

Statements on the Death of George Floyd

In response to the grievous killing of George Floyd, there has been an outpouring of heartfelt letters and statements from Jewish community relations councils around the country to their local black community partners, leaders, friends and colleagues. Below is a list of the letters that JCPA has been compiling the statement. To read the statements, click on the JCRC/Federation name.

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Baltimore Jewish Council

Baltimore Jewish Council Stands Against Injustice And Discrimination

The Baltimore Jewish Council joins Jewish communities across the nation in expressing our grief over the death of George Floyd. Our country has experienced too many incidents of police brutality, including the detention and death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore. We stand in solidarity with our friends in the Black community, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear of our government.

We must stand together against hatred and bigotry in any form and uphold the core American values of justice and equality. We commit to taking concrete action to improve relations and enhance understanding between communities here in Baltimore, and between minority groups and law enforcement officials. Because the function of law enforcement is so vital to society, and because the majority of law enforcement officials are dedicated public servants, it is incumbent upon us to quickly and effectively address violations and violators in a manner that preserves public trust and achieves justice and equality for all.

Contact: Howard Libit/ hlibit@baltjc.org

Birmingham Jewish Federation

The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Birmingham Jewish Federation stands with the Black community and people of conscience everywhere in mourning the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others who have lost their lives because of the racism that afflicts our nation.

As Jews, and most importantly, as the Jewish community of Birmingham, Alabama, we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it becomes institutionalized within the structures of society. We have stood together throughout Birmingham's painful history and we will continue to do so. Our tradition compels us to not stand idly by and we share in the responsibility of crying out against injustice and forging together a constructive and peaceful path forward.

We join Civil Rights icon and Alabama native, Congressman John Lewis in his call for peaceful protests, recognizing that justice has been denied for far too long. He has implored all people of goodwill to: "...Organize. Demonstrate. Sit in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive."

We pray that through justice, peaceful solutions are found.

Birmingham, known for its civil rights history and vicious acts of racial violence, can today be the beacon of collective, constructive change. We remember the words of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in his 1963 eulogy for the four innocent little girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church as we remember Mr. George Floyd. We pray that his death may lead our nation from the "low road of man's inhumanity to man, to the high road of peace and brotherhood."

Contact: Joyce Shevin/ jtshevin@gmail.com

Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council

JCRC/JCPA STATEMENT ON THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

The Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council, powered by the Buffalo Jewish Federation, joins the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (125 social justice organizations) to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the African American community.

We mourn the senseless death of George Floyd. Racism will not be defeated unless we come together. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing disgrace, for which we all share responsibility. Violence, indifference and prejudice must not prevail. We rededicate ourselves to a basic Jewish tenet: to uphold our responsibility to care for all life. All humans are created in the image of G-d and we will work alongside our neighbors to secure a more just and caring world.

JCPA STATEMENT

A Statement of Solidarity

We, the undersigned, are outraged at the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers.

We stand in solidarity with the black community that have for far too long been targeted by police and have suffered rampant racism and unfair and uneven applications of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement at the national and local levels to fully investigate and hold accountable all the involved officers and to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement agencies at every level to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice.

Contact: Mara Koven-Gelman/ mara@buffalojewishfederation.org

Columbia Jewish Federation

“There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

— Elie Wiesel

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Columbia Jewish Federation and its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) believe it is our moral and civic obligation to speak up and speak out about systemic racism, white supremacy, and blatant disrespect for the safety, dignity, and human rights of all of our brothers and sisters throughout this great country. We add our voices in unqualified solidarity with the African-American community, especially here in our beloved Columbia. We are horrified and outraged by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. These atrocities are painful reminders of how vulnerable our African-American neighbors are to institutionalized racism and unjustifiable violence.

We stand firm by Dr. King’s recognition in his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” of the “interrelatedness of all communities and states.” We agree that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are [all] caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

Leaders like Dr. King and Mr. Wiesel have taught us that a failure to protest wrongful behavior is, in effect, a ratification of injustice. We urge our neighbors here in Columbia and throughout South Carolina – people of all religions or no religion, whatever their race, color, or national origin – to join us and peacefully rally against systemic racism. As Jews, we know all too well what it feels like to be victimized because of a single characteristic; we know all too well the grave consequences that befall a community when hatred and bigotry run amok.

Because silence is acceptance, we advocate for non-violent protest to injustice. We pledge to engage in our continued partnerships with the African-American community, state and local law enforcement and elected officials, and all people of good will. We vow to actively promote concrete actions to combat this scourge on our society. We pray for, and will work to achieve, tikkun olam, the repair of our world.

Contact: Cheryl Nail/ cherylIn@jewishcolumbia.org

Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

The Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh is heartbroken by the senseless and unnecessary death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement in Minneapolis several days ago. We stand with the African American community and all communities of color in mourning the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Ahmed Aubery and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the color of their skin. We commend Pittsburgh Chief of Police Scott Schubert for speaking out against this atrocity and for taking steps to use it as a teachable moment at the Pittsburgh Police Academy.

We recognize that the riots in downtown Pittsburgh yesterday were sparked largely by those who are not part of any community of color and who are seeking to widen the racial divide throughout the region. Unfortunately, the Jewish community is all too familiar with how it feels to be targeted simply because we are different while simultaneously being scapegoated by the perpetrators of violence. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with, listen to and learn from our partners in the African American community and law enforcement to make Pittsburgh a more equitable, safe and inclusive place for all who live here.

Contact: Josh Sayles/ JSayles@jfedpgh.org

Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County

A Statement on Racial Injustice from the Jewish Leaders of Upper Fairfield County, Connecticut

June 4, 2020

The Torah teaches that all human beings are created in the image of the divine. Each human being is infinitely valuable. We join together as Rabbis, Cantors, and Jewish leaders from Upper Fairfield County, to condemn any and all forms of racism, hatred, and bigotry in our country. We collectively mourn the recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery and the many others before them. Their deaths reflect a painful history and reality within our country, that, for far too long, African-Americans have often been treated as less than fully human and far too many have perished at the hands of prejudice and hate.

These recent deaths reflect a larger issue of systemic racism that has existed in our country since its founding. We commit to bringing together our communities to combat racism through conversation, advocacy, and learning. We stand as allies with all of our local faith and ethnic communities of color. We encourage efforts by local leadership and law enforcement to implement education, training, and policies to advance these ideals. We know that we are each responsible for working to dismantle the systems and structures of racism that exist both locally here and across the United States of America.

As a Jewish community, we know all too well how silence, apathy, and indifference can be as damaging as hate. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and encourage our community to have their voices be heard, including through peaceful protest, in an effort to advance our obligation to work toward repairing our community, our country, and the world.

In the name of all who have lost their lives to senseless racism and hate, we join together to preach compassion, empathy, hope, and the pursuit of justice. We commit to each doing our part to create a free and just society for all people.

Rabbi Rachel Bearman, Temple B'nai Chaim
Rabbi Colin Brodie, Congregation B'nai Torah
Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, Congregation
Rodeph Shalom
Rabbi Michael S. Friedman, Temple Israel
Arthur Gang, Federation JCRC Co-Chair
Steven Getz, President, Congregation for
Humanistic Judaism
Rabbi Jason Greenberg, Temple Shalom
Rabbi Yehoshua S. Hecht, Beth Israel of
Westport/Norwalk
Hazzan Niema Hirsch, Congregation Rodeph
Shalom
Deborah Hochhauser, Federation Co-Chair
Stacy Kamisar, Federation JCRC Professional

Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray, Congregation
Shir Shalom
Rabbi Marcelo Kormis, Congregation Beth El
Fairfield
Rabbi Mark Lipson, Temple Shalom
Rabbi Sarah Marion, Congregation B'nai Israel
Rabbi Danny Moss, Temple Israel
Rabbi Elana Nemitoff-Bresler, Temple Israel
Rabbi Ita Paskind, Congregation Beth El –
Norwalk
Rabbi David Reiner, Congregation Shir Shalom
Barbara Schellenberg, Federation JCRC Co-
Chair
Rabbi Evan Schultz, Congregation B'nai Israel

Rabbi Stephen Shulman, Jewish Senior
Services
Mindy Siegel, Federation Co-Chair
Rabbi/Cantor Dan Sklar, Temple Israel
Rabbi/Cantor Shirah Sklar, Temple Shalom

Dr. Samantha Stinson, Congregation Beth El
Fairfield
Rabbi Greg Wall, Beit Chaverim Synagogue
David Weisberg, CEO, Federation for Jewish
Philanthropy
Rabbi Jeremy Wiederhorn, TCS

Contact: Stacy Kamisar/ skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

A Statement from the Greater Miami Jewish Federation on the Death of George Floyd

May 31, 2020 – The Greater Miami Jewish Federation denounces the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, at the hands of police officers while he was handcuffed and helpless on the ground, pleading for his life. This death is yet another in a disturbingly long list of similar incidents and inexcusable injustices that have been perpetrated against African Americans across the United States. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing disgrace, for which we all share responsibility.

Civil rights icon, Congressman John Lewis – whose call for peaceful protests recognizes that justice has been denied for far too long – has implored all people of good will to: “...Organize. Demonstrate. Sit in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive.” This weekend saw violent demonstrations throughout the country, including in our own community. We join Congressman Lewis in his call and we pray that, through justice, peaceful solutions are found.

The Federation, through its Jewish Community Relations Council, will continue its ongoing initiatives in common cause with the Black community. We will continue to work closely together to educate, engage and advocate against hate, and specifically against the racism we continue to witness in the United States.

As Jews we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it becomes institutionalized within the structures of society. Our tradition teaches us that all humans are created in the image of G-d and compels us not to stand idly by. George Floyd should not have died. He, his family, African Americans everywhere and all who have suffered as a result of discrimination and bigotry are entitled to justice and freedom from hate. As victims of racism, they deserve no less.

Our nation’s children and grandchildren are watching. Each of us has a responsibility to cry out against injustice and to join together in finding a constructive and peaceful path forward.

Contact: Carol Brick-Turin/ CBrick-Turin@gmjf.org

Greensboro Jewish Federation

The Greensboro Jewish Federation joins Jewish and other communities across the nation in expressing our grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and all of those lives that have been prematurely taken due to systemic racism. We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry.

We stand in solidarity with our friends in the African-American community, and have reached out to past participants of Interfaith Study Missions to Israel and participants on this year's Civil Rights Journey sponsored by the Greensboro Jewish Federation, Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Our destiny is bound to one another. We stand in solidarity with our friends in the African-American community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

Indianapolis Community Relations Council

The JCRC is committed to the fight for racial justice and equity. Resilient listening is only the start. It is one small, but important way, we can be allies in the call for - and collective march toward - justice. That is why we have added a list of racial justice and equity resources to our website help our community learn how to be effective allies in the fight for racial justice.
<https://indyjcrc.org/racial-justice-equity/>

Contact: Lindsey Mintz/ lmintz@indyjcrc.org

JCRB|AJC (Kansas City)

JCRB|AJC joins Jewish communities across the nation in expressing our grief over the tragic death of George Floyd, who was murdered in broad daylight by police in Minneapolis. This death is yet another in a disturbingly long list of similar incidents and inexcusable injustices that have been perpetrated against African Americans across the United States. We stand in solidarity with the African American community, and call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing stain on our country, for which we all share responsibility.

We add our voices to those demanding that justice be served swiftly and surely. These incidents should never happen in a free and democratic society, and we are committed to working towards the vision of an America that honors the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

JCRB|AJC also supports the right of people to peacefully protest in the fight for justice and we call on our partners in law enforcement to de-escalate without harm.

Finally, we call on our leaders to lead with compassion and respect, and to use their platforms to unite rather than divide our grieving nation.

In 2019, JCRB|AJC passed our official Policy on Racial Justice, which articulates our obligation to fight systemic racial injustice and inequity. Today and every day we reaffirm our commitment to those principles and to the urgent work of advancing justice in our country; we also know that this work cannot be successful without acknowledging the ways that many of us participate in this disgraceful system.

We will continue to reach out to our partners in communities of color to support them and to help inform our actions in the coming weeks, and months ahead.

Contact: Helene Lotman/ helene1@jewishkc.org

Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

The Jewish Alliance and the Board of Rabbis Stand with the Black Community

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode and the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island are heartbroken and angered by the death of George Floyd at the hands of four police officers in Minneapolis last week. We stand with the Black community and all communities in mourning the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmed Aubrey, Breonna Taylor and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the pervasive racism in our nation. We are committed to standing together with them to fight against unequal justice in our country and state.

Manifestations of racism are sometimes intentional though they are often systemic and disguised. From housing availability and practices, access, and quality of education, to health outcomes, sentencing practices, and other policies, our state is not immune to the institutional racism and disparate opportunities for White people and people of color.

We support the Black community and will follow their lead in joining the fight against institutional and individual racism, which continue to traumatize and devalue the lives of people of color in America. While we abhor the violence we have seen at some protests — both by protestors and by those with other agendas — we will not let that distract us from the fact that systemic racism is the true issue at hand.

