

## AMENDS TO NATIVE AMERICANS AND LATIN AMERICANS

Given by one white male and one white female

*Will any Native American and Latin American person wishing to accept an amends for the historic and continued oppression of their people in this country, please stand.*

To the nations of the Native American Indians, as a citizen of the United States I say, please forgive me and please forgive us.

To people who migrated here from countries south of the U.S. Border, especially those from Mexico I say, please forgive me and please forgive us.

On behalf of my ancestors and the group conscience of North America, I deeply apologize for the wrongs, so cruel, that have been inflicted on your people.

So many lives lost, so many names changed without permission, so many religious expressions denied, so many families split apart, so much arrogance displayed, so many wrong assumptions acted upon by my peers and by my ancestors and for this I deeply apologize.

We ask that the spirit of God within recognize our sorrow and grant us absolution.

We as a nation have wronged. Now we as a nation make amends.

If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can. May history begin again. We bless and commit to the good of your children and your children's children.

We commit to the Oneness that is all life, understanding, appreciating, and protecting our diversity.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

## AMENDS TO AFRICAN AMERICANS

(given by one woman and one man from races other than black)

*Will any African Americans wishing to accept a statement of amends for the historic and continued racism in this country please stand.*

To African Americans, please forgive me and forgive my ancestors for all of the pain caused by racism.

Please forgive us for slavery. It was cruel to sell your children and strip you of the identity of your rich culture.

Please forgive us for creating separate and unequal schools.

Please forgive us for ignoring your contributions to this country's military.

Please forgive us for not interrupting racist jokes and stories.

Please forgive us for racist hiring practices.

Please forgive us for black men and black women being among the lowest paid for jobs of equal effort.

For the racism causing a disproportionate number of African Americans to in prisons today, I am deeply sorry.

For the slow response to Katrina, I apologize.

For the million small ways African Americans must accommodate white privilege today and yesterday, I am sorry.

If we could rewrite history, we would. We cannot, but God can.  
We pledge a commitment to seeing brotherhood among all races, knowing that we turn our attention to, grows.

I bless your children, please bless mine.

Thanks be to God for showing us the way in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

## AMENDS TO LGBT COMMUNITY

(given by one straight woman and one straight man and one straight teen)

***Will any Lesbians, Gay men, or transgendered persons wishing to accept an amends for the historic and continued oppression of homosexuals, please stand.***

To lesbians, gay men, and transgendered people I say please forgive me and forgive my ancestors.

On behalf of the group conscience of heterosexuals, I deeply apologize for the wrongs, so cruel, that have been inflicted on your people.

For creating an environment in which you are safer when you are invisible, I apologize.

For using the Bible and other religious texts to call you an abomination or any other derogatory name, I apologize.

I apologize on behalf of our government for denying you over 11,000 rights and privileges given to heterosexual citizens.

For any parent or family member who has put you out of the house or their heart for being gay, I deeply apologize.

How sorry we are for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can.

May history begin again this day. We commit to the Oneness that is all life, understanding, appreciating, and protecting our diversity. We want you to be you. For you are a beautiful expression of God.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

## AMENDS TO PEOPLE FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

(by one black and one white adult)

*Will any person from, or with family from, a Middle Eastern country wishing to accept an amends for the historic and continued oppression of their people in this country, please stand.*

To any person of Middle Eastern heritage I say please forgive me and my ancestors.

On behalf of my ancestors and the group conscience of America, I deeply apologize for the wrongs, so cruel, that have been inflicted on your people.

So much misplaced blame for terrorist attacks. So much suspicion of what's in your heart based on how you look. I apologize for the culture fear.

I apologize for creating an environment in which you are safer when you are invisible.

I apologize for the misunderstanding of the Koran and the Vedas and for those who speak out against these sacred texts.

I apologize that your travel in this country is fraught with considerations I never have to think about.

How sorry we are for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can.

We bless your children. Please bless mine.

