

Habitat for Humanity CEO Jonathan Reckford's statement to Habitat affiliates throughout the U.S. after the death of George Floyd

"Habitat for Humanity is more than a non-profit housing ministry. We have a vision of the world where we share one humanity, and that is a world that we believe in and fight for every day. We are a faith-based organization, but we realize that faith alone is not enough. Our faith must be coupled with works and action ... we recognize that we must do more.

"We must commit to doing the work in our practices, our programs, and our networks that bring equity to our efforts and helps bring justice to the communities in which we work. We must, throughout our ministry, do a better job of connecting issues of racial and social injustice with historic barriers to affordable housing and, working to eradicate those barriers... we commit to being actively anti-racist and to affirming, through word and action, that Black Lives Matter and that our communities and systems must further this fundamental truth."

One of the first steps taken by HFHI to further this truth was to create a Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and in August, Natosha Reid Rice, HFHI's then Associate General Counsel for Real Estate and Finance, was chosen for this position. As a Harvard-educated lawyer, Mrs. Rice has done extensive work in the realms of power and the impact of privilege, equity and inclusion, race and gender justice, and community empowerment. Per Patrick Canagasingham, HFHI's Chief Operating Officer: "HFHI's ministry is committed to creating an environment where humility, open communication, dialogue and listening become our standard, and Mrs. Rice will help lead Habitat to that goal."