We commit to addressing racism within ourselves, our institutions, and our communities. We commit to strengthening our relationships with other communities. We commit to following the lead of communities directly affected. We commit to examining and processing our own histories and actions around racism and inclusion. We commit to continuing the fight for justice and to collaborate to ensure it is justice for all.

As Pirkei Avot teaches, “The day is short, the work is great. You are not expected to finish the work, but you are not free to desist.” Now is not the time to sit idly by. We will provide updates in the coming days on activities we are undertaking and those our partners are requesting our support in. Educate yourselves (see below); show support for those communities directly affected; most importantly, stand up and commit to change.

Learn more:

While there are a multitude of powerful resources, we want to lift up some recommended places to begin:

- The 1619 Project (The New York Times)
- How To Be An Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
- How to Raise a Black Son in America by Clint Smith (TED Talk)
- Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
- The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander (and Study Guide and Call to Action)

- Film: 13th (Ava DuVernay) – Netflix
- The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein
- Underneath the Melting Pot: On the tragic disposability of black life and the need for a new American metaphor by Jason Purnell

We stand together against hatred and violence in all of its forms; we are drawn together for the purpose of peace.

Adam Greenman, President & CEO, Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

Rabbi Barry Dolinger, President, Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island

James Pious, Chair of the Board, Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

Contact: Stephanie Hague/ SHague@JewishAllianceRI.org

JewishColorado

Statement from the Colorado Jewish Community Relations Council Regarding the Death of George Floyd and the Protests in Response to it in Denver

June 1, 2020 – Denver, Colorado – The Colorado Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), a program of JEWISHcolorado, strongly condemns the unjust death of George Floyd. We send our deepest condolences to his family, his friends, and his community.

The Torah (the Hebrew Bible) teaches that we must not stand idly by while our neighbor's blood is shed (Leviticus 19:16). It is what drives us to fight anti-Semitism, bigotry, and racism wherever it may rear its ugly head. Over the course of human history – and in our living memory – we have seen what happens when people stood idly by while hate and oppression took the lives of millions and devastated ethnic and religious groups.

Notwithstanding the end of slavery 155 years ago, this community continues to bear the brunt of systemic racism. There are a number of examples: lack of access to healthcare and high rates of employment in positions deemed essential has resulted in African Americans suffering much higher rates of infection and death from the novel coronavirus; they are incarcerated in American jails and prisons at a much higher rate than other groups; and many African Americans are fearful that interactions with law enforcement may escalate resulting in them, their family, or their friends never coming home.

We applaud Governor Jared Polis and Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's calls for an end to bigotry and racism, for validating the rights of Coloradans and Denverites to peacefully protest, and for condemning those opportunists who engage in senseless violence that will only serve to further divide us. JEWISHcolorado's Regional Safety and Security Initiative is proud to work with those dedicated public servants whose primary objective is the protection and betterment of our society.

We draw inspiration from Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and heed his call to action, "Racism is an evil of tremendous power [and] surrender to despair is surrender to evil. . . . What we need is a total mobilization of heart, intelligence, and wealth for the purposes of love and justice." We stand shoulder to shoulder with the African American community to create meaningful change and justice for all.

Contact: Joseph Dubroff/ jdubroff@jewishcolorado.org

Jewish Community Board of Akron (JCBA)

The Jewish Community Board of Akron (JCBA) decries the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Additionally, we express great concern and sadness for a disturbing pattern of bigotry, racism, disparate treatment, and the unreasonable and unlawful use of authority against people of color.

We stand with the African American community and all communities in mourning the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the persistent racism that afflicts our nation. Here in Greater Akron, the organized Jewish community is in deep partnership and relationship with leaders in the Black community. We are reaching out to these friends, members of the clergy, and other civic leaders to express to them our solidarity and support and to ask how we can be of assistance in these difficult days and beyond.

Our Jewish traditions and values compel us to stand up for the rights of all people without prejudice or bias. As both Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized over 50 years ago in Selma, Alabama; we have a collective responsibility for the fate of mankind and we collectively have the authority and power to determine our fate. We call upon leaders of all parties and upon every American to be moved to act to build understanding and better relationships between people of all races and all faiths.

Todd S. Polikoff

CEO | Jewish Community Board of Akron

Contact: Erin Katz Ford/ ekatzford@jewishakron.org

Jewish Community Federation of Richmond

Statement by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond on the Death of Mr. George Floyd and Institutional Racism

June 2, 2020

The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond expresses our grief over the senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. We stand with the Black community and all communities of color in mourning the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the color of their skin.

We join with our partners throughout Richmond and around the nation in demanding justice and systemic change. "Justice for all" must mean something and our country simply cannot achieve the values to which it aspires until we address ongoing racism in all sectors and at all levels of society. We stand in solidarity with the peaceful protesters demanding this change, while we condemn the destruction and lawlessness that distracts us from the importance of the demonstrations.

The Jewish community knows all too well the dangers of bias and prejudice, particularly when it becomes institutionalized racism within the structures of society. Our Federation, through its Jewish Community Relations Committee, will work in common cause with the Black community to bring about a change that is long overdue. We will listen to and engage with our community partners to advocate for justice. Your outrage is our outrage - and we will never stop until hate and racism are eliminated from our society.

Tzedek, Tzedek, Tirdof

Justice, Justice, you must pursue!

(Deuteronomy 16:20)

Contact: David Cohen/ dcohen@jewishrichmond.org

Jewish Community of Greater Harrisburg

STATEMENT OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARRISBURG, THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION, AND THE RABBINIC COUNCIL OF GREATER HARRISBURG

The Jewish Community of the Harrisburg area, represented by the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg, the Community Relations Council of the Federation, and the Rabbinic Council of Greater Harrisburg is shocked and horrified by the senseless, brutal murder of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis on Monday, May 25. Exodus 20:13 simply states as the Fifth Commandment: "You shall not murder." All religious traditions of our society teach this simple but powerful message. We learn this as children. Why is it so hard for us to understand and apply this lesson in the 21st century?

We grieve with the family and friends of Mr. Floyd for this shocking incident and we stand shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with African-Americans in expressing our outrage at this example of police brutality. Your loss is our loss. Although a vast country of continental proportion, America has no room for the torture, murder, and barbarism that we have witnessed in Minneapolis. All people of conscience, no matter their religion, politics, color, or background must condemn murder and we unequivocally do!

We are angered that African-Americans and other Americans of color continue to experience discrimination and inequality and are treated unjustly. We are saddened that when they react to these inequities with legitimate, peaceful expressions of protest, their efforts are marred by counterproductive acts of violence that undermine the overall efforts of freedom and equality.

We plead for calm even as we urge our public leaders to engage in constructive dialogues and actions to build stronger relationships and deeper understanding among all of us as a path to a more just and equitable society.

Contact: Jennifer Ross/ j.ross@jewishfedhbg.org

Jewish Community of Greater Washington

Jewish Community of Greater Washington Expresses Solidarity with African-American Community

WASHINGTON DC—June 2, 2020 – The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington and dozens of Jewish organizations in the Washington region today issued the following statement following the killing by police of George Floyd and the ongoing response in our region and across the country:

We, the undersigned Jewish organizations in the Greater Washington region, join all people of good conscience in condemning the brutal killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. We are outraged that yet another Black life has been lost to systemic American racism.

At a time when our nation has been convulsed by a global health crisis disproportionately impacting communities of color in our region and around the country, we demand justice, not only in the prosecution of arrested former-officer Derek Chauvin, but also in the prosecution of the three former officers who stood by while Floyd was killed. And we demand that the system of ingrained, pernicious racism that enabled this horrific killing be uprooted and replaced by a culture of equitable, just law enforcement that protects Americans of all skin colors.

The Jewish people will not be bystanders—our organizations and our community are called to solidarity with people of color in this moment. We value our long-standing role as mutual friends and allies to the African-American community. We are committed to dismantling institutionalized racism in America. We are in conversation with our African-American partners to listen, learn, and support. And we are committed to making our own institutions more welcoming to Jews of color and bringing justice to all marginalized people. Each of us must dig deeper into our own stereotypes and biases and upend them. Pursuing racial justice is a human and a moral duty, and a reflection of sacred Jewish values.

The work is hard and the obstacles daunting, but we must not resort to exhaustion, cynicism or complacency. The road to justice begins in our own backyards: we are each responsible for nurturing children, schools and local communities that are free from bias. We are each responsible for creating a society where all young people can flourish and where no child grows up to become the next Derek Chauvin.

There is no room on this journey for violence, destruction or lawlessness as we have witnessed in our own community in Washington, DC. We were pained to see the burning of St. John's Church, "the Church of the Presidents," and attacks on numerous other landmarks and businesses in our nation's capital. We appreciate those who are responding to this tragedy peacefully and thoughtfully and urge all members of our community to work with one another and with law enforcement to build a better and more inclusive Washington region.

We express our deepest condolences to the family and community of George Floyd and share a traditional Jewish mourning sentiment in asking that his memory be a blessing to those who loved and knew him.

Organizational Signatories as of 12:30 PM, June 2nd (in formation):

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington	Tikvat Israel Congregation
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington	Temple Beth Ami
GatherDC	Tzedek DC
Shaare Tefila Congregation	Congregation Adat Reyim
The Jewish Studio	Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation
Fauquier Jewish Congregation	Operation Understanding DC-a Black/Jewish organization
Congregation Har Shalom	Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation
Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim Congregation	Shirat HaNefesh
Gesher Jewish Day School	3GDC - Washington DC Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivor
JCADA	Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
Pozetz JCC of Northern Virginia	Hillel at The George Washington University
Washington Board of Rabbis	George Mason University Hillel
Temple Rodef Shalom	Washington Hebrew Congregation
Kol Shalom	Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA)
Adas Israel Congregation	ADL Washington, D.C. Region
B'nai Israel Congregation	Congregation Beth Emeth
Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy	Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington/BCGW
Magen David Sephardic Congregation	Capital Camps and Retreat Center
Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum	DC Jews on Bikes
Agudas Achim Congregation	Congregation Or Chadash
Jewish Women International (JWI)	Congregation Olam Tikvah
Beth El Hebrew Congregation	DC Minyan
Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital	2 For Seder
Jewish Labor Committee	Temple Micah
Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County	American University Hillel
Sunflower Bakery	Temple Beth Torah - Chantilly, VA
Hebrew Free Loan Association of Greater Washington	Bender JCC of Greater Washington
	Jewish Foundation for Group Homes

If your Jewish Communal organization would like to sign onto this statement, please select this link. (<https://jcouncil.org/form/solidarity-statement-sign>)

Contact: Guila Franklin Siegel/ gfsiegel@jcouncil.org

Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Birmingham Jewish Federation

The Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) of the Birmingham Jewish Federation stands with the Black community and people of conscience everywhere in mourning the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others who have lost their lives because of the racism that afflicts our nation.

As Jews, and most importantly, as the Jewish community of Birmingham, Alabama, we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it becomes institutionalized within the structures of society. We have stood together throughout Birmingham's painful history and we will continue to do so. Our tradition compels us to not stand idly by and we share in the responsibility of crying out against injustice and forging together a constructive and peaceful path forward.

We join Civil rights icon and Alabama native, Congressman John Lewis in his call for peaceful protests, recognizing that justice has been denied for far too long. He has implored all people of goodwill to: "...Organize. Demonstrate. Sit in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive."

We pray that through justice, peaceful solutions are found.

Birmingham, known for its civil rights history and vicious acts of racial violence, can today be the beacon of collective, constructive change. We remember the words of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. in his 1963 eulogy for the four innocent little girls killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church as we remember Mr. George Floyd. We pray that his death may lead our nation from the "low road of man's inhumanity to man, to the high road of peace and brotherhood."

Contact: Joyce Shevin/ jtshevin@gmail.com

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati

JCRC Statement on Death of George Floyd

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati decries the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Video recordings clearly show that Mr. Floyd, an African-American 46-year-old, was subjected to shocking brutality despite the fact that he was handcuffed and subdued. His repeated pleas for help and the obvious distress he suffered were captured on video for all to see. His cries for help were ignored while the arresting police officer continued to press his knee into Mr. Floyd's neck.

The JCRC stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the African American community. We add our voices to those demanding that justice be served swiftly and surely in this case through a thorough investigation. Tragic incidents like the one that appears to have transpired should never happen in a free and democratic society.

We also call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and faiths to speak up now against the poisonous persistence of racism that is truly the shame of our nation. The words of our ancient Hebrew Scriptures cry out to us: "Justice, Justice shall you pursue!" The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis comes in the wake of a string of similar incidents and long-standing systemic injustices. Too often, race proves to be a determining factor in the health and well-being of Black Americans. Right now, Black Americans are dying of coronavirus at a rate higher than any other racial group.

Racism in America—just like the rising tide of antisemitism in the nation—is a virus that spreads with passivity. As bystanders, if we are not speaking out against bigotry and prejudice, we are part of the problem. Defeating it requires a united and diverse effort; we must see ourselves in the marginalization of the other, and we must act against it as if we were the ones targeted. As Jews, we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it infiltrates systems and is harbored by those in power.

