As an organization that has worked for all of its history to stop violence, we mourn the tragic, brutal, indefensible murder of George Floyd. Structural racism and police brutality pervade our culture; the pain these abuses cause, and the ways they diminish us as a country are incalculable.

The devaluation of Black lives and the disparate treatment of minorities – in our justice, healthcare, education, economic and other systems – are intolerable, and have gone on for much too long. We cannot continue to criminalize race and poverty or to tolerate violence of any kind.

George Floyd, of course, is only the latest Black life lost to police brutality. Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Philando Castile, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner are among the many whose names are familiar to us for the worst possible reason – because they were killed by police. There are so many more whose names are carved on tombstones, and across the hearts of those who loved them, yet, whose deaths went unrecorded in every sense -- and did not create headlines, inspire public rage or calls for justice.

There must not be one more.

Nor can we allow the health disparities that take such a disproportionate toll on the Black community, especially now as we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, to continue. We need to remake our justice system, our health care system, our education system, and our economic system in ways that are equitable, responsive and fair.

This rebuilding demands deep changes in our culture as well, and more and better services to help children recover from the trauma of the violence and bias that are all around them.

For many years, Futures Without Violence has worked to change multiple systems. We know that progress does not come easily, but that it is possible. We need accountability for police officers, prosecutors and judges and we need to root out all those who are biased or abusive. The days when police accountability can be sporadic or lacking altogether are over.

The terrible pain we feel right now is creating an unprecedented, broad-based wave of activism, especially among our young people of color. And activism leads to change. The responsibility belongs to each one of us to be sure that change is swift, meaningful and lasting. As a country, we cannot allow racism, injustice and violence to continue. As people of conscience, we each have a duty to resist and to act. The costs of silence and inaction are a burden we can no longer bear.
RESOURCES FOR ACTION

WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Young Women’s Freedom Center

#SayHerName

Black Lives Matter

NAACP

The Loveland Foundation

Black Mental Wellness

Black Visions Collective of Minnesota

Reclaim the Block

BEING AN ALLY

Showing up for Racial Justice

If You Are White...

Supporting Black Lives Matter if Money is Tight

The Best and Worst Ways to Support The Protests on Social Media as a Non-Black Person


JUSTICE AND CIVIC ACTION

The Obama Foundation compiled these resources for becoming informed, engaged and taking action:

GET INFORMED

LEARN ABOUT POLICE VIOLENCE AND ANTRACISM IN AMERICA.

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights—New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing

The recommended reforms in this report, which are intended to create accountability and build better relationships between law enforcement and communities of color, stem from President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

Equal Justice Initiative—Tragic Death of George Floyd Reveals Continuing Problem of Police Violence
A reflection on the current state of police reform with recommendations for progress.

**Campaign Zero—Solutions**

A look at data- and research-informed policy solutions that communities can put in place to end police violence.

**Center for Policing Equity—The Science of Justice: Race, Justice, and Police Use of Force**

This detailed report delves into police administrative data to show disparities in the use of force. You can watch the director of the Center, Phillip Atiba Goff, deliver a TED talk on fighting racism and improving policing here.

**The Opportunity Agenda—Promoting Accountability**

Learn how police accountability works, and the four mechanisms—community-based, political, civil, and criminal—for holding law enforcement accountable.

**The National Museum of African American History and Culture—Talking About Race**

An online portal to help families, individuals, and communities talk about racism and commit to being antiracist.

**TAKE ACTION**

**TAKE STEPS AND LEND SUPPORT TO ENCOURAGE REFORM.**

**Color of Change—Sign a Petition to End Violent Policing Against Black People**

Sign this petition calling for the end of police violence against Black people.

**Official George Floyd Memorial Fund—Go Fund Me**

Support George Floyd’s family through this fund designed to cover expenses as well as care for his children and their education.

**Nationwide Bail Fund**

Help support bail for protestors in your community. For those here in Chicago, you can support the Chicago Community Bond Fund.

**GET ENGAGED**

**CONNECT WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS ON THE FRONT LINES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

**Black Futures Lab**

**Campaign Zero**

**Center for Policing Equity**

**Movement For Black Lives**
NAACP Legal Defense Fund

New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP)

STAND TOGETHER
SEE HOW NEIGHBORS ARE JOINING FORCES TO ADVOCATE, MOBILIZE, CARE, AND HEAL.