



Stony Brook School of Social Welfare

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Dear SSW Community,

Even while we are consumed with the pandemic, as social workers, we can and we must call attention to injustice. We are outraged at the death of George Floyd, a black man murdered by four police officers in Minneapolis. And before George Floyd, it was Ahmaud Arbery, another black man killed in February by two white men as he jogged through his Georgia neighborhood. The open and visible slaughter of Black people must stop. We add our voices to the condemnation of these horrific acts of racial violence.

At this moment in history we are in a public health crisis. It has laid bare an unjust system of care. Systemic racism and violence does not rest, the deep divides are there. Fear has exacerbated hate and shown the depth of bias against people of color.

In pursuit of justice for George and Ahmaud and all other victims of racism, these injustices must be confronted. When bigotry and injustice are exposed, it creates new and unceasing opportunities for change. As social workers, indeed as human beings, we add our voices to the demand for justice. If you haven't engaged in anti-racism work in the past, start now.

Resources to deepen our anti-racism work:

naacpldf.org

<https://www.aclu.org/other/fighting-police-abuse-community-action-manual>

<https://populardemocracy.org/news/15-things-your-city-can-do-right-now-end-police-brutality>

Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements; Charlene Carruthers, 2018.

Additional resources*:

<https://socialwelfare.stonybrookmedicine.edu/news-events/anti-racism-resource-list>

* *List compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker, Alyssa Klein, May 2020.*

Wherever we are, isolated in our homes and communities, we still must come together in our grief and denounce hatred. There is much to do. We will hold activities around racism and structural inequality when we are back to school together in the fall.

Yours in pursuit of justice,

Jaqueline B. Mondros, DSW

Dean & Assistant Vice President, Social Determinants of Health