The effort to combat injustice and intolerance requires all of us. The consequences for not doing so are also universal—as hate knows no one color or creed. Not only are liberty and justice at stake in America, but the welfare of humanity stands in the balance. There is no room in our society for any form of hatred, and we will not stand idly by.

Contact: Jackie Congedo/ jcongedo@jfedcin.org

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Open Letter:

Dear Friends,

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is outraged by the killing of Mr. George Floyd, a subdued, handcuffed African American man, pleading for help, was allegedly suffocated by a Minneapolis police officer.

Our hearts break for Mr. Floyd's family and friends. We are also devastated for our friends and neighbors in the African-American community. Your pain is our pain.

At a time when African-Americans and other people of color are disproportionately losing their lives to COVID-19, Mr. Floyd's killing reminds us that for far too long African-Americans have also been much more likely to die at the hands of the police.

Mr. Floyd didn't deserve to die. Jewish Tradition teaches us that a loss of one person is a loss of an entire world. We mourn together for this horrible death. The struggle for justice and anti-discrimination should be a fight for all, it is a struggle over the foundational human commitments as citizens and as a society.

Betty and Arthur Levy, JCRC Co-Chairs

Judy Alperin, CEO, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Eliraz Shifman Berman, JCRC Director

Contact: Eliraz Shifman Berman/ eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester decries the tragic death of George Floyd, a subdued and handcuffed African American man who was murdered by Minneapolis police officers. We demand swift justice for this senseless act of violence and express grief, pain, and outrage over generations of racial injustice.

We convey our solidarity with and support for those from across our community who gathered peacefully on Saturday to demonstrate their desire to see the systemic racism embedded within American policing and society as a whole dismantled. We speak out against the violence instigated by individuals and groups whose motivations were not peaceful, and we lift up our neighbors who came together to clear the debris off our streets. We thank our local law enforcement for standing down the agitators working to destroy our community and local government for providing the leadership to keep us safe and whole.

In the book of Deuteronomy, we read, "Justice, justice you shall pursue". The word "justice" is repeated twice because first we must name and call out the injustice in front of us, and then we must reflect on how we go about bringing forth justice. We must commit to being anti-racists and actively work to dismantle the systems that have oppressed people of color for centuries. We must hold ourselves accountable and bring change to our institutions. We must demand inclusive policy-making processes and anti-racist practices.

Now is the time to join in solidarity to fight the disease of racism, for ourselves, for our children, and for the generations to come. Together, hand in hand, we can and must build a just and inclusive society for all.

Contact: Karen Elam/ kelam@jewishrochester.org

Jewish Community Relations Council Assembly of Palm Beach County

JEWISH COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD

We, the undersigned members of the Jewish Community Relations Council Assembly of Palm Beach County, deplore the killing of George Floyd by law enforcement officers in Minneapolis, an act that comes in the wake of a string of similar outrages.

We stand united in solidarity with the Black community, as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of skin color, to live without fear for their safety. We all need to work together to enact those changes in law enforcement and in our criminal justice system that are necessary to achieve true equality and justice in America. As our tradition commands: “Justice, Justice shall you pursue!”

We stand together against hatred and bigotry in any form. Racism—just like the rising tide of antisemitism—is a virus that spreads with passivity. The Jewish community knows all too personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it infiltrates systems and is harbored by those in power. In the words of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “...In regard to cruelties committed in the name of a free society, some are guilty, while all are responsible.”

The function of law enforcement is vital to society, and the majority of law enforcement officials are dedicated public servants, many of whom have given their lives to protect others. For this reason, we call on all law enforcement agencies to quickly and effectively address violations and those who violate their oath to protect and serve in a manner that restores public trust and upholds the core American, democratic values of justice and equality.

Signed,

ADL Florida
Alpert Jewish Family Service
Hillel of Broward and Palm Beach
Insight Through Education
Jewish Community Relations Council,
Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County
Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Greater
Palm Beaches
Levine Jewish Residential & Family Service
Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches
Meyer Jewish Preparatory School

NCJW Palm Beach Section
Temple B’nai Jacob
Temple Beit HaYam
Temple Beth El
Temple Beth Kodesh
Temple Beth Shalom, Vero Beach
Temple Beth Tikvah
Temple Beth Torah
Temple Israel
Temple Shaarei Shalom

Contact: Josephine Gon/ Josephine.Gon@JewishPalmBeach.org

Jewish Community Relations Council New York

JCRC-NY Statement on the Death of George Floyd

Sunday, May 31, 2020

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York is appalled and angered by the death of George Floyd at the hands of officers in the Minneapolis Police Department. Our sorrow is further compounded by the recent killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, another act of ugly and violent racism. 56 years after the historic signing of the Civil Rights Act, hopes for equal rights for Blacks and other communities of color have been dashed again by blatant acts of bigotry and bloodshed.

We stand in partnership with our sisters and brothers in the Black community, and in all communities of color, as we collectively strive to stamp out racism and prejudice in all of its forms from our society.

We in the Jewish community know all too painfully the end result of unchecked hatred.

In that spirit, we commit ourselves to the Biblical call of “Justice, justice shall [we] pursue,” and the imperative of achieving a peaceful, just and equal society for all.

Cheryl Fishbein Michael S. Miller

President Executive Vice President and CEO

Contact: Noam Gilboord/ gilboordn@jrcrcny.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta

Atlanta Statement 5/30:

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Atlanta (JCRC) extends its condolences to the families of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd and countless, Black Americans who have been killed in a wanton and senseless manner and whose deaths spotlight the lack of equal rights and treatment under the law. We support the Black community and join the fight against institutional and acts of individual racism, which continue to traumatize, terrorize, and devalue the lives of black and brown people in America. The violence we are seeing across the country is a symptom of our society's lack of meaningful action to address systemic racism. In our words and our actions, we speak up for the principles of justice, equality, and equity and pledge to keep working with the entire Atlanta community to work toward these goals.

We call for the passage of the HB 426 Hate Crimes Bill in the Georgia Senate that will help protect all Georgia residents against hateful acts. We also call for the repeal of the antiquated Citizen's Arrest law. It was the cornerstone of Jim Crow-era harassment and discrimination against minority communities and does not represent the due process of law enshrined in our Constitution.

Here is the Atlanta Jewish Community statement, which we drafted and signed on to this morning:

Jewish tradition commands us: "Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor" (Leviticus 19:16). American communities have been witness to the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. These crimes, in the name of law enforcement, by police and citizens, are horrific. These slayings are part of a pattern of systemic violence against Black Americans that cannot continue. We cannot stand idly by these and countless other transgressions against our Black brothers and sisters.

Police brutality against Black Americans is the most visible manifestation of institutional racism. The disproportionate impact COVID-19 has on African American communities is another painful reminder of the systemic racism that has segregated our cities and denied wealth and opportunity to the most vulnerable in our country. Misguided and immoral public policy that preferences white Americans over people of color and contributes to ongoing inequities must come to a swift end.

The history of Black-Jewish solidarity during the Civil Rights movement provides us with a valuable guide for renewing our fight for justice and equity. Our tradition compels us to actively fight racism and systemic injustice. As our sages taught, "It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it." Segments of our community have been active in this fight, and the entire Jewish community is called to re-engage in this effort.

“We adopt the means of nonviolence because our end is a community at peace with itself,” said Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. “We will try to persuade with our words, but if our words fail, we will try to persuade with our acts.” Let us channel the fear and anger of this moment into real change.

Atlanta 6/1

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JCRC, Federation of Greater Atlanta, ADL Southeastern, the Atlanta Rabbinic Association and AJC Southeast region

Contact: Leslie Anderson/ jcrc.atlanta@gmail.com

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston

The past 24 hours have been emotional here in Charleston.

Yesterday, we saw community members of all races come together to demand social progress and criminal justice reform to address systemic racism that has affected our communities for 350 years. Record numbers turned up, and community members including Police Chief Reynolds were moved by the turnout.

This morning, we awoke to widespread damage to downtown businesses, including those owned by members of our own Jewish community. What has already been a difficult time, has only been made harder as business owners must now pick up the pieces of their storefronts. We offer you our full support in recovering from this riot.

While no one supports violence of any form or the destruction of private property, we also must not waver from addressing the continuing issues that inspired yesterday's protests. Here in Charleston, our community bore witness to the Mother Emanuel Massacre and the shooting of unarmed Walter Scott by North Charleston Police officer Michael Slager. These played out within the same year.

We must commend local law enforcement on the progress that has been made within their departments, while also demanding, in solidarity with Charleston's black community, that progress continue as we all seek to address systemic racism in our criminal justice system across the United States, and the immense racial disparities facing the black community here in Charleston County. We stand arm in arm, and your outrage is our outrage.

As a Jewish organization our work is both to support the Jewish community and seek to create a more just world for our neighbors, our children and ourselves. We intend to continue to do both in these difficult days.

Contact: Brandon Fish/ brandonf@jewishcharleston.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

We at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston are heartbroken and angered by the murder - as charged by the Hennepin County prosecutor - of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement in Minneapolis last week. We stand with the African-American community and all communities in mourning the deaths of Mr. Floyd, Ahmed Aubery, and countless others who have lost their lives simply because of the persistent racism that afflicts our nation. Here in Boston, the organized Jewish community is in deep partnership and relationship with leaders in the Black community. We are reaching out to these friends, members of the clergy, and other civic leaders to express to them our solidarity and support and to ask them what they require of us in these difficult days.

In 2017, the JCRC Council embraced a series of principles regarding criminal justice reform, including support for policies that address and confront the racial disparities in our criminal justice system. Today and every day we reaffirm our commitment to those principles and to the urgent work of advancing justice in our country.

We will continue to update here in the coming hours and days regarding events and activities that our partners are requesting our participation and solidarity in.

<https://6250a1f74gj43kod3cp2krxm-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/JCRC-CJR-Info-Sheet-Final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1FTS0nJhaL7Fx9Q4qmUdybiWMH7A6kzXdBdXOqUxyrOCZzInkS0IAa3nY>

Contact: Jeremy Burton/ jbarton@jcrcboston.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford

JCRC Statement on the Death of George Floyd

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. (June 1, 2020) – The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford, part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, decries the senseless and unnecessary death of George Floyd in Minneapolis several days ago. We stand with the Black community and all communities of color in mourning the deaths of all those who have lost their lives simply because of the color of their skin.

We are heartened by the peaceful demonstrations that have taken place this weekend in communities across Connecticut, and we are grateful that the thousands of participants as well as local law enforcement have acted with restraint and decency. We hope that these responses can be an example to others as we seek compassion and healing.

In his remarks at the March on Washington, D.C., in August 1963, Rabbi Joachim Prinz said, "Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept. It means our collective responsibility for the preservation of [human] dignity and integrity." We call on our neighbors of all backgrounds to speak out and take peaceful action against the poisonous persistence of racism. Together we can address the underlying social and economic issues that are part of the problem and create a truly inclusive and respectful community.

Contact: Alana Butler/ abutler@jewishhartford.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Phoenix

The Jewish Community Relations Council was horrified by the killing of George Floyd. We have reached out to our partners in the African-American community to share our sympathy and support. We are working with community partners across the Valley to try to create dialogue and restore peace in our area.

Contact: Paul Rockower/ paul.rockower@jcrphoenix.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas

JCRC Demands Justice for George Floyd

We are outraged by the killing of African American George Floyd by Minneapolis Police Officers

May 26, 2020

Minneapolis, MN — Steve Hunegs, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas (JCRC), issued the following statement:

“The Jewish community is outraged by the killing of George Floyd, a subdued and handcuffed African-American man, by Minneapolis police officers.

“We echo my friend and colleague Steven Belton, President and CEO of the Twin Cities Urban League, in his call for justice:

‘George Floyd didn’t deserve to die. Now he deserves justice. We demand justice for Mr. Floyd, for his family, for African Americans here and everywhere, and for all who cherish human life and the rule of law.’

“Our hearts break for Mr. Floyd’s family and friends. We are also devastated for our friends and neighbors in the African-American community, including Jews of color. Your pain is our pain.

“We are appreciative to Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo for directly requesting the FBI to investigate the apparent violation of Mr. Floyd’s civil rights, and expect that the FBI and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will conduct a thorough and quick investigation.

“At a time when African-Americans and other people of color are disproportionately losing their lives to COVID-19, Mr. Floyd’s killing reminds us that for far too long African-Americans have also been much more likely to die at the hands of the police than white Americans.

“We also share the sentiments of Minneapolis Mayor and JCRC board member Jacob Frey, who speaking for all of us declared, ‘[t]his man should not have died. ... I believe what I saw and what I saw is wrong on every level,’ as well as St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter who tweeted ‘[t]he officer who stood guard is just as responsible as his partner; both must be held fully accountable. This must stop now.’

