

## It is time for unfairness to end

The events of the past weeks are tragic and disheartening. The significant struggles that communities and families are dealing with in COVID 19 have revealed something far more significant. Because of long-standing health disparities, the effects of the pandemic disproportionately impacted communities of color. The tragic and unfair death of George Floyd and numerous other incidents has exposed what we already know to be true: men and women of color face daily threats to their safety and well-being of themselves and their families because of long-standing structural racism in our Country. Sadly, this is nothing new: but it must end. We need to take a stand against racism and the disproportionality that currently exists in our Country.

Functional Family Therapy is an alliance-based model that focuses on helping families solve problems through alliance and collaboration. FFT is implemented in communities in a way that respects the unique values of the families and communities we serve. FFT is about helping families work together within their communities to provide safe places for children and families to live and thrive. FFT is about family voice: listening to the perspective of those who we help to adjust what we do to the needs and values of the family. FFT is built on the principle that we “lean into” issues by being proactive in our discussions and actions with the clinicians and organizations. To lean in, we need a proactive approach to specifically address these issues with teams and how to get clinicians to address these issues with families.

As trainers, educators, and clinicians, we carry a responsibility to stand for a set of values that is consistent with the principles of the work we do and the model we promote. It is on us to work with those values when working with clinicians, organizations, and each family who receives FFT. At FFT, we are united in promoting respect, opportunity, and the well-being of all families and communities. At FFT, we stand for working together to speak about and overcome these issues. At FFT, we stand for respect and self-determination of families and communities. At FFT, we believe in fairness & equality. At FFT, we think it is our responsibility not only to speak about these values but act on them every day. We will not always get it right; however, you have our commitment to keep trying, learning, and promoting these values with each family, each clinician, each organization, and each community we work with.

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