

Justice Now

We, the staff of Uncommon Good, are grief-stricken and furious that yet another life of one of our Black brothers, George Floyd, has been taken by police violence. This violence is being committed in our names by employees of our government who are paid with our tax money. As an organization dedicated to creating a better future for young people of color and their families, we must speak out.

We are raising our voices in protest because we believe that everyone's voices are needed now if institutionalized racism and vile expressions of white supremacy are to be dismantled in this country. This is especially true for White people, whose voices have not been loud enough in the past to bring about change.

We emphatically support the constitutional right of protestors to peaceful protest and thank the many people who have put their bodies on the line to protest injustice. We denounce violence in any form, including racial terror, police violence, property destruction and looting carried out by provocateurs to discredit the protestors, and the destructive actions of other opportunists against people and property that undercut the demands of the peaceful protestors.

We demand the demilitarization of our police forces and a transformation of law enforcement personnel into true peace officers.

We demand that our political leaders stop giving lip service and instead take meaningful actions to dismantle systemic racism in our justice system, our educational system, and our health system. We demand that the gross imbalances in our federal and local budgets, that are so heavily weighted in favor of military and militarized police spending, be redirected towards spending for human needs and a healthy environment.

We dedicate ourselves to uprooting the racism historically directed towards the African-American community by the White and Latinx communities, and we challenge our brothers and sisters in the White and Latinx communities to join us in doing the same. We ask that the Latinx community recognize, honor and support the leadership that the African-American community provided, and continues to provide, in the civil rights movement, which has won gains that continue to benefit all other ethnic minorities.

We demand that the oppression of people of color, which began with the near extinction of the original Native Americans of this country and has continued ever since, finally be called out, universally seen, condemned, and eliminated. Let us at long last acknowledge the universal truth that we all are each other's brothers and sisters and none of us truly can be free until all are free.