



## Statement on Black Lives Matter

MWPA was founded in the summer of 1975 by a scrappy group of writers and publishers who believed in the power of words and in bringing all Maine writers, editors, publishers, storytellers, and book people together.

We abhor racist violence against Black and Brown people as well as systemic oppression. We also know that we have a long way to go to truly be an anti-racist organization, one that is welcoming, safe, and supportive to all writers and literary professionals and that makes a dent, even a small one, in our country's long history of racism and inequality.

In the short and long term, we are committed to making sure our staff, board, teachers, students, and membership reflect Maine's growing diversity, and that we're listening and reaching out to make our big literary tent truly inclusive. We are committed to expanding and deepening our partnerships with other organizations committed to being anti-racist and to building and promoting our state's diverse literary and artistic past, present, and future.

—The staff & board of MWPA