Dear Rhia Community,

In the past few weeks, we at Rhia Ventures have grappled with how to provide support, elevate critical services, and do our part to fight for racial equity. The senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade represent just a few of the countless lives taken throughout centuries of racially motivated violence in this country. We stand in solidarity with the Black community against racism and injustice. We recognize that standing in solidarity is one thing, and actively working toward creating sustainable change is another.

Our organization was founded and built to improve women’s lives by providing access, affordability, and improved reproductive health care for all women, particularly those in underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Throughout the history of reproductive justice in this country, Black and Brown women have experienced deep inequities at the hands of a system that was built on the premise of oppression. With your partnership, we are here to support the needs of women of color, low-income communities, and Medicaid communities by helping to fund and promote science, innovation, and policies.

We feel a responsibility to use our platform to champion change within reproductive health and to close the gaps that fuel racial inequities. Fear of getting it wrong can lead to inaction but we believe the ripple effect from positive structural change can create a long-lasting impact for women, their families, and society.

We are all experiencing this reality in a different way and the past few weeks have been a stark reminder of the importance of our work and how much more there is to do. We feel fortunate to count among our community many who have spent years working tirelessly to create positive change. Thank you for your work and your commitment then and today.

Bold, strategic action is needed to create change, and change doesn’t happen overnight. We are committed to becoming the change we want to see in this world and will continue to pursue strategies, invest in companies, and support programs on the path toward reproductive health equity. We see you, we hear you and we stand with you.

Sincerely,

Lisa & The Rhia Team
Our Commitment

We are committed to ensuring that our governance and staff remain diverse and that our programming is inclusive of racial equity. To that end, we seek to broaden and deepen our relationships with organizations, individuals, and prospective companies seeking to advance reproductive justice and the other values we espouse; to tap those relationships when we hire staff and consultants; and to circulate job openings to HBCUs, among others.
Resources

EDUCATIVE BOOKS & ARTICLES

White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism
by Robin DiAngelo, Ph.D

Raising Our Hands
by Jenna Arnold

U.S. Businesses Must Take Meaningful Action Against Racism
by Laura Morgan Roberts and Ella F. Washington

Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower
by Dr. Brittney Cooper

Heavy: An American Memoir
by Kiese Laymon

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings
by Maya Angelou

Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color
by Andrea J. Ritchie

Me and White Supremacy
by Layla F. Saad

For Too Long, Economists Have Dodged the Issue of Racism and Discrimination
by Kai Ryssdal & Maria Hollenhorst

Guns, Germs, and Steel
by Jared Diamond
Resources

INFORMATIVE VIDEOS

Black Feminism & the Movement for Black Lives: Barbara Smith, Reina Gossett, Charlene Carruthers (50:48)

Dr. Robin DiAngelo discusses ‘White Fragility’ (1:23:30)

PODCASTS OF INTEREST

1619
New York Times

Code Switch
NPR

Intersectionality Matters!
hosted by Kimberlé Crenshaw

Pod For The Cause
from The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights

Pod Save the People
Crooked Media
Resources

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Audre Lorde Project

Black Women’s Blueprint

Color Of Change

Colorlines

Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

Digital Undivided