



June 4, 2020

In Solidarity: We Stand With You

We stand in solidarity with the millions of voices condemning the heinous murders of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and so many others. We stand with protestors on the streets in the United States and around the world to denounce the systemic racism that distorts our society. Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Alabama-based Equal Justice Initiative, said this week, "We need to reckon with our history of racial injustice... everything we are seeing is a symptom of a larger disease." This is our national reckoning.

Black members of our community confront structural racism every day: in the justice system, in the healthcare system, in the workplace, at school. Racial injustice inflicts tremendous wounds, both physical and emotional. It stifles autonomy. It further traumatizes trafficking survivors.

As a human rights organization, we acknowledge the inequality so deeply entrenched in this country. We stand with members of the Black community to demand that our country, our institutions, our police, and our leaders dismantle structural racism.

Nelson Mandela has called racism "a blight on the human conscience." Racism and inequality have devastating consequences for African-Americans and people of color in our communities.

Today, we join the civil rights movement in observing a National Day of Mourning, the day of George Floyd's funeral.

We commit to examining our own privilege that perpetuates this system of inequality. We commit to working to address this country's legacy of slavery. We commit to examining the intersection of racial injustice and human trafficking. We commit to listen to the black members of our community, to learn, and to recognize our own unconscious bias. We commit that this reckoning will not end today.

Words are not enough. Hard work lies ahead to create justice within our community.

The Human Trafficking Legal Center

Martina Vandenberg, Sarah Bessell, Roxie Farrow, Shayna Horwitz, Anasuya Syam, Fainess Lipenga, Daisy Nabasitu, Alexandra Levy, Rebekah Carey, Rachel Rein