



Paul Noursi – Co-chair  
Nancy Wein – Co-chair

#### Participating Organizations

American Muslims for Palestine  
Appalachian Peace Education Center  
Arab American Association of Central Virginia  
Community for Justice in Palestine & Israel of the Alliance of Baptists  
Defenders for Freedom, Justice, and Equality  
Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church - USA  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
National Arab American Women's Association  
New Dominion PAC  
Northern Virginians for Peace & Justice  
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace  
Plowshares Peace & Justice Center  
Richmonders for Peace in Israel and Palestine  
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, Northern Virginia Chapter  
United Methodists for Kairos Response  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
Washington Interfaith Alliance for Middle East Peace

December 11, 2019

Derrick P. Alridge, Ph.D.  
Chair, Professional Development/Instructional Support Subcommittee  
African American History Education Commission  
Robert Russa Moton Museum  
900 Griffin Blvd.  
Farmville, VA 23901

Dear Dr. Alridge,

As Co-chairs of the Education Committee of the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights, we write to thank you for your participation in the African American History Education Commission. We understand from Holly Coy that you chair a subcommittee under the auspices of this Commission that is charged with two tasks: recommending professional development and recommending instructional support for teachers to ensure culturally competent instruction.

Under the category of professional development, may we recommend Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which offers daylong professional development workshops for K-12 classroom teachers, administrators and counselors (<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development>)? Other, not-to-be-missed, supplementary PD products associated with Teaching Tolerance are the online webinars and podcasts. Three other PD workshops to consider are those produced by Facing History and Ourselves (<https://www.facinghistory.org/professional-development>); those produced by the Pulitzer Center (<https://www.pulitzercenter.org>); and those produced by Georgetown University (<https://cmcuworkshops.net/>).

Under the category of instructional support, may we recommend the teacher resource documents published by Teaching Tolerance titled: **Teaching Hard History: A Framework for Teaching American Slavery K-5** (<https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/k-5-framework>) and **Teaching Hard History: A Framework for Teaching American Slavery 6-12** (<https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/6-12-framework>)?

These five-component frameworks begin with ten ideas expanded into five eras that provide a blueprint for integrating American slavery across the entire span of pre-1877 American history. In each of the five eras are found summary objectives, which map to the ten ideas or concepts. And, beneath each summary objective are two sections that provide additional information and resources. Furthermore, each article contained in *The New York Times* magazine supplement published earlier this summer titled *The 1619 Project* could be correlated to the relevant Teaching Hard History objectives and listed as a resource. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

Whatever professional development or instructional support you recommend to the Board of Education, we hope you will include an implicit bias survey as a component of any workshop.

With appreciation for your important work on this commission, we are,

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Drinkard  
Co-chair, Education Committee  
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights

Jeanne Trabulsi  
Co-chair, Education Committee  
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights