



PACIFIC CENTER

FOR HUMAN GROWTH

Pacific Center for Human Growth
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Pacific Center State Sanctioned Violence Statement

State sanctioned violence is defined as the use of excessive force by governments to control the people of their nations through the denial of access to basic needs such as water, land, healthcare, housing, and physical safety; this oppression is reified through violent acts such as police brutality, genocide, and carcerality. Systems of oppression based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, history of substance use, socio-economic status, nation of origin, immigration status, and language interweave to uphold white supremacy, capitalism, and imperialism both in the United States and globally. Pacific Center acknowledges and names the grave impact of such abusive atrocities as the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, the Holocaust, South African Apartheid, genocide and removal of Indigenous people from their land in the Americas, Congo, Sudan, Palestine and many places around the world – and we affirm the resistance movements that have, and continue to, fight back. In addressing local and global state sanctioned violence, Pacific Center acknowledges being complicit in these oppressive systems. As we work toward improving our organizational equity practices, we take responsibility for our history of centering white, cisgender gay and lesbian identified people. We are committed to identifying where we still have work to do, and do it.

Social Justice is vision combined with action. Pacific Center recognizes that championing social justice means actively pushing against interconnected systems of oppression. The LGBTQ+ and QTBIPOC communities that we serve are not a monolith; queer people whose identities exist at the intersections of historically excluded groups are disproportionately vulnerable to state sanctioned violence. State sanctioned violence has radically dismantled the local and global communities many of our clients, volunteers, and staff belong to. Pacific Center strives to first clearly articulate what “social justice” means inside of our organization, and second to define our role inside the dynamic of state sanctioned violence vis a vis mental health care, support services, and training.

Pacific Center supports communities who disproportionately suffer from the direct and indirect impacts of oppression and state sanctioned violence. The grief, toxic stress, overwhelm, depression, anxiety, direct, vicarious and intergenerational trauma, and physical injury show up regularly in our service population, volunteers, and staff. We are committed to offering more robust training and educational programs to support our staff, volunteers, peer group facilitators, and therapists to be better equipped to identify and process the impacts of systemic oppression on historically excluded groups. We will endeavor to integrate liberation



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theory and decolonized frameworks into our didactic training and embodied practice. We will be forthright about our ability to protect the privacy of our community members. When there are barriers, such as the restrictions of state funding, we will be transparent so people can make informed decisions about their participation and disclosure. We are hoping to partner with - and support our constituency to connect with - organizations involved in Restorative and Transformative Justice, defunding efforts, and anti-oppression organizing. We are committed to supporting action and advocacy efforts where there is opportunity and alignment, aspiring to model an anti-oppression stance against state sanctioned violence in our field.