



# VOICES FOR JUSTICE

*in the Movement to End Homelessness*

*As part of our [Commitment to Racial Equity](#), Funders Together shares statements, articles, and other resources that highlight the voices of Black, Indigenous, and other leaders of color in the fields of philanthropy, homelessness, and intersecting systems. While it's important for white leaders to speak up, we can further our commitments to racial equity by listening to, learning from, and incorporating the recommendations of BIPOC leadership into not only our grantmaking but also into the structures of our organizations.*



Last month, Marisol Bello, Director of the [Housing Narrative Lab](#), penned a blog post making the case around why narrative work is important if we want to achieve housing justice. The Housing Narrative Lab was created to shift narratives around who experiences homelessness and why, leading with equity and justice in all its efforts.

Changing the narrative around homelessness from one of personal failures to that of systems failure requires re-educating the public and building political will across the local, state, and federal levels to end homelessness through evidence-based and person-

centered solutions. And to do that, we need to examine how power plays a part in narrative efforts.

In [her blog post](#), Marisol rightly says "Narrative is power. Who controls the story and how, when and why they tell it holds power because narratives influence hearts and minds." She points out that current narratives around homelessness perpetuate harm and injustices, especially for BIPOC community members. If we want to end homelessness and achieve housing justice, we must recognize that part of narrative work means restoring power to the voices that are far too often intentionally left out of the conversation, like those of people with lived expertise.

As philanthropy explores its role in power shifting, we can't ignore how narrative fits into that work. Funders should examine how we can elevate and prioritize the voices of those most impacted, support the sector in speaking with a collective language, and resource the use of proven affirmative messaging that will contribute to building both public and political will to achieve housing justice for all.

**[Read Marisol's blog post.](#)**

Funders Together to End Homelessness

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