May history begin again this day. We commit to the Oneness that is all life, understanding, appreciating, and protecting our diversity. We want you to be you. For you are a beautiful expression of God.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

**AMENDS TO WOMEN**  
(by one straight and one gay man)

Will all women willing to accept amends for the oppression of women please stand.

On behalf of my ancestors and the group conscience of America, I deeply apologize for the wrongs, so cruel, that have been inflicted on women of every age and race and nationality and size.

To women who were not encouraged in school or in their home to achieve their dreams, I am sorry.

To women who suffered any disrespect, either physical, emotional, or financial, by boys or men, I am sorry.

To women who were denied promotions and equal pay in the workplace because they were women, I am sorry.

To women who were denied complete and equal acceptance in houses of worship, I am sorry.

To women who had to raise children without the help of their father, I am sorry.

How sorry we are for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can.

May history begin again this day. We pledge our respect this day and promise to look within to find ways to support your creativity, your independence, and your contributions to the planet.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

## **AMENDS TO MEN**

(by one straight woman and one lesbian)

Will all men, willing to accept an apology for the oppression of men in this country please stand.

On behalf of my ancestors and the group conscience of American women, I deeply apologize for the wrongs that have been inflicted on men of every age and race and nationality and size.

To men who have suffered estrangement from children at the hands of hurting and angry ex-wives, I apologize.

To men who have been asked to pay an emotional price for the behaviors of other men who have gone before them, I apologize.

To men whose contributions to home and family have not been acknowledged, I apologize.

To men who have been characterized as unmanly or too manly, I apologize.

To men who have been criticized for not sharing feelings in the same way that women share feelings, I apologize.

We are sorry for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot but God can.

May history begin again this day. We pledge our respect this day and promise to look within to find ways to acknowledge the special contributions men make to our lives and to the planet.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

## **AMENDS TO CHILDREN**

(given by one man and one woman of different races)

This will take place on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> when the teens take over every aspect of the service for the Season

Will all children and teens who are willing to accept an amends for the oppression of children, please stand.

On behalf of my grandparents and their grandparents and all American adults, I deeply apologize for the wrongs that have been inflicted on all children and teens.

To children and teens whose good ideas have been ignored because of their age, I deeply apologize.

To children and teens whose parents don't listen to them, I apologize.

To children and teens who have suffered from a step-parent who acted like they didn't want you around, I apologize.

To children and teens who have been abused in any way by an adult, I apologize.

To children and teens who were put down because they wore baggy pants or had piercings or listened to rap I apologize.

To children and teens who are being raised by parents who are addicts of any kind, I apologize.

We are sorry for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can.

May history begin again this day. Our prayer this day is that you know you are stronger than any condition on the planet. Within you is the Power to live through and thrive from anything life hands you. You are a winner in every sense of the word.

Thanks be to God for making these things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

And so it is.

**AMENDS TO THOSE NOT FORGOTTEN.**  
(list read by group of Practitioners from Platform)

*Immigrants, victims of religious persecution, animals, Internment camp survivors, elders, people with different abilities, people of different sizes, very wealthy people, mentally ill people, homeless people ....*

Will anyone from these groups or any other group you'd be willing to call out now stand.

On behalf of the group conscience of America please accept my apology for thoughts and behaviors that have in anyway tried to make you feel less than.

I apologize for looking at you and not seeing you.

I apologize for not speaking up on your behalf, both those times when you were present and times when you were not present.

I apologize for any thoughts that have diminished the gravity of your struggle.

I see your creativity, your brilliance and your contributions to the rich fabric of this nation.

Please, dear God, release any judgment. Release any intolerance.

May I be blessed with an understanding of all beings. May I be blessed with compassion in those areas I don't understand.

We are sorry for your suffering. If we could rewrite history we would. We cannot, but God can.

May history begin again this day. May we recognize the divinity in each of us and in each other. May we recognize the wholeness in each individual begins with the recognition of the wholeness within myself.

Thanks be to God for making all things right in love, in healing, in mercy and in grace.

**And so it is.**