“There is demonstrably so much more work to be done to dismantle the systemic racism embedded within American society as a whole and law enforcement more particularly. Today’s firing of the four Minneapolis police officers involved in the killing of Mr. Floyd is a necessary step, but we also know there are no quick and easy fixes to structural problems that have festered for generations.”

Minneapolis Jewish Federation, St. Paul Jewish Federation, and Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas Urge Minnesotans to Respect the Curfew

We Honor George Floyd's Memory by Pursuing Justice Safely

May 30, 2020

On this Shabbat evening, Minnesotans are reeling following the murder of George Floyd, a subdued and handcuffed African American man, by Minneapolis police officers. This should not have happened. We join others in the Jewish community in expressing our grief and demanding justice. We call for the strongest possible charges against all four officers.

Over the past week, our community has come together to mourn the loss of George Floyd and express their grief, pain, sorrow, and anger over generations of racial injustice. We are supportive of the thousands of Minnesotans gathering peacefully, and expressing themselves from home during this pandemic, to help dismantle the systemic racism embedded within American policing and society as a whole.

We are heartened to see our neighbors performing gemilut hasadim (acts of lovingkindness) by helping to bring food and clear debris off the streets of Minneapolis, including in several predominately immigrant, Native, and African American communities. NECHAMA will provide comfort and hope to communities by dispatching volunteers in disaster recovery work. This work represents the beginning of hope.

Respect the Curfew

Today, Governor Tim Walz addressed Minnesota and stated: "Minneapolis and St. Paul are under assault" and repeated his call for people in the Twin Cities to stay home after 8:00 p.m. We echo that request and note that additional cities have also imposed a curfew.

According to the Star Tribune, there are concerns that a growing number of rioters are coming from outside the metro area, and outside the state, in what Governor Walz called "an organized attempt to destabilize civil society." He distinguished the arson, wanton looting, and vandalism from the legitimate and mostly peaceful protests that began Tuesday, the day after George Floyd's murder.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington added "We have seen things like white supremacist organizers posting on platforms about coming to Minnesota."

Earlier today, Rabbi Aaron Weininger, co-chair of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, participated in a gathering of faith and political leaders to urge Minnesotans to observe the curfew. Rabbi Weininger taught "we read in Deuteronomy, 'justice, justice you shall pursue'.... We repeat the word justice twice because we must name and call out the injustice in front of us, ... the horrible murder of George Floyd ... And that second use of the word justice is for us to reflect how we do that.... How we make sure to sideline those who are undermining that very first pursuit of justice, How we call out the injustice of those from outside of our state

who are perverting that call for justice. So that when we say justice, justice you shall pursue in the Torah ... that we are clear and unambiguous about this current moment of justice that calls us to rise in peace that calls us to stay home tonight....”

At the same gathering, Rev. Dr. Charvez Russell, Executive Director of Friendship Academy of the Arts, pleaded that Minnesotans “go home at 8:00 o’clock and pray ... So, we can give room to our government that has been working so hard with us, partnering with us. Give them the room to separate the good from the bad. Separate those that are standing for justice versus those that are standing to tear down our government, and all of our institutions, and all of our neighborhoods, and all of our things that we do to take care of our community. We ask that you give them the room and pray.”

The JCRC continues to maintain close communication with our law enforcement partners to monitor the dynamic security and safety situation in our state. We are grateful to all the first responders, including the Minnesota National Guard, for their service during this crisis.

Again, we ask that the Jewish community observe the curfew today at 8:00 p.m. for your safety and that of our fellow community members.

Contact: Sami Rahamim/ Sami@minndakjrc.org

Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis

Dear Friend,

As protests continue across the United States, we are witnessing at the forefront a conversation about what our JCRC has always known to exist under the surface: the systemic racism that underlies and permeates our societal structures. According to For the Sake of All, a 2014 Washington University report on racial health disparities in St. Louis, there is an 18-year life expectancy gap between some predominantly white and predominantly black zip codes in St. Louis. Policies such as housing and zoning practices, inequitable school funding, access to early childhood education, differential policing practices, prosecutorial decisions and sentencing practice and so many others continue to create widely differing life outcomes for black and white residents.

Today we say the name of George Floyd as we mourn another life senselessly ended and call for justice from the Minneapolis police officers responsible for his death, but his name is far from the first or the only. Our country has experienced too many incidents of police violence and too many deaths of African Americans at the hands of the police, including Michael Brown and Anthony Lamar Smith in St. Louis.

In 2018 our JCRC Council passed a policy on Racial Equity that, among other things, recognized that:

As a collection of institutions and leaders with significant influence in how St. Louis rises or falls over the next few decades, we have a responsibility to recognize our own internal biases and behaviors and continually recommit to addressing the scourge of racism head-on. As part of this work, we must improve how we, as the Jewish community, welcome, include, and make equitable the experiences of both Jews of color and non-Jews of color in our professional and communal spaces. This internal work is necessary for us to be responsible and effective advocates for racial justice.

To this end, our JCRC has recently launched a Jewish Coalition on Racial Equity (JCRE). The JCRE advises the JCRC on advocacy and programming to create an inclusive and impactful approach for Jewish communal engagement on issues of racism and racial justice. Through the task force, we support current initiatives from partner organizations working with communities of color, and we seek to provide opportunities for the Jewish community to reflect, learn, and discuss our individual and communal roles in dismantling systemic racism.

We recognize that:

Our work on racial justice must follow the lead of the communities directly affected. We look to our task force members to serve as liaisons to organizations and movements actively involved in such work across the region.

We will not be effective allies in the fight for racial justice without examining and processing our own histories and actions around racism and inclusion.

Please join us in this work. Join the JCRE by emailing Cheryl Adelstein. Sign up for our newsletters to receive regular updates and advocacy alerts. Reach out to people of color to show support. Donate and get involved with black-led organizations on the front lines. Educate yourselves (see below and [HERE](#) for more resources). Support our JCRC initiatives. Most importantly, show up.

The work is on all of us. But together, we can change the course of our region for good.

Joe Pereles

Board Chair

Rori Picker Neiss

Executive Director

Additional Resources:

Organizations:

The following are six organizations led by Black leaders working to dismantle racism in St. Louis and Missouri. Click on the links to learn more, donate and/or volunteer.

Action St. Louis

Action St. Louis is a grassroots racial justice organization that seeks to build political power for Black communities in the St. Louis region. Action St. Louis builds campaigns that leverages organizing, communications, advocacy and direct action to mitigate harm against our community while fighting for long term transformation.

ArchCity Defenders, Inc.

ArchCity Defenders (ACD) is a holistic legal advocacy organization that combats the criminalization of poverty and state violence, especially in communities of color. ACD's foundation of civil and criminal legal representation, social services, impact litigation, policy and media advocacy, and community collaboration achieves and inspires justice and equitable outcomes for people throughout the St. Louis region and beyond.

Missouri Faith Voices

Missouri Faith Voices is a multi-faith, multi racial, statewide, non partisan organization that is committed to empowering and transforming the lives of ordinary citizens who have been targeted by unfair policies and practices and oppressed by racial and economic injustice.

Organization for Black Struggle STL

Organization for Black Struggle (OBS) works to build a movement that fights for political empowerment, economic justice and the cultural dignity of the African-American community, especially the Black working class.

WEPOWER

WEPOWER activates community power to re-design education, economic, health, and justice systems to be just and equitable for all.

Ecumenical Leadership Council of St. Louis

The immediate goal of the Ecumenical Leadership Council is to organize African-American pastors across the state of Missouri for the purpose of economic and political empowerment.

Learn More:

We have compiled a comprehensive list of educational resources that include websites, books, articles, films, and podcasts, all of which can be found on our list here. While there are a multitude of wonderful resources, we want to lift up some recommended places to begin:

The 1619 Project (The New York Times)

For the Sake of All: A report on the health and well-being of African Americans in St. Louis and why it matters for everyone (Health Equity Works)

Segregation in St Louis: Dismantling the Divide (Health Equity Works)

How To Be An Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander (and Study Guide and Call to Action)

Film: 13th (Ava DuVernay) — Netflix

Underneath the Melting Pot: On the tragic disposability of black life and the need for a new American metaphor by Jason Purnell

Contact: PickerNeiss, Rori/ rpickerneiss@jcrctl.org

Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC of Detroit

The Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC stands in solidarity and partnership with the African American community, decrying the horrific murder of George Floyd and the racism that tragically still engulfs our nation and even permeates so many of our police forces. We pledge to work with the religious, civic and political leaders in the African American community who are working to bring a peaceful, but forceful, message of protest, truth and hope, not only in their own community, but to all Americans. There is no place for racism, discrimination, antisemitism or hatred in our country. George Floyd's death, and the unjust deaths of so many other African Americans, tell us that racism still exists, but we know that if we work together, in peaceful, even loving protest, we will overcome and will prevail. We are all choked by racism, we all cannot breathe with racist hate, and we will never stop until it is eliminated from our society.

Contact: Rabbi Asher Lopatin/ alopatin@jfmd.org

Jewish Federation and Family Services, Orange County

June 2, 2020

The outpouring of anger and pain we are seeing in communities throughout our nation following the tragic death of George Floyd is the result of ongoing racial injustice that plagues our nation. This injustice impacts the lives of African Americans every day. Jewish Federation of Orange County grieves with the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the many other men, women and children who have senselessly lost their lives in violent acts of racism. And we stand in solidarity with peaceful protesters demanding change.

Our Jewish tradition teaches us that all humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and that we are religiously and morally obligated to pursue justice (Justice, justice you shall pursue, Deuteronomy 16:20). We are bound by our aspiration to make our world a place of peace and justice. At this critical moment, we reaffirm our commitment to work with all people of conscience to combat hate and racism in all their forms in the pursuit of a more just community. As we do so, we acknowledge the need to promote awareness within our own community to the injustices intrinsic in our society. To these ends, we seek to be listeners, learners and partners in our shared effort to create a truly United States of America that lives up to the values of fairness, inclusion and justice.

Stephen H. Gordon

Chair of the Board

Arlene Miller

President & CEO

Contact: Lisa Armony/ Lisa@jffs.org

Jewish Federation and Foundation of Rockland County

The Jewish Federation and Foundation of Rockland County is deeply saddened by George Floyd's violent death while in police custody. Our hearts go out to all those who are in pain from this horrendous action.

This event is a tragedy and Federation calls on the appropriate authorities to fully investigate the events surrounding this killing and hold accountable at the bar of justice those responsible.

Federation is also appalled that demonstrations peacefully protesting this event have been hijacked by those with other and violent agendas. We condemn all such violence which is counter-productive to the pursuit of justice for Mr. Floyd and is toxic to building civil society.

Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey

Committing to Action Following George Floyd's Appalling Death

Last week, our country witnessed the tragic and appalling death of George Floyd. We at Jewish Federation, along with so many, are feeling sorrow, anger, and indescribable frustration over this injustice.

As our Federation board and JCRC member, Amy Mallet, said this week on social media:

Let this moment be a pivoting point for new conversations, listening, learning and walking in each other's shoes. The problem of systemic racism exists. These brutal abuses have been going on for generations, and change is needed now!

As our country is mourning the horrific, inhumane death of George Floyd and the world is watching this unfold, we need to take a step back and look at how we can all be part of the solution.

There is a need for new law enforcement policies taken seriously, programs with ongoing sensitivity and anti-bias training, accountability and an understanding of the communities served with continuous communication between law enforcement and residents. Yes, there's much to be done and needs to start immediately!!

We emphatically call for a thorough investigation so justice can be served and a message sent that we cannot accept or tolerate the wrongful loss of life.

We are supportive of the thousands of people gathering peacefully and those expressing themselves from home during this pandemic. However, we vehemently denounce the violence toward law enforcement and other citizens as well as the destruction of property and businesses that serve all in our communities.

We appreciate our valued law enforcement professionals in upholding the rule of law with the greatest care for the wellbeing of the communities they serve and protect. We reject any assault on the men and women of law enforcement.

Federation leadership has reached out to the NAACP, leaders in the African American community, and elected officials to express our pain, show our support, and step up our work together fighting hate in all its forms.

This week has reminded us that we have a long way to go in our work towards a more just society for all. We will push on toward a world free of hate, racism, and bigotry in all of its forms.

The Jewish community advocates the moral value that all people are created equal and that our country must stand for equal justice and fairness for all.

Susan Antman, Executive Director

Cheryl Markbreiter, President

Contact: Dan Rozett/ DanR@jewishheartnj.org

Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties

· June 2 ·

One Jewish Community's Jewish Federation of Atlantic & Cape May Counties and Jewish Federation of Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties, and their Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), express deep concern and sadness at the senseless death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and with what is a disturbing pattern of bigotry and racism, and the excessive use of force against people of color, and black Americans particularly.

As a nation of laws that guarantees protection of the civil and human rights of all people, we must speak out when these rights are alienated or denied to anyone, by anyone, no matter their ethnicity, faith, gender, race, or sexual identity.

