

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

#THEWORLDISWATCHING

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN SOLIDARITY

We are a coalition of international youth voices on social justice. We are representatives of the world's youth, the international community, and future generations. We stand in solidarity with Americans protesting George Floyd's murder and the centuries of festering, systemic racial injustice it represents. We proudly support the **Black Lives Matter** movement as we recognize in it the struggle of all those who have been violently or societally oppressed across continents and time.

Racial injustice is an affront to human rights, whose social and economic costs are borne by all members of society. One in 3 Black Americans will be incarcerated in their lifetimes.¹ Black Americans are 3 times more likely to die from police violence than whites, and 1.5 times more likely to be unarmed.² Black Americans have a COVID-19 mortality rate 2.4 times higher than whites.³ Racism is felt most viscerally in police brutality, but it is baked into almost every institution. This *must* end.

Grassroots activists have, for decades, called upon federal, state, and local governments to adopt concrete policy changes to end systemic racism. The **International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination** was ratified by the U.N. in 1965. Over half a century has passed. As members of the international community, we urgently demand the following of U.S. leaders:

- Beyond issuing words of support, enact the 10 policy solutions of **Campaign Zero** and those recommended by activists in your community to take real steps toward ending police brutality.
- Recognize the pervasiveness of institutional racism and develop permanent, community-based oversight in all organizations to recognize and dismantle it.
- Immediately end all use of tear gas, which asphyxiates, burns, and can cause lasting health problems. Similar chemical weapons have been banned in international warfare by the **Geneva Protocol** since 1925. Avoid crowd control tactics that accelerate COVID-19 transmission, including corralling, mass arrests, and close-quarters detainment.
- Respect and protect the right of the people to assemble and the free press, pillars of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and enshrined in the First Amendment.
- Listen to and act upon activists' and young people's calls for change. Respect and permanently incorporate them into decision-making structures, for they are your future.

The degree of civil unrest in the U.S. has illuminated how pervasive racial oppression is. Simultaneously, the number of protests for racial justice—in all 50 states and many countries—and the courage of young people leading them, offer a compelling hope. We urge individuals to not become desensitized and we demand that institutions adopt drastic policy changes to abolish systemic racism.

The time to act is long overdue. The world is watching.

¹ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Race-and-Justice-Shadow-Report-ICCPR.pdf>

² <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

³ <https://www.apmresearchlab.org/covid/deaths-by-race>



**INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE HAS
HISTORICALLY PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE
IN ADVANCING AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS.**

**WE WILL SEND THIS DECLARATION TO
POLICY-MAKERS AT ALL LEVELS OF
U.S. GOVERNMENT.**

**SHOW THEM THERE IS
GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR
BLACK LIVES MATTER AND
ENDING POLICE BRUTALITY.**

**TO ENDORSE OUR DECLARATION
AS AN ORGANIZATION,
PLEASE EMAIL
THEWORLDISWATCHING.BLM@GMAIL.COM**

**TO SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN
AS AN INDIVIDUAL,
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[TINYURL.COM/WORLDWATCHINGNOW](https://tinyurl.com/worldwatchingnow)**

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