



Greetings,

The events that occurred at the U.S. Capital this week, as well as in other states, have caused many feelings including outrage, anger, sadness, insecurity, and distress. It has made it clear that there is much work to be done including exploring and addressing the racial inequities and cultural bias in our country.

At IEPD, Inc., we are saddened, appalled and greatly disturbed by the violence.

Over the past weeks and months, our staff have been working hard to bring together resources and provide training opportunities to help you and your staff through these difficult times so that you can continue to bring your best selves to the children and families you serve. You are vital to our society, for the dedication and impact you have on children and families, now and in the future.

As Josh Delaney, deputy legislative director for US Senator Elizabeth Warren, states in a [Globe Op-Ed](#), “We are resilient. We will heal from this trauma together. We will get back to the quiet, important work of the nation. We will keep marching forward. But for now, it’s OK to acknowledge that no, we are not OK.”

Please reference these resources in your reflection, support for families, and your vital work with young children:

- NAEYC: Coping with Trauma, Stress and Violence
~ <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/coping-trauma-stress-and-violence>
- NAEYC: Advance Equity Initiative ~
<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/initiatives/equity>

Strategies for Children also suggests that you develop a relationship with your elected officials.

1. Visit the Secretary of State’s Where Do I Vote webpage to see you represents you at the State House and in Washington, DC. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/bal/MyElectionInfo.aspx>
2. Learn more about your legislators here: <https://malegislature.gov/Legislators>
3. Article: *Flexibility, listening without judgment critical to support educators of color.* <https://www.k12dive.com/news/flexibility-listening-without-judgment-critical-to-support-educators-of-co/579181/>



4. Book suggestion: So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/35099718-so-you-want-to-talk-about-race>

Let us continue to work together, supporting early childhood and out of school time educators, programs, children & families! You are vital to our society, for the dedication and impact you have on children and families now and in the future.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time (508-657-1079 and j.figuerido@iepd.org).

Warm regards

Jody Figuerido, Ph.D.

President

The Institute for Education & Professional Development, Inc.