It is our individual and collective responsibility, as Jews and as human beings, to do more than speak out against injustice. Symbolic acts and empty words are never enough. We must all act individually, in public and in private, to ensure acts of injustice, and criminal acts committed by those in positions of authority, are decried. We must ensure all that is necessary is done to guarantee equal justice to all, by prosecuting all who act out of hate and racism, so that justice prevails universally.

We support the right of all Americans to public protest when it is peaceful and does not threaten the lives and property of others, and condemn and oppose the unlawful acts of violence and destruction of property committed by those whose actions sully and diminish the power of peaceful protest.

We are grateful to the many brave men and women who protect us by serving us and the laws of our nation faithfully and honorably as police officers, without hate or prejudice, treating all equally. We recognize that the guilt of those who abuse their authority is not the guilt of all, and that every one of us must demonstrate responsibility to address the circumstances, climate, and culture that have allowed the civil and human rights, and the very lives, of some in our nation to be repeatedly abused or denied.

We call upon leaders of all parties, upon law enforcement, and upon every American to be moved to act to build understanding and better relationships between people of all ethnicities, faiths, and races.

Jay Einstein, President (Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem)

David Lieberman, President (Atlantic & Cape May)

Dr. Harvey Wolbransky, Chair (Jewish Community Relations Council)

Kirk Wisemayer, Executive Director

Contact: Kirk Wisemayer/

Jewish Federation of Broward County

We Cannot be Silent in the Face of Injustice

In the first chapter of the Torah – Genesis 1:27 - we learn that all humanity is made in God's image and likeness. No other text has had a greater influence on moral thought, nor has any other civilization held a higher vision of what we are called on to be. In this story of the world's creation, freedom is one of the greatest gifts given by God, while at the same time, our tradition calls us to use that freedom to affirm the value of life and of human dignity.

Last week, this gift was shattered in Minneapolis, MN, when George Floyd was subdued, handcuffed, and murdered by police officers. The Jewish Federation of Broward County and Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County extend our condolences to his family and community. We also join others in expressing grief, demanding justice, and calling for the strongest possible charges against those involved.

The death of George Floyd comes in the wake of a string of similar incidents and long-standing systemic injustices. Racism in America – like the rising tide of antisemitism – is a virus that spreads with passivity and indifference. There can be no neutrality; if we are not speaking out against bigotry and prejudice, we are a part of the problem.

Mr. Floyd's murder is a searing reminder that racism in America cannot be eradicated without fundamental, systemic change. Our institutions, whether they be law enforcement, government or even religious, must challenge established beliefs and assumptions to eliminate discrimination.

This fight is our fight. As Jews, we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it infiltrates systems and is harbored by those in power. The effort to combat injustice and intolerance requires all of us. Defeating it requires a united and diverse effort; we must see ourselves in the marginalization of the other, and we must act against it as if we were the ones targeted. The consequences for not doing so are also universal – as hate knows no one color or creed.

Not only are liberty and justice at stake in America, but the welfare of humanity stands in the balance. Momentous ideas made the US what it is: human rights, the abolition of slavery, the equal worth of all, and justice based on the principle that right is sovereign over might. We are proudly a nation of laws, but justice needs to be real and not a technicality or randomly administered. There is no room in our society for any form of hatred, and we will not stand idly by. When one part of the community suffers injustice, we all suffer.

When our ancestors gathered at Sinai, the lessons demanding the pursuit of justice and proclaiming liberty were taught to humanity. We must honor the image of God that lives within the human heart and mind by ensuring, through our individual and collective actions, justice and freedom for all.

Contact: Evan Goldman/ egoldman@JewishBroward.org

Jewish Federation of Delaware

A Statement from the Jewish Federation of Delaware on the Death of George Floyd

June 1, 2020 – Jewish Federation of Delaware denounces the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25, at the hands of police officers while he was handcuffed and helpless on the ground, pleading for his life. This death is yet another in a disturbingly long list of similar incidents and inexcusable injustices that have been perpetrated against African Americans across the United States. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing disgrace, for which we all share responsibility. We protest George Floyd’s tragic death, yet one more in a seemingly endless string of violence perpetrated against black people in our country today. We must also remember, protest, and say the names of the other victims of recent senseless killings:

- Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis who died after being shot at least eight times by a police officer (May 6, 2020).
- Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old who was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a “no-knock warrant” (March 13, 2020).
- Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old and who, while jogging, was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son in Brunswick, Georgia (Feb. 23, 2020).

Civil rights icon, Congressman John Lewis – whose call for peaceful protests recognizes that justice has been denied for far too long – has implored all people of good will to: “...Organize. Demonstrate. Sit in. Stand-up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive.” This weekend saw violent demonstrations throughout the country, including in our own community. We join Congressman Lewis in his call and we pray that, through justice, peaceful solutions are found.

Judaism is clear about our obligation to not stand idly by in the face of injustice. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, “In a free society, only some may be guilty but all are responsible.” Peaceful and lawful protest shines a light on the injustice whereas violent protest only causes harm and must be strongly condemned. We must redouble our efforts to combat racial bias and violence, the structural and systemic racism that continues to deprive black Americans of justice and equal opportunity, and the apathy that allows too many to turn a blind eye.

The Federation, through its Jewish Community Relations Committee, will continue its ongoing initiatives in common cause with the Black community. We will continue to work closely together to educate, engage and advocate against hate, and specifically against the racism we continue to witness in the United States.

As Jews we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it becomes institutionalized within the structures of society. Our tradition teaches us that all humans are created in the image of G-d and compels us not to stand idly by. George Floyd should not have died. He, his family, African Americans everywhere and all who have suffered as a result of discrimination and bigotry are entitled to justice and freedom from hate. As victims of racism, they deserve no less.

Our nation's children and grandchildren are watching. Each of us has a responsibility to cry out against injustice and to join together in finding a constructive and peaceful path forward.

Contact: Ellen Bernhardt/ Ellen@shalomdel.org

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne

The Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne stands with our neighbors in the African-American community and people of conscience everywhere in expressing our anger and sorrow at the senseless murder of a black man, George Floyd, by four Minneapolis police officers. This is a sickening example of the racial bias and injustice that has permeated our country for generations.

Let us join all who mourn the loss of George Floyd's life and pray that his memory be for blessing to his family and all those who loved him. We share in their heartache, pain and sorrow. Let us come together to reverse the systemic racism that is embedded within our institutions and society in general. After 400 years of institutional racism in our society, we must do more than talk - we must take nonviolent action.

Our Jewish traditions and values compel us to stand up for the rights of all people without prejudice or bias. If we do not speak out, if we do not take action, we are part of the problem.

Therefore, we call upon our government and law enforcement to fully investigate and hold accountable all the officers involved in the death of Mr. Floyd. We call upon law enforcement and our government agencies to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice. We condemn demonstrations that have turned violent and lawless and we stand in solidarity with peaceful protesters demanding change.

Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids

Our Prayers and Voices: A Message of Unity from the Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Congregation Ahavas Israel and Chabad House of Western Michigan

The Jewish community of Grand Rapids joins the country in mourning the unspeakable loss of George Floyd and the many others at the hand of senseless bigotry and hate. As Jews, we identify with all victims of racial and ethnic prejudice and violence. None of us are safe as long as any of us are victimized. Our prayers and voices join those of the many of every faith, race, color, and national origin who peacefully protest the injustice that still pervades many aspects of our society. What we need is a nation that fundamentally respects the human dignity of every person.

This week and weekend have reminded us yet again that we have a long way to go in our work toward a more just society for all. We will not stop fighting for a world free of racism and bigotry in all its forms. As we continue to shelter-in-place to protect our brethren from illness, we must join our virtual hands in fellowship and understanding that all humankind is created equal and deserves equal reverence.

Jewish Federation of Cleveland

We have got to do more.

The heinous and blatant brutality by a white Minneapolis police officer that led to the death of George Floyd – a black man – is a sickening example of the racial bias and injustice that has permeated our society for generations.

We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and pray his memory is for a blessing to his family and all who loved him. We share the heartbreak, pain, and sorrow that others throughout our community feel over this and the other recent racist-fueled deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Pamela Turner. And we pledge to our brothers and sisters in the black community – and all communities of color – to work together to reverse the systemic racism embedded within our country's institutions and society in general.

Together, we can and must be stronger than hate. We will not stop fighting for a world free of racism and bigotry in all of its forms. After 400 years of institutional racism in our society, we must do more than talk – we must take action.

Therefore, we call for the strongest appropriate charges to be made immediately against all four of the officers responsible for Mr. Floyd's death and that full justice be pursued swiftly. We also condemn the apparent criminal element that have sought to hijack rallies across the country from the black community and others protesting racism for their own violent and destructive agenda. We urge authorities to identify and investigate those involved and bring all responsible to justice.

The Jewish Federation of Cleveland has been in regular contact with leaders of Cleveland's black community and will work in concert with them to help bring about a change that is long overdue. It won't be easy, but we must take action towards dismantling the systems of oppression that threaten the lives of all people of color every day in our country. We need your help:

1. Put pressure on District Attorney Mike Freeman to charge and arrest the officers responsible by calling 612-348-5550
2. Protest peacefully – violence and vandalism cannot be allowed to distract from the important message that must be sent
3. Challenge your own conscious and unconscious biases on racial equity and inclusion by reading more, asking more questions, and listening more closely to ensure you're being the best ally you can as part of the collective journey our society must take

Our Jewish traditions and values compel us to stand up for the rights of all people without prejudice or bias. If we do not speak out, if we do not take action, we are part of the problem.

If you have questions or ideas you'd like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us. In the meantime, we will keep you abreast of developments as we move forward.

J. David Heller

Board Chair

Gregg A. Levine

Community Relations Committee Chair

Contact: Klein, Debbie/ dklein@jcfccleve.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Federation Statement on the Killing of George Floyd

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor joins Jewish and other communities across the nation in expressing our grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd. We mourn the senseless death of George Floyd and pray his memory is for a blessing to his family and all who loved him. We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry. We stand in solidarity with our friends in the Black community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

Racism will not be defeated unless we come together. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a long-standing disgrace, for which we all share responsibility. Violence, indifference and prejudice must not prevail. We rededicate ourselves to a basic Jewish tenet: to uphold our responsibility to care for all life. All humans are created equal, and we will work alongside our neighbors to secure a more just and caring world.

Stephen Aronson
President

Jessica “Decky” Alexander
Jewish Community Relations Committee Chair

Eileen Freed
Executive Director

We proudly join the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (comprising 125 social justice organizations) in a national statement of solidarity which has been signed by Jewish organizations across the country.

Contact: Eileen Freed/ eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas

A Statement by the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and its Jewish Community Relations Council

The Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and its Jewish Community Relations Council share a profound sense of loss and grief as we grapple with the brutality and senselessness of George Floyd's death.

Judaism teaches that every individual is created B'tzelem Elohim, in G-d's image. With this notion, we affirm that every life is precious and has value. We honor the voices, emotion, and pain of the peaceful protests taking place in the wake of recent tragedies targeting African Americans, and strongly condemn those who take advantage of this time to invoke hatred and destruction in cities across America, including ours.

We express our solidarity and are deeply committed to our ongoing relationship with the African American community in Dallas. It is with great humility that we offer our deepest sympathy and our commitment to a more just society for all. We also express our gratitude to the civic and faith leaders working to keep our city and community safe through this increasingly challenging time.

Contact: Anita Zusman Eddy/ aeddy@jewishdallas.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton

JCRC Statement on the Death of George Floyd An important UPDATE from the Jewish Community Relations Council

June 3, 2020

In Leviticus, the Torah tell us, “Do not stand idly by when your neighbor’s blood is shed.” The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton denounces the senseless death of Mr. George Floyd last week in Minneapolis. His murder is the most recent example of systemic and institutional racism. Too often, the color of skin determines health outcomes, economic outcomes, educational attainment, police brutality, incarceration, and so much more. Today, Black Americans are dying of coronavirus at a rate higher than any other racial group, Black American men are incarcerated at five times the rate as White American men, Black American women lose their babies at more than twice the rate as White American women, Black American women die from childbirth at more than three times the rate as White American women, and White American men are accused of mass shootings at three times the rate as Black American men. “Do not stand idly by.”

Systemic racism, comparable to antisemitism in America, spreads with passivity. If we are not educating ourselves, advocating for change, and acting together as a community, then we are part of the problem. Systemic and institutional racism and antisemitism is about privilege and power. We cannot be bystanders. As members of the Jewish community, we know personally and painfully the vulnerabilities and threats of hate. “We cannot stand idly by.”

The JCRC is committed to educating, advocating and taking action to “repair our world.” We join the YWCA as an ambassador for their Summer 21 Day Challenge beginning on June 19 through July 9. For those that participate in this challenge, JCRC has scheduled three community conversations that will take place during the Challenge and shortly after. Join us as we learn together, advocate together, and act together to be agents of change in dismantling hate.

We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd’s life and of so many others who died by the hands of those that work in a system that is broken. May all their lives and memories be for a blessing. Together we will “repair our world.”

Contact: Marcy Paul/ mpaul@jfgd.net

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

Statement on The Murder of George Floyd

This past weekend, we celebrated Shavuot, the Jewish holiday commemorating Moses receiving the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai. The teachings of the Torah given to Moses provide us with a lens through which we see the world – and a lens so that we might act in ways that are right and just.

And it is that lens we should call to mind as, once more, we and our neighbors seek to navigate yet another painful episode in our nation's struggle to make good on the fundamental promise of our founders that all people are created equal and they are endowed with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston stands shoulder to shoulder with the Black community and, indeed, with all communities of color in unconditionally condemning the sickening and senseless murder of native Houstonian George Floyd and in calling for justice to be meted out to all responsible for this crime. We are committed to working arm-in-arm with all minority communities toward a more just and equitable society through meaningful action so that the tragedy the Floyd family has endured will not have been for naught.

We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds, and faiths to speak up now against the poisonous persistence of racism that remains a stain on our nation. Racism in America—just like the rising tide of antisemitism in the nation—is a repugnant and dangerous virus which spreads in the face of passivity. As Jews, we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred. We see ourselves in the marginalization of the other, and we will act against it as if we were the ones targeted.

The words of our ancient Hebrew Scriptures cry out to us: “Justice, Justice shall you pursue!” The death of George Floyd comes in the wake of a string of similar incidents and long-standing systemic injustice. We remember their names and we hold in our hearts too long a list of those who fell victim before them.

Let us commit personally and as a community to do everything in our power – peacefully and yet forcefully - not to let those who perpetuate hate to have a louder voice than those who fight against it. Racism, intolerance, and inequality must have no place in our country.

Contact: Jaclyn Fisherman/ jfisherman@houstonjewish.org

Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest

The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest, New Jersey stands with our neighbors in the African-American community and people of conscience everywhere in expressing our anger and sorrow at the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers.

We join others in the Jewish community demanding justice and systemic changes in law enforcement which have led to far too many black Americans dying at the hands of those who are sworn to serve and protect us. We stand in solidarity with peaceful protesters demanding change, while we condemn demonstrations that have turned violent and lawless.

As Rabbi Joachim Prinz, of blessed memory once said, "America must not be a nation of onlookers. America must not be silent. Not merely black America, but all of America. It must speak up and act... Not for the sake of the black community, but for the image, the idea and the aspiration of America itself.

Towards that end our Community Relations Committee has reached out to black leaders and clergy in recent days, to express our pain and offer help and support. We pledge to re-double our efforts to work together on issues of criminal justice reform, access to affordable housing and strengthening the fabric of our society to create a country with equal justice and fairness for all.

Contact: Scherzer, Linda/ LScherzer@jfedgmw.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Orleans

Statement on the Death of George Floyd; Urging Accountability

The Jewish Federation of Greater Orleans: Goldring Family Foundation Center for Jewish-Multicultural Affairs is deeply saddened, and deeply troubled, by the unnecessary and unjustified death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on Monday, May 25, 2020.

The Center for Jewish-Multicultural Affairs encourages the appropriate authorities – including the U.S. Department of Justice – to hold the offending police officers accountable under the law for this horrific incident. While we hope that the demonstrations currently taking place in Minneapolis and around the country are non-violent, we stand with those protestors in calling for a law enforcement culture in communities across America in which all citizens, regardless of race, are served and protected rather than victimized.

Our thoughts are with Mr. Floyd's family and all those who have been affected by this tragedy.

Contact: Mithun Kamath/ mithun@jewishnola.com

Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando

We at the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando and its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) are heartbroken and outraged over the death of George Floyd, an African American man, at the hands of a white Minneapolis police officer. Floyd's pleas for his life as he lay handcuffed and helpless on the ground were met with silence by the police officer. This death is yet another in a disturbingly long list of inexcusable injustices that have been perpetrated against African Americans across the United States.

We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against the systemic racism that is a longstanding disgrace – one for which we all share responsibility.

As Jews we have seen how unchecked hatred can destroy millions of lives and haunt generations in its wake. Our tradition teaches us that all humans are created in the image of God. The Torah obligates us to not stand idly by.

The powerful words of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize Winner Elie Weisel resonate at this time:

"I swore to never be silent whenever or wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must – at that moment – become the center of the universe."

As a community of conscience, we pledge to all communities of color to work with you, not only to combat racism in all its forms, but also to remain vigilant in pointing out injustice and defending all its victims.

In the days since George Floyd's death, we have seen tens of thousands of Americans peacefully take to the streets to demand justice. We stand with our fellow Americans and we will not be distracted by those who would take advantage of this righteous cause to further sow the seeds of discord. Our collective future depends on this focused effort.

Our children and grandchildren are watching. Each of us has a responsibility to stand up and speak out against injustice and to join together in finding a constructive and peaceful path forward. In that spirit, we commit ourselves to the biblical call of "Justice, justice shall [we] pursue," and the imperative of achieving a peaceful, just and equal society for all.

George Floyd should not have died. He, his family, African Americans everywhere and all who have suffered as a result of discrimination and bigotry are entitled to justice and freedom from hate. Today we stand in solidarity with them as we say, "Enough."

We continue to work with our Jewish agencies, organizations, and synagogues to support the African American community.

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

“Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof.”

-Leviticus 25:10

The Torah teaches, in these words emblazoned on Philadelphia’s Liberty Bell, that we must stand against bigotry, hatred, and injustice. Belying that aspiration, for generations our country’s Black community has suffered devastating discrimination, from slavery and public lynchings to racial profiling and mass incarceration. The death of George Floyd is only the most recent of far too many Black men and women who have been killed in police custody.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia mourns the loss of his life, and we extend our sincere condolences to Mr. Floyd’s family and to all Americans who are reeling with the pain of this tragedy.

To our Black fellow Philadelphians: We see you. We hear you. We are ready to raise our voices in peaceful protest and to partner with you in building a just society that honors our shared ideals. Now is the time for our city to come together to fight racism and bigotry in all of its forms, and we deplore all violence and vandalism that detracts from the struggle for meaningful change.

Contact: Glazer, Rabbi Batya/ bglazer@jewishphilly.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Portland

Tzedek, tzedek tirdof / צֶדֶק צֶדֶק תִּירְדוֹף

Justice, justice thou shalt pursue.

Deuteronomy 16:20

Our country is reeling following the murder of George Floyd, a subdued and handcuffed African-American man, by Minneapolis police officers. We demand justice and call for the strongest possible charges to be brought against all officers directly involved.

We are also troubled by the senseless acts of vandalism and looting that are taking place in cities around the country, including our own. We, however, must not lose sight of the racial inequalities and injustices that for generations have plagued our society. We are supportive of the thousands gathering peacefully to help dismantle the racism within American policing and society as a whole. At the same time, we need to separate those that are standing for justice versus those that are standing to tear down our government, our institutions, and our neighborhoods. We are clear and unambiguous about this current moment of justice that calls us to rise in peace.

Here in Portland, our Jewish community has a very positive relationship with local law enforcement, for which we are very grateful. Yet, we must nevertheless recognize that for the African-American community and other people of color, their experience has been vastly different. For too long they have suffered from unfair and uneven application of the law. Not only should we be sensitive to their pain, we need to be allies with them in addressing these deep-rooted issues.

The Jewish Federation, through its Jewish Community Relations Council, is proud to have developed a close partnership with the local chapter of the NAACP and other leaders in the African-American community, including co-sponsoring the peaceful vigil that took place downtown on Friday. We stand in solidarity with the African-American community and all communities of color, and we pledge to join forces with them as they strive for equality and long overdue reform in our criminal justice system.

Marc N. Blattner

President and CEO

Contact: Bob Horenstein/ bob@jewishportland.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle

#ICANTBREATHE

May 31, 2020

The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle is saddened and outraged by the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old unarmed black man, earlier this week in Minneapolis. A white law enforcement officer held his knee to Floyd's neck for over eight minutes. Floyd gasped for air and repeatedly pleaded for his life while three other officers did nothing.

We protest George Floyd's tragic death, yet one more in a seemingly endless string of violence perpetrated against black people in our country today. We must also remember, protest, and say the names of the other victims of recent senseless killings:

Dreasjon (Sean) Reed, a 21-year-old from Indianapolis who died after being shot at least eight times by a police officer (May 6, 2020).

Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old who was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment while serving a "no-knock warrant" (March 13, 2020).

Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old and who, while jogging, was chased down, shot, and killed by a retired police officer and his son in Brunswick, Georgia (Feb. 23, 2020).

Judaism is clear about our obligation to not stand idly by in the face of injustice. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "In a free society, only some may be guilty but all are responsible." Peaceful and lawful protest shines a light on the injustice whereas violent protest only causes harm and must be strongly condemned. We must redouble our efforts to combat racial bias and violence, the structural and systemic racism that continues to deprive black Americans of justice and equal opportunity, and the apathy that allows too many to turn a blind eye.

The Jewish Federation is proud to advocate for racial equity in our criminal justice, education, and human services systems. We will strive to raise up the voices and center the experiences of people of color, including Jews of color, in this work. We do this to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized, and to honor those who stand tall and are resilient in the face of oppression. We ask the whole of the Jewish community to join with us.

In Judaism, through the value of B'Tselem Elokim, we are called to see and protect the life and dignity of every person. Our job will not be done until the mothers and fathers of black and brown children across our country are treated justly and equitably, and until these parents have peace of mind that their children can run, play, and work in safety and freedom.

#JusticeforFloyd #ICantBreathe #TikkunOlam #PrayWithYourFeet

Contact: Max Patashnik/ maxp@jewishinseattle.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo

STATEMENT ON RECENT EVENTS

May 31, 2020

The Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo expresses its deep concern and sadness for a disturbing pattern of bigotry, racism, disparate treatment and the unreasonable and unlawful use of authority against people of color and particularly black Americans. Bigotry and racism have resulted in false accusations, humiliation, fear and murder against a community whose ancestors were brought to our shores in chains and who are still working to break the yoke of that unspeakable oppression by one human against another. We cannot stand idly by. It is our collective and individual responsibility to do more than speak out against injustice. It is not enough to act symbolically, we all must act individually, in public and in private, to understand the plight of millions of Americans who fear for themselves and their children.

Over 50 years ago, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a Jewish theologian and philosopher, who walked with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, observed:

Few of us seem to realize how insidious, how radical, how universal an evil racism is. Few of us realize that racism is man's gravest threat to man, the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason, the maximum of cruelty for a minimum of thinking. * * * How many disasters do we have to go through in order to realize that all of humanity has a stake in the liberty of one person; whenever one person is offended, we are all hurt. What begins as inequality of some inevitably ends as inequality of all.

We are grateful for the brave men and women who protect us and serve faithfully and honorably as police officers. We recognize that the guilt of those who abuse their authority is not the guilt of all but all of us, every police officer and every American needs to feel responsible for addressing the procedures, climate and circumstances that have allowed a virus of inhumanity to infect our morality. None of us can be indifferent to this evil.

As both Rabbi Heschel and Dr. King recognized, we have a collective responsibility for the fate of mankind and we collectively have the authority and power to determine our fate. We call upon leaders of all parties and upon every American to be moved to act to build understanding and better relationships between people of all races and all faiths.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER TOLEDO

Richard Rusgo, President

Stephen Rothschild, Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Louisville

A message to our community from the Jewish Federation of Louisville

Recent weeks have been extremely difficult for our country.

The senseless killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd highlight the sad history of the treatment of African Americans by law enforcement. We have seen hundreds of thousands of people all across the country and here in Louisville peacefully take to the streets to rightfully demand justice. Regretfully, we also saw these positive actions woefully marred by looters and rioters.

We cannot begin to fully understand what it is like to walk in the shoes of our neighbors, friends and colleagues in the African American community and to experience the injustices that they have endured in the past and present. It is unforgivable.

Our Jewish tradition compels us to seek justice and we are committed to being part of the solution. As a Jewish community, our voice is loud as we call for the following:

- Full and immediate disclosure of the information related to Breonna Taylor's death, including any conclusions and reports of the FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office and the completed internal affairs reports
- The officers responsible for George Floyd's death to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law possible
- Our government and law enforcement agencies at every level to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice
- Legislation that will mitigate structural inequities and press candidates for office to advocate for the same

Finally, we must all embody the values for which we advocate by deepening relationships on a personal level with people of different backgrounds. Not only will our own lives be enriched, but we will become better and more impactful allies and partners.

May the one who makes peace in the heavens make peace for all. Today, not tomorrow.

Contact: Matt Goldberg/ MGoldberg@jewishlouisville.org

Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee

Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.

In times of deep distress, these words of wisdom from the book of Micah can help bring us from despair to action. We are all under tremendous stress, grief, and dismay from the triple crisis endured by our community, tornado, COVID-19 and collective outrage from witnessing the cruel and seemingly intentional killing of an unarmed man, George Floyd, by four police officers in Minnesota. This most recent killing comes on the heels of so many other in recent weeks and years. The killing of George Floyd in broad daylight, on a public street, with citizens recording the horror, seared an image of police brutality into our collective consciousness and we simply cannot unsee what we have seen.

