



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2020

**OPEIU LOCAL 8 Race, Equity and Social Justice Committee Statement
on the Murder of George Floyd and Nationwide Protests**

We stand in solidarity with every working person who is outraged and voicing their rejection of the systemic violence and racism that has allowed the incalculable lynchings of unarmed Black people in this country for hundreds of years, most recently George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Tony McDade.

We cannot remain silent as people of color are extrajudicially killed at the hands of police. We cannot ignore the devastating effects of systemic racism and oppression in our communities. We will not shy away from stating BLACK LIVES MATTER because it's true and some people need to be reminded of that simple fact.

We stand with those who are rising up to effect change and dismantle oppressive systems. We believe the true violence is the looting of human lