



TIME4CHANGE



THE BIRMINGHAM
CHARTER



INTRODUCTION

We, as God's people are committed to challenging racism and championing justice, equality and equity across Birmingham. The **TIME 4 CHANGE CHARTER** enables us to work in unity, respect and harmony and to speak with ONE VOICE across our city and to end racism. We will love our neighbour and bless our city.

- "Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8
- "All of them will be one...so that they might be brought to complete unity" John 17:21-23
- "A new commandment I give you. Love one another as I have loved you" John 13:34-35

THE CHARTER

1. We the churches, Christian organisations and followers of Jesus **acknowledge** the issue of racial injustice and its systemic and institutional nature.
2. We commit to **challenge racism confidently** across Birmingham and see it removed from the church and society.
3. We commit to an honest and open **look at ourselves** and our churches and where we are in relation to the issue of racial injustice.
4. We will **pray**: actively encouraging prayer as a group and within and across our churches and neighbourhoods over the issue of racial injustice and disunity.
5. We **repent** – we have caused or ignored hurt and we pray for a deep healing in our city
6. We will **engage in conversations** - creating the spaces for open, honest and frank dialogue. We will listen to the voices of our black and all ethnic communities, across the generations and the different parts of our city.
7. We commit to **relationship building** with church and city leaders modelling strong supportive relationships across the city. We will build a culture of honour, openness and support within our churches, neighbourhoods and workplaces.
8. We will bridge the knowledge gap, building a **shared understanding** of what it is like to be black, or of other ethnicity in Birmingham today, understanding the historical context and the damage to their psyche by sustained and systemic racism.
9. We aim for **truth, reconciliation and healing** through open discussions across the city that understands and acknowledges the hurts of the past and hopes for the future. We will identify actions to bring healing.



10. We will **advocate**; using our influence and understanding to speak up for racial equality and equity in the church and the city. We will inspire changes in structures and cultures to remove racism. We will engage the city's civic leaders as they address this issue.
11. We will build and strengthen **representative leadership**: Creating systems, structures and processes that encourage representative leadership in our churches and organisations. We will actively mentor and encourage young and emerging leaders.
12. We will **take practical action**, developing short, medium and long term plans to equip the wider church to strengthen unity and collaboration and engage the wider community.
13. We will **equip and engage** the wider church with material on theology, and key principles around justice, equity and equality, testimonies and events. We will ensure our actions and narratives are centred very clearly on Jesus, rooted firmly in the word of God and inspired by the Spirit.
14. We will **communicate and dialogue** regularly and clearly, in an engaging and accessible way to ensure the wider church is kept up to date. We will inspire Christians engaged in business, health, education, arts and media and other spheres to be champions for equity, equality and builders of unity.
15. We commit to **being a welcoming city**, a super diverse community where all peoples, whatever their background or ethnicity see that God's people will always provide a home, a community and a generous welcome. We commit to strengthening unity and harmony across the church that we might be one just as the Father and Son are one.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- 1. Partner with TIME 4 CHANGE** - sign through this link to be a 'Time 4 Change' partner church or organisation - <https://www.time4change.uk/contact>
- 2. Review the Charter** with your leadership team/s – discuss how to apply each item. Identify the deliberate actions you will take to end racism and build new understanding and deeper unity.
- 3.** If you are a leader, **join** the monthly Time 4 Change city prayer gathering. Contact us for the link through the contact page link above.
- 4. Commit** to regular prayer for a new unity across the city, for racism to end and for the whole body of Christ to flourish.
- 5. Build dialogue** and relationship across the city – with churches, leaders and organisations. If you need help to connect in this way, let us know. We encourage you to meet, have coffee and strengthen links.

That would be a great start.

Broken into 3 simple steps:

- **READ** - the charter together
- **RESPOND** - the prayer meetings
- **REACH OUT** - the relationships