This image has served to mobilized protests in all 50 states demanding recognition and immediate action to begin to address the deep seeded racism that allowed these officers to behave this way, despite witnesses begging them to stop. Similar systemic racism permeates the experience of COVID – 19 within different communities. This injustice is especially apparent in Tennessee in which over 30% of the COVID-19 cases are in communities of color.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still upon us, rebuilding from tornado damage is not complete, and we are grappling with the continued pain and anger manifest in protests in every state in our nation.

What can we do now?

1. **Breath:** These multiple stressors are affecting us physically, emotionally and psychologically. Even the strongest among us are tested to the limit. You are not alone, and help is available. The 20 minute COVID-19 conversations being offered by Jewish Family Services is a good place to start: www.jfsnashville.org.
2. **Learn:** Every Friday at noon, Community Relations Committee is hosting virtual lunch and learn sessions on issues of concern. Past guests include elected officials and civic leaders. Rabbi Saul Strosberg, Sherith Israel, will be our guest this coming Friday, June 5 to speak about the Jewish tradition of giving and receiving help and the desire for justice: www.facebook.com/events/2753170151582395/
3. **Connect:** While we still must follow guidelines on how many people can be together in person, there are still ways to be in community and social solidarity even with physical distance. Join us for CRC book group, How to be an Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. Local facilitators will lead these discussions. To participate please message Deborah Oleshansky, Deborah@jewishnashville.org Additionally all of our local Jewish congregations are offering ways to connect spiritually, including a 4pm session on Tuesday with Rabbi Kullock , West End Synagogue and Rabbi Laurie Rice,

Congregation Micah which will be live streamed from both. Information on all local Congregations can be found in the Guide to Jewish Nashville:
www.jewishnashville.org/welcome-to-nashville

4. Advocate: We will continue to work with community partners, including NOAH, Tennessee Justice Center, Tennessee Equality Project, League of Women Voters, Jewish Council for Public Affairs and National Council of Jewish Women, to share about virtual rallies and other advocacy efforts for city, state and national issues. Currently, many of us are working to ensure that the Metro Nashville Budget truly reflects the needs of the people: linktr.ee/nashvillepeoplesbudget
5. Volunteer: Sometimes the best way to help yourself is to help others. Volunteer opportunities can be found here: jewishnashville.galaxydigital.com/

Contact: Deborah Oleshansky/ deborah@jewishnashville.org

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

The Jewish Federation of New Hampshire and New Hampshire Jewish Clergy are heartbroken by the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and stands with the African American Community in their fight against systemic racism, injustice, and hatred. Our Jewish community is a family of many colors, linked by a shared faith that has at its bedrock the commandment to “love your neighbor.” Today, and always, we support our neighbors, friends, and teammates in the fight against bigotry.

We pray for equal rights and equal opportunity for all. We will continue working tirelessly to eliminate racial, ethnic, and religious prejudice and to ensure safety and justice for all.

Our deepest sympathies and our strong support for you during this trying time.

Contact: Allyson Guertin/ Allyson.Guertin@jewishnh.org

Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey

“ Last week, our country witnessed the tragic death of George Floyd. We, along with so many are feeling grief, pain, sorrow, and anger over this injustice. The circumstances of his death are shocking and appalling. We emphatically call for a thorough investigation so justice can be served and a message sent that we cannot accept or tolerate the wrongful loss of life.

We are equally saddened and disheartened by the growing racial tension in our country and call upon our elected officials to demonstrate the leadership necessary to help restore peace and address the systemic racism embedded within our American society. Federation leadership has reached out to the NAACP, leaders in the African American community, and elected officials to express our pain and show our support.

We are supportive of the thousands of people gathering peacefully and those expressing themselves from home during this pandemic. However, we vehemently denounce the civic unrest and violence toward law enforcement and other citizens.

The Jewish community of northern New Jersey advocates the moral value that all people are created equal and that our country must stand for equal justice and fairness for all.”

Contact: Ariella Noveck/ AriellaN@jfnnj.org

Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City

Jewish Federation Statement Responding to Hatred and Injustice

The Jewish Federation of Greater Oklahoma City and its Jewish Community Relations Council grieve over the death of George Floyd. Mr. Floyd's violent death followed similar deaths of many members of the African American community across our country, most recently including Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor.

Judaism teaches that every person has been created in God's image and that the most important commandment is the saving of a life. Saving a life takes precedence over all other commandments. Those teachings are not meant to apply only to people we love or like or who love or like us. Every person deserves to be treated as a creation in God's image. Every person's life is equally valuable; each of us deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and each of us deserves the right to live.

We are proud to see such a diverse group of people around the country engage in peaceful protests to speak out against the injustice of racism. Hatred and injustice should never be responded to with more hatred and injustice. Hatred and injustice should never be responded to with silence. Hatred and injustice **MUST** be responded to by good people standing up and speaking out in appropriate ways.

How can we each make a difference when it comes to racist or other types of discrimination and xenophobia? Get to know people who think, believe and live differently than you do. Don't stereotype anyone based on their immutable characteristics. Don't be willing to listen to jokes with hurtful punchlines. Let people know that you don't agree with hateful comments and respectfully ask them not to say them in front of you. Have the values and courage to walk away from conversations which include hateful words towards anyone.

The Jewish "golden rule" is found in the Babylonian Talmud and is a simple concept: That which is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor, the rest is commentary, go and study (Shabbat 31A).

Jewish Federation of Reading

The Jewish Federation of Reading strongly condemns the recent attacks on the marginalized and vulnerable populations across our country and right here in Berks County. We stand in solidarity with all minority groups who find themselves targets of bias and violence. All of these incidents are deplorable and cannot be tolerated. Unfortunately, this is a societal issue. We must unite to denounce all such acts of hatred.

We stand with the African American community as they mourn along all of us the loss of George Floyd, another innocent black man. We must express our outrage that racism and injustice continue to exist in this country, threatening our black and brown communities. Fifty-six years after the historic signing of the Civil Rights Act, hopes for equal rights for Blacks and other communities of color have been dashed again by blatant acts of bigotry and bloodshed. We call for an immediate, evenhanded, and fair overhaul of the criminal justice system.

Our Jewish tradition calls upon us to work alongside our neighbors to create a more just world. Thus, we stand as one united community in denouncing those who compared our state leadership to those of the Nazis. This trivializes the more than six million souls who died as a result of the Holocaust. We must educate the public to understand such language is offensive and must never be used unless referring to an actual act of genocide.

The Federation also strongly opposes the recent events at the LGBT Center of Reading. We are heartbroken to see words of hate plastered on their walls by a white supremacist group. Cowardly acts such as this must be stopped. Diversity must be both welcomed and embraced.

While we acknowledge that hate crimes are on the rise, we continue to seek a kinder and more accepting community. No individual should be singled out and punished for their race, religion, sexual orientation, or creed. The Jewish Federation of Reading stands proudly with all our vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Contact: Amanda Hornberger/ amandah@jfreading.org

Jewish Federation of San Antonio

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio expresses our sadness and anger over the senseless murder of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis Police Department. We stand in solidarity with the Black community that have for far too long been targeted by police and have suffered rampant racism and unfair and uneven applications of the law.

We acknowledge the professional and compassionate leadership in the San Antonio Police Department and Bexar County Sheriff's Office. This is not an indictment of our excellent public servants, but it is demanding and acknowledging a dire need for reassessment, evaluation, and change in organizational cultures, training, supervision, and policies nationwide. We hope our local law enforcement agencies continue to advance and improve their policies and strive to serve as a model for the rest of our nation.

We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism, and bigotry. We call on people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and faiths to speak up now against systemic racism and we pledge to work together to defeat hatred and bigotry in any form.

Contact: Lisa Epstein/ epsteinl@jfsatx.org

Jewish Federation of San Diego County

We Must Not Be Silent

The Jewish Federation of San Diego County joins countless individuals and organizations in expressing our outrage over the violence of the Minneapolis police officers that led to the death of George Floyd. We share in the heartbreak, pain, and sorrow provoked by his loss and the loss of many others through sordid acts of hate and bigotry. May their memory be for a blessing. We recognize and are grateful to the many in law enforcement who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, which only amplifies our anger towards those who demonstrate such callous and brutally violent behavior.

The Talmud teaches that anyone who destroys one life has destroyed an entire universe. And as Jews, we are committed to the idea of not remaining silent in the face of hatred and bigotry. We pledge to our brothers and sisters in the African-American community – and all communities of color – to stand together to reverse the systemic racism embedded within our country's institutions and society in general.

In the strongest terms, we also condemn those who are taking advantage of the anguish over George Floyd's death by hijacking what would be peaceful rallies across the country for their own violent and destructive agenda. These acts, including those in our backyard in La Mesa, threaten our communities as well as our democracy as a whole. The action of those causing destruction must not distract us from the fight for justice.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught, "Racism is man's gravest threat to man – the maximum hatred for a minimum of reason." We all have a part to play and, together, we can and must be stronger than hate. We must stand for a world free of racism and bigotry in all of its forms.

Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

FEDERATION JOINS THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE IN A STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Hate and racism are not new. After George Floyd's horrific death, we are heartbroken and outraged, but we are also determined to address the deep, pervasive, systemic issues that fueled this tragedy.

We join the community, faith leaders and civil rights organizations across this country in calling for the former Minneapolis police officer who forcibly kneeled on George Floyd's neck, and for the other three who did nothing to intervene while Floyd begged for his life, to be held accountable.

While taking Officer Derek Chauvin in to custody is a necessary first step in the pathway towards justice, it is simply not enough. Based on the horrifying cell phone footage that has rightfully outraged Americans across the country, it is clear that the three other former officers who participated in Mr. Floyd's death need to be held responsible for their actions to the fullest extent of our legal system.

We believe the Hennepin County District Attorney and local investigators must do everything in their power to ensure the wheels of justice turn swiftly.

As an organization committed to fighting all forms of hate, we know that this brutal death follows an explosion of racist murders and hate crimes across the United States. We know that this has occurred at a time when communities of color have been reeling from the disproportionate health impacts and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

In short, systemic injustice and inequality call for systemic change. Now.

Just as the ADL has stated its commitment, The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee and its Heller Community Relations Committee will continue to support the communities most deeply impacted by these incidents. We will call for inclusive policy-making and continue to speak out against racism, antisemitism, xenophobia, hate and discrimination of all kinds. We will advocate for anti-racist police practices, as well as call for the removal of officers who have rack records of unnecessary force or are affiliated with racist hate groups.

We stand in solidarity with Black and Brown communities in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and across the country as they are yet again subject to pain and suffering at the hands of a racist and unjust system.

You are not alone. We are with you.

Randon Carvel, Board President

Howard Tevlowitz, Chief Executive Officer

Contact: Jessi Sheslow/ jsheslow@jfedrsrq.org

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley/Community Relations Council

Dear Community,

As protests continue across our country and here in San Jose, we are confronted with the brokenness of our society. We feel a deep sadness, but also a powerful energy to undo the systemic racism that has plagued the African American community and all of us living with the unfulfilled responsibility of our moral values.

Today we assert our partnership with our sisters and brothers in communities of color right here in the Bay Area. We commit to continue our work to educate the Jewish community about the historic and current injustices endured by the African American/Black community. We see you. We stand with you. We pledge to work alongside, and with civic, religious and political leaders we will join in speaking truth. We will overcome our past and bring justice and equality to all our lives.

Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley/Community Relations Council

We also commit to the following national statement of solidarity, which has been signed by JCRCs and Jewish organizations all across the country.

A Statement of Solidarity

We, the undersigned, are outraged at the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers.

We stand in solidarity with the black community that have for far too long been targeted by police and have suffered rampant racism and unfair and uneven applications of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement at the national and local levels to fully investigate and hold accountable all the involved officers and to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

We call upon our government and law enforcement agencies at every level to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice.

We pledge to join forces with the black community and other Americans to see through these changes to law enforcement, end systemic racism, and work for a more just American society.

-The Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley/Community Relations Council

Contact: Diane Fisher/ diane@jvalley.org

Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County

Statement from Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County Leaders on the Death of George Floyd

We at the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County and its Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) are heartbroken and outraged at the heinous and blatant brutality by a white Minneapolis police officer that led to the death of George Floyd, a Black man. Handcuffed and helpless on the ground, he and onlookers pleaded for his life. This is just the latest high profile, sickening example of the disgraceful systemic racial bias, injustice and violence that tragically impacts the Black community across the United States every day.

As Jews we know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, particularly when it becomes institutionalized within the structures of society. We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and pray that his memory is for a blessing to his family and all who loved him. We share the grief and fury that others throughout our community feel over this and so many other recent racist-fueled deaths.

Judaism is clear about our obligation not to stand idly by in the face of injustice. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "In a free society, only some may be guilty but all are responsible."

As people and a community of conscience, we pledge to our Black brothers and sisters, and all communities of color, to work together sincerely and constructively. Together, we must combat the racism that deprives Black Americans of justice and equal opportunity, and sustain the momentum to prevent the apathy that allows too many to look the other way.

