



In a ruling made Thursday, June 29, the U.S. Supreme Court declared affirmative action admissions programs at public and private colleges and universities unconstitutional. This key achievement of the Civil Rights Movement has been dismantled by justices who benefited from 400 years of an educational system that was constructed to promote racial inequity in this country.

Affirmative Action programs have never been about granting unearned access to non-white students, but rather such efforts remain necessary to disrupt the barriers to equal and equitable education for all people that are fortified by racism and economic inequity in our society. Although Affirmative Action was struck down, legacy admissions, donor designated admissions, and athletic admissions to the most esteemed institutions in our nation remain available to those who are well resourced in society.

The officers of the United Church of Christ re-affirm this denomination's firm support of Affirmative Action policies as an antidote to the systemic and systematic racism that remains a barrier to qualified non-white students all over the nation. We are grateful for the dissenting opinion of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and caution all that what the Supreme Court has done today is not only egregious, but another poignant reminder that "justice" in our court systems is not, and never has been, blind.

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