



**NW ANIMAL RIGHTS NETWORK**

**Northwest Animal Rights Network (NARN)**

Anti-Racist Organizational Work Fundraising Effort

## **Racism impacts NARN, our members, our community and our mission**

*Our Mission Statement:* "The Northwest Animal Rights Network advocates for the rights of all sentient beings—the right to choose, to be free from oppression and exploitation—by pursuing campaigns, facilitating education, and connecting Pacific Northwest organizations"

Inherent in our mission is an understanding that the right to freedom from oppression is one shared by humans and non-humans alike, and that to fight for the liberation of some species while continuing to oppress members of another runs counter to the ideals of veganism and the animal rights movement.

Unfortunately, the animal rights movement has experienced its own challenges with human-on-human oppression, with activists regularly subjected to racism and other oppressions. The movement has traditionally highlighted the accomplishments and work of white activists, while so much of the work—done by members of the global majority, who do not identify as white—is largely ignored. Many activists are also bullied, harassed, and their efforts belittled. Research shows that this toxic culture hurts the movement, causing harm to activists that results in their burnout and withdrawal.[1]

## **The solution: an equitable, welcoming and just movement for activists and animals**

NARN is committed to doing our part to create a more equitable, just, and welcoming movement, aligned with the core values of compassion and equality upon which veganism and animal rights are based. We must recognize and learn from the contributions of our global majority. As Indigenous Australian artist, activist and academic, Lilla Watson once said, "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." Our human liberation is bound up in each other's, and is inextricably bound to the liberation of animals.

## **Next steps: NARN's role in the solution**

Before we can change the movement, we must change ourselves. The NARN Board of Directors has made a commitment to transforming NARN into an organization that follows its whole mission by taking steps to address racial equity and justice within all of NARN's policies, programs, campaigns, outreach, membership, and volunteer base as well as our Board representation.

## **This includes, but is not limited to:**

- Working toward a majority of board members that represent the global majority
- Educating ourselves and others about white supremacy, particularly in our movement
- Understanding and exposing the impact of these oppressions on our efforts for animals
- Driving outreach and programs to create more equity and justice for our movement
- Promoting the work of the global majority and showing up to support those communities

## **We have started on this path by:**

- Sponsoring anti-racist education for board members and our contract program manager
- Conducting internal audits of our processes and documents
- Engaging \*[Encompass Movement](#) to conduct an in-depth anti-racism audit, and to consult on practical steps we can take towards our stated goals.

## **We need your support**

NARN's fundraising goal in support of this transformation is \$10,000. This will fund our partnership with the Encompass Movement, training opportunities and the alignment of all messaging and marketing materials.

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\*Encompass works with animal protection organizations to maximize staff impact, recruit more people of color, and more authentically conduct outreach to communities of color.

[1] Paul Gorski, Stacy Lopresti-Goodman & Dallas Rising (2019) "Nobody's paying me to cry: the causes of activist burnout in United States animal rights activists", *Social Movement Studies*, 18:3, 364-380, DOI: 10.1080/14742837.2018.1561260. Link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2018.1561260> and Paul Gorski & Noura Erakat (2019) "Racism, whiteness, and burnout in antiracism movements: How white racial justice activists elevate burnout in racial justice activists of color in the United States", Link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796819833871>