We have seen thousands across the country peacefully take to the streets to demand justice. Regretfully, we have seen others resorting to violence and deflecting from the core message. Together we can and must be stronger than hate.

In that spirit, we commit ourselves to the biblical call of "Justice, justice shall [we] pursue," and the imperative of achieving a peaceful, just and equal society for all.

There must be no room in our society for this hatred, and we will not stand idly by.

Arthur Goldberg, Federation Board Chair

Larry Feldman, Federation Board Chair Designate

Matthew C. Levin, Federation President & CEO

Helene Paul, JCRC Chair

Marissa Towbridge, JCRC Director

Contact: Stuart Silver/ stuartsbocafed.org

Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley

The Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley stands in solidarity and partnership with the black community, decrying the horrific murder of George Floyd and the racism that tragically still engulfs our nation. We mourn the deaths of those who have lost their lives because of hate, racism, and bigotry. We stand in solidarity with all communities of color in the fight for equality and the right of all people regardless of the color of their skin to live without fear.

Judaism is clear about our obligation to not stand idly by in the face of injustice and to protect the life and dignity of every person as we are all created in B'Tselem Elokim- in God's image. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "In a free society, only some may be guilty but all are responsible."

We pledge to continue working with the religious, civic and political leaders in the Lehigh Valley who have been working for decades to unite us all, despite race or creed, to create a better Lehigh Valley for our children, and our children's children. There is no place for racism, discrimination, anti-Semitism, and hatred. Working together we will overcome and will prevail.

Contact: Aaron Gorodzinsky/ aaron@jflv.org

Jewish Tampa

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Tampa JCCs and Federation joins Jewish and other communities across the nation in expressing our grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd. We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and pray his memory is a blessing to his family and all who loved him.

We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry. We stand in solidarity with our friends in the African-American community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

Several members of our Jewish community were proud to participate in a peaceful interfaith service with many African-American clergy and other religious leaders as well as local elected and law enforcement officials at Lykes Gaslight Park in downtown Tampa yesterday.

Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago

Via Twitter

I CAN'T BREATHE." From Minneapolis to Chicago and beyond, African Americans endure racism that deprives them of life, liberty, and justice. For 400 years the African American experience has been fraught with unconscionable violence and prejudice.

@JUFChicago and JCRC are working with our African American partners to make our city and the world safer and more just for all. Racism will not be defeated unless we come together. Violence, indifference, and prejudice must not prevail.

JUF's donor-advised funds are being leveraged to dispatch support for African American-led non-profits providing help and hope in their communities. JUF's network of agencies, including @SinaiChicago, are relied upon for their century-plus service in many hard-hit neighborhoods.

Contact: Goldwin, Daniel/ DanielGoldwin@juf.org

JewishColumbus

An open letter to our fellow Columbus citizens:

The past week has been gut-wrenching and more painful than we can put into words.

The tragic murder of George Floyd emphasizes the injustice and hurt, which our brothers and sisters in the African American community have felt for generations. As one Columbus community – committed to equality and justice for all – we stand with our African American brothers and sisters.

We, the Jewish community, will continue to speak out against violent acts of racism and hatred. We also encourage our Jewish community to differentiate between the officer responsible for the murder of George Floyd and the law-abiding officers, who at great personal risk, protect our Jewish schools, institutions and congregations against hate and threats every day.

Now is the time for the community to reengage in tough conversations about how we can end systemic racism, hatred, anti-Semitism and bigotry, so we can all rise together for the greater good of future generations.

We welcome any opportunity to join anyone ready and willing to help bring change to our community in order to heal a fracture desperately in need of repair.

We are ready to listen and we are ready to act.

Let's make Columbus a better place for everyone, together.

Joel Marcovitch , CEO, JewishColumbus

Justin Shaw , Director, Jewish Community Relations, JewishColumbus

Contact: Justin Shaw/ justin@jewishcolumbus.org

Memphis Jewish Community Statement of Solidarity with African American Community

June 2, 2020

We, members of the organized Memphis Jewish community, would like to take this opportunity to express our collective grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd. We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and send our deepest condolences to his family, friends and community.

We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry. Our Jewish tradition compels us to not stand idly by and to pursue justice. Together, we stand in solidarity with our friends and partners in the African American community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

We stand with you during this difficult time and yearn for a better future.

Jewish Community Partners: Laura Linder, President & CEO; Ken Steinberg, Chair; Cindy Finestone, Chair, Memphis Jewish Federation; Anthony Morrison, Chair, Jewish Foundation of Memphis

Anshei Sphard-Beth El Emeth Congregation: Rabbi Joel Finkelstein; Eric Mogy, Board President; Alan Goldkin, Executive Director

Baron Hirsch Congregation: Rabbi Binyamin Lehrfield; Mary Trotz, Board President; David Fleischhacker, Executive Director

Beth Sholom Synagogue: Rabbi Sarit Horwitz; Illysa Wertheimer, Board President; Geo Poor, Executive Director

Bornblum Jewish Community School: Daniel R. Weiss, Head of School; Jill Shanker, Board President

Chabad of Tennessee: Rabbi Levi Klein

Hillels of Memphis: Sophie Bloch, Director

Kollel Torah MiTzion Memphis: Rabbi Yisrael Wende; David Cooper, President

Margolin Hebrew Academy: Rabbi Benjy Owen, Dean; Aileen Cooper, Board President

Memphis BBYO: Zoe Goldberg, Director

Memphis Jewish Community Center: Larry Skolnick, President & CEO; Jenny Herman, Board Chair

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab: Bobby Meadows, Executive Director; Joel Ashner, Director of

Philanthropy & Community Engagement: Scott Notowich, President

Memphis Kollel: Rabbi Yosef Braha: Esther Katz, President

Memphis NCSY: Rabbi Donny Schwartz, Midwest Regional Director

Or Chadash Conservative Congregation: Rabbi David Julian

Plough Towers: Leigh Hendry, Executive Director; Jason Salomon, President

Temple Israel: Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Sr. Rabbi; Rabbi Bess Wohlner, Associate Rabbi; Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Assistant Rabbi; Laurie Meskin, Board President; Stacy Canales, Executive Director

Young Israel of Memphis: Rabbi Akiva Males

Contact: Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein/ bzuckerbrot-finkelstein@jcpmemphis.org

Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation

Mid-Kansas Jewish Federation joins Jewish and other communities across the nation in expressing our grief and outrage over the killing of George Floyd. We join all who mourn the loss of Mr. Floyd's life and pray his memory is for a blessing to his family and all who loved him.

We mourn the deaths of countless others who have lost their lives because of hate, racism and bigotry. We stand in solidarity with our friends in the African-American community and in all communities of color, united as an ally in the fight for equality and the right of all people, regardless of the color of their skin, to live without fear.

Milwaukee Jewish Federation

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation is deeply saddened and outraged by the tragic and senseless killing of George Floyd and all others in the black community whose lives have been lost to hate. We share the grief and anger that has led to protests across the country including here in Milwaukee, just as we share the responsibility for addressing its root causes. We also express our gratitude to the principled officers who risk their lives each day to protect our Milwaukee community.

Yet words are not enough. We remain committed to addressing the systemic causes of racism, inequity and injustice through our Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Museum of Milwaukee, and Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center.

During these challenging and frightening times, we hold close the principle of Jewish law that preservation of life comes before all else, and we ask that our community pursue justice safely.

May the memories of the lost be a blessing.

Contact:

Minneapolis Jewish Federation

Tikkun Olam Means Black Lives Matter

We, along with the rest of the Jewish community, mourn the tragic loss of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. We are outraged that the systemic racism within our society—and the Minneapolis Police Department in particular—continues to affect the Black community and Jews of color.

As Jews, we are called to stand up to oppression and persecution. This cannot continue. We are listening. We are reflecting. We are working alongside our neighbors to create a world we can be proud to live in.

MJF has contributed to the [Urban League Twin Cities](#), a historic organization that has been working for nearly a century to bring equity, justice, and power to the local Black community—and which will continue to do so long after the Twin Cities are in the headlines.

We are proud to be part of a community that responds quickly to crises, and we encourage the Jewish community to continue volunteering and/or contributing to one of the many causes seeking donations at this time, including:

[The George Floyd Memorial Fund](#)

[The Legal Rights Center](#) (provides criminal defense and restorative justice services to low-income people of color in Hennepin County)

[Lake Street Council](#) (rebuilding small businesses and nonprofits on Lake Street)

Association for Black Economic Power's [Pimento Relief Fund](#) (providing relief to black businesses impacted by the uprising)

[Minnesota Voice](#) (a coalition of non-profit organizations working toward permanent change in racial, social, and economic justice)

[Midtown Global Market Fund](#) (repairing damage and rebuilding small business throughout the MGM community)

Contact: Ethan Roberts/ ethan@minndakjcrc.org

Shalom Austin

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are reminded of this quote by MLK as we stand together in peace and solidarity to stamp out hateful and violent acts of racism, discrimination and bigotry anywhere. This is an ongoing endeavor that requires all of us to learn, grow and work together. We are committed to creating educational opportunities and recognize we have a long way to go in how we support the Black community. We condemn these senseless tragedies that continue to happen and offer our sincere dedication to peaceful initiatives working towards ending these injustices.

Contact:

UJA Federation of Greenwich

UJA-JCC Greenwich stands with Jewish communities across the nation in expressing our grief over the death of George Floyd. We stand by the statement of Jewish Federations of North America that this week has reminded us yet again that we have a long way to go in our work towards a more just society for all. We will not stop fighting for a world free of racism and bigotry in all of its forms. #JusticeForGeorge #StandingTogether #greenwichct #ujajccgreenwich #ujajcc

Westchester Jewish Council

Dear Westchester Jewish Community,

The murders of George Floyd this past week, Breonna Taylor in March, Ahmaud Arbery in February, and the other 1249 African American victims of police violence since 2015 reminds us that, until we recognize the image of God implanted within every human being and how each person is deserving of dignity and respect, our world will remain broken.

We extend our hands as allies in support of black men, women, and children and all who suffer from generations of racism, discrimination, and violence. We stand with you. We will not look away. We will listen to your stories with empathy and will amplify them until all Americans can live with dignity, equality, and safety. We commit to looking within to find our own flaws, not only striving to remove those flaws within ourselves but to remove them from within our society. We will be antiracists who work for policies, relationships, coalitions, and ideas that counter racism wherever it rears its ancient, ugly head.

We will lean into our Jewish values to join with all people of conscience to cry out in the face of racial injustice. We mourn with those of other faiths who yearn for peace and understanding. We pledge to partner with local civic and governmental groups to make real change. We beseech those moved to protest to do so nonviolently, in ways that lift up our highest shared ideals. And, we respect and appreciate the vast majority of law enforcement officials who work each day to make our nation safe for all who live within its borders.

The ancient rabbis asked, "Why did God create only one person, Adam?" They answered, "All people are descended from a single human being, Adam, so that no one can say, 'My ancestor is worthier than yours.'"

May all in our society learn to live the truth of this teaching quickly and in our days.

L'Shalom u'Vracha,

With Peace and Blessings,

The Executive Committee of the Westchester Board of Rabbis

Rabbi Adam Baldachin

Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan

Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, Treasurer

Rabbi Daniel Gropper, President

Rabbi Evan Hoffman

Rabbi David Holtz, Immediate Past President

Rabbi Jason Nevarez

Contact: Elliot Forchheimer/ elliott@wjcouncil.org

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Statement on the Death of George Floyd and on Systemic Racism

We are heartbroken and outraged at the senseless and tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement. His death is yet another in a disturbingly long list of similar racist incidents and inexcusable injustices that have been perpetrated against African-Americans in this country, including against Mahoning Valley resident Matthew Burroughs.

Congressman John Lewis, the civil rights icon whose call for peaceful protests recognized that justice has been denied for far too long, has implored all people of good will to "...Organize. Demonstrate. Sit in. Stand up. Vote. Be constructive, not destructive." Yesterday we attended the March for Justice in downtown Youngstown, organized by student-activist Sonya Lenoir and Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past. This peaceful event was poignant, vital, and an appropriate forum for the understandable expression of outrage. We were proud to participate and salute the young organizers, despite those individuals, many of whom came from outside our community, who attempted through violent and destructive acts to defy Congressman Lewis's charge. We pray that, through justice, peaceful solutions are found.

And while we, as Jews, know personally and painfully the dangers of unchecked hatred, now is the time to hear the cries of all persons of color who have suffered as a result of discrimination and bigotry and proclaim that all are entitled to justice and freedom from hate. As victims of insidious systemic and institutionalized racism, they deserve no less.

Our tradition teaches us that all humans are created in the image of G-d, to not stand idly by, and to stand up for the rights of all people. We are committed to work together with our partners in the African-American and all communities to stamp out racism and pursue justice. Systemic change is needed now.

Rick Marlin, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation President

Andrew Lipkin, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Executive Vice-President

Contact: Bonnie Burdman/ bdburdman@jewishyoungstown.org