

Friends and Allies,

**This is not the first message I had hoped to share with you as Executive Director, but the events in Washington, D.C. cannot go unacknowledged.**

Yesterday, we saw a deliberate and violent assault on democracy made possible because a sitting president spent years unabashedly encouraging and emboldening his extremist supporters at every turn. As a country and a state, we cannot accept the violence and hatred that has played out before our eyes.



There have always been two Americas, and during the Attack on the Capitol, we saw that hypocrisy put on full display. For years, peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters demanding an end to police brutality and abuses of power have been met with riot gear, military equipment, tear gas, rubber bullets and worse. It is no surprise that armed, white supremacists who overran our nation's Capitol Building and threatened sitting members of government were not met with the same, egregious escalation of force.

Despite the violence and intimidation, Joe Biden will still be our country's next president. However, removing the platform and power of the presidency from Donald J. Trump will not resolve the issues that brought us to this point. We'll have much work to do to grapple with the white supremacist extremism that led to this failed coup attempt, and we must stand up against injustice wherever it shows up.

Due to the unprecedented nature of yesterday's events, it's easy to lose sight of the other significant moments that happened on Wednesday. Regardless of your political affiliation, the results of the run-off election in Georgia were historic. Meanwhile back at home, Governor Ned Lamont delivered the State of the State address and Connecticut's legislative session for 2021 began.

As we continue to work to root out injustice in our own backyard, I wanted to share with you our own priorities for the new year. This 2021 Legislative Session, to support system-impacted youth, we will be working to:

- Remove all youth under 18 from prison-like environments
- Raise the minimum age of arrest from 7 to 12
- Remove police from schools

Over the coming weeks and months, we'll be sharing more information and ways we can all work together to urge decision makers to support the futures of our state's youth; by investing in their success instead of their arrests.

In the meantime, you can learn more about our legislative priorities [here](#).

As it stands, the justice system is anything but just and there's still more that needs to be done to do right by the young people in our state. I am committed to pushing our state in a just and bold direction because that's what our youth deserve.

In Solidarity,  
Christina Quaranta, Executive Director CTJJA