliberate — to raise awareness, disrupt the status quo, and generate transformative ideas to create an inclusive, welcoming community.

**Stafford Springs**

**Stafford Springs Diversity Coalition –**

[stafforddiversitycoalition@gmail.com](mailto:stafforddiversitycoalition@gmail.com)

FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=The%20Stafford%20Springs%20Diversity%20Coalition>

A coalition dedicated to the advancement of disadvantaged and disenfranchised community members, through purposeful collaboration and partnerships designed to create opportunities and empowerment.

**Simsbury**

**Holding the Door Open -**

[htdosimsbury@gmail.com](mailto:htdosimsbury@gmail.com)

FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/holdingthedooropen>

This is a group for people within communities who are open, ready and willing to discuss, share and grow in their understanding of racism, privilege and division in our communities and within America, and how to counter those issues, enact change and not be passive observers.

**Granby**

<http://www.granbyracialreconciliation.com/>

email: [info@granbyracialreconcilation.com](mailto:info@granbyracialreconcilation.com)

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/granbyracialreconciliationgroup>

Granby Racial Reconciliation Group is a newly formed group of clergy and community leaders focused on racial reconciliation in Granby following several incidents of racial injustice including the May 25, 2020 killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis, MN. We’re people committed to the ongoing work of racial reconciliation in and around Granby. Our purpose is to raise awareness and continue the conversation on racial justice in our community so that Granby can be a great place for everyone.

Sponsoring organizations:

* First Congregational Church of Granby
* Granby Education Foundation
* South Congregational Church