



## Statement in Support of Social Justice

June 1, 2020

Disability Rights Connecticut shares the pain and frustration of our communities of color that continue to experience the tragic effects of systemic discrimination.

To discriminate based upon one's status - race, gender, religion, disability - is to deny the essential humanity of our fellow human beings. Such discrimination is particularly heinous when expressed through the most visible power of the state: police power resulting in death. But it is also demonstrated in more subtle and insidious ways.

Unnecessary institutionalization, exclusion from society and other dehumanizing practices undermine people's status as human beings. We at Disability Rights Connecticut unite with all who must struggle to claim the essential humanity with which we are born. Our continuing work to enforce civil rights laws is essential. But it is only one part of a social responsibility to move our society's attitudes and perceptions to a higher plane; a plane in which the rights of all humans are honored, respected and vindicated.

What Franklin Roosevelt, a President with a disability, said on the eve of his first election holds true today:

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*"In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice, the path of faith, the path of hope and the path of love toward our fellow man."*

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