

## **Statement from the Board of Directors, Children of Peace International**

Watching the civil unrest in the United States in recent days, our organization's initial response was to encourage calm and patience, to listen, and for many of us to pray.

At our recent annual Board Meeting, the Board of Directors of Children of Peace International decided that was not enough.

We are still listening. We are still learning. Many of us are still praying. And as we do, we also want to be clear on where we stand.

Children of Peace International does not tolerate racism. We know that black lives matter. We value inclusion from every community in the United States, Vietnam, and every nation. We also know there is much more work to be done.

Children of Peace International (COPI) will continue to stand for bringing people together to make a difference in any and every community we can. Our solution is not to have the loudest voice on any specific issue, but to help everyone see that resolution can only come by listening and working together. That has been a successful strategy for COPI for more than 25 years, as we have worked in Vietnam, serving cultures and governments, vastly different than our own. It can be the only path forward for our family of members and supporters in the United States, Vietnam and around the world.

June 20, 2020

nguyen thi thanh binh rybacki, CEO

R. Michael Kirchner, Board President