

## Statement of Recognition and Repentance

Gathered here today as practitioners of the dharma, we face and accept our collective karma so that we may live and practice together with clarity, vulnerability, and honesty.

With open hearts, aware of our interconnection with all things, we acknowledge:

That for countless generations men have harmed and dominated women, creating patriarchal cultures of fear.

That we in this moment and in this very place stand on sacred ground that has been stolen from indigenous people through violence and manipulation. We as a society have capitalized on this theft, and our institutions are built on a policy of genocide that continues to this day.

That the conquest of what we call the Americas, and the rise of the United States as a global power, rests upon the enslavement of African and Caribbean people taken violently from their homes and forced to labor under brutal and oppressive conditions.

We atone for the suffering caused by racism in all its forms, and vow to dismantle all white supremacist systems, including mass incarceration, police violence, and the deportation, persecution and exclusion of refugees and immigrants.

That we as individuals and as a society, engage in normative behaviors that inflict injustice, cruelty, and violence on people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.

That we participate in a destructive economic system that encourages greed, hatred, and indifference. As human beings, we

cannot separate the gift of our life from the violence being done to our planet and the many beings with whom we share it.

As individuals, as a sangha, and on behalf of all who came before us, we atone for our participation in all systems of domination, greed, and injustice. We vow to overcome these forces in ourselves and in the world for the benefit of all beings.

Now as we chant the gatha of atonement and renew our vows in the Fusatsu Ceremony, we bow in reverence, sorrow, and determination to heal the forces that cause such pain, for Collective Liberation is the Bodhisattva Vow.