To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take that first step. We fail if we fail to try.

-Rosa Parks

The manifestation of structural racism, implicit bias, and the torment of impending violence demonstrated by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Tony McDade, Riah Milton, Dominique Fells and countless Black bodies sparked protests and unprecedented uprisings #DefundThePolice across the globe around a single cause, #BlackLivesMatter.

Racism is a public health crisis, affecting each and every social determinant of health and all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as outlined by the United Nations General Assembly, which were developed to achieve a more sustainable future for all. Ongoing discrimination and violence plague every facet of society and contributes to the inequity Black Americans and minorities in every country face daily in healthcare and education systems.

We commit to building sustainable access to health care and education in low resource settings; to unite, develop and mentor future surgeons, anaesthesiologists and obstetricians worldwide; to provide timely access to safe surgical, anaesthetic and obstetric care for all; to provide medical professionals restorative justice training so they may address the root causes of injustice; to support community health and wellbeing for populations at risk for violence and other negative health outcomes; and to fight misinformation. The Sadanan Foundation, Incision, OneSurgery, Restorative Empowerment for Youth, AcclivusChicago and Students4COVID condemn racism in all forms.

In solidarity with Black Americans and descendants of those of the African diaspora, we commit to taking action towards changing the status quo not with equality or equity, but with justice, which includes access to education and universal healthcare - including surgical healthcare - for all.

Our journey begins by:

1. Collaborating with student and trainee organizations to open a dialogue about the persistence of racism and the effects of bias and privilege within the healthcare space.
2. Requiring our leadership to be more intentional in their approaches within our organizations through anti-discrimination policies, hiring practices, recruitment with retention and the amplification of voices of QTBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Color) to reinforce our commitment to inclusion and diversity.
3. Hosting a session for student leaders to learn implicit bias training through the lens of restorative and transformative justice.

By sharing stories and experiences on structural racism and discrimination in healthcare, we plan to conscientiously educate healthcare providers globally by disseminating the perspectives of patients, students, trainees and healthcare providers.

We invite you to share your story and amplify Black and minority voices to make strides towards a society equipped to be just for ALL its members.


As best articulated by Cornel West, PhD, Justice is what love looks like in public.

WE WILL make a difference.