

## **History of Development of LRA Statement on Role of Literacy Research in Racism and Racial Violence**

Drafted by Marcelle Haddix

December 2014

At the Town Hall Meeting, racist comments were tweeted and posted to the back channel that mocked the Black Lives Matter movement. Members of the ERM committee met and discussed a deep concern regarding how LRA is responding to issues of racism and white supremacy as an organization. The committee requested a transcript of the back channel and brought these concerns to then Past-President Arlette Willis and President Janice Almasi.

January 2015

Marcelle Haddix, chair of ERM committee, put out an initial call to the committee and ERM members for 1-2 people to take the lead on drafting a statement about the importance of LRA becoming more vigilante about issues of race, racism, and difference (1/7/15).

September 2015

Following an email from President-Elect Pat Enciso and Vice President Rebecca Rogers (9/13/15) to the LRA committee chairpersons requesting that they gather statements and questions regarding specific issues of policy in literacy research and practice that relate to the group's focus (especially in consideration of restructuring of the Town Hall Meeting format), ERM Chair Marcelle Haddix emailed again (9/13/15) to the ERM membership proposing that they draft a statement regarding issues of racism, white supremacy, and racial violence as it pertains to the work that we do as literacy educators, researchers, and activists. The following LRA ERM members contributed to the first collective draft of the statement:

Marcelle Haddix  
Mikel Cole  
Patriann Smith  
Detra Price-Dennis  
Margarita Zisselsberger  
Sandra Osorio  
Ann Bennett  
Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz  
Gholnecsar Muhammad  
Eurydice Bauer  
Jennifer Danridge Turner  
Lara Handsfield  
Tiffany Nyachae

The group drafted and revised the statement via google docs. On 11/30/15, the draft was emailed to the ERM listserve for comment and feedback from the committee. The draft statement was then prepared for presentation to ally groups (Multilingual and Transcultural

ICG; Critical Race Study Group; Genders and Sexualities ICG) and then to the Board of Directors for LRA endorsement at the 2015 meeting.

December 2015

During the LRA meeting, the draft statement was presented and discussed at the meetings of the ERM, the Multilingual and Transcultural ICG, the Critical Race Study Group, and Genders and Sexualities ICG. The newly appointed ERM Chair, Detra Price-Dennis, gathered all comments and feedbacks and worked with a small subset of the ERM committee to revise the statement to be presented at the Saturday Board Meeting. Detra presented the statement to the Board of Directors for endorsement. The Board discussed the process for endorsing the statement and the organization's role in advocacy work. The Board recommended that the ERM committee follow the procedures for endorsements as outlined in LRA's Policy and Procedures Handbook. Following feedback from the Board, Detra Price-Dennis took the statement back to the ERM committee for continued revision.

April 2016

Detra Price-Dennis presented the revised statement to the Board of Directors at the spring meeting for continued discussion.

October 2016

The Executive Committee discussed the ERM statement and made recommendations for revision and redrafting. Vice President Gay Ivey and Treasurer Gwen McMillon took the lead on making revisions and working with Detra Price-Dennis to prepare the statement for Board approval for endorsement.

December 2016

After collective input from the ERM, allied groups, and the Executive Committee, the statement was presented to the Board of Directors for endorsement. The Board of Directors reviewed the process for making an endorsement as outlined in the Policy and Procedures Handbook. The Board voted on and approved the statement for endorsement with minor amendments on 12/29/16. The Executive Director will present the endorsed statement to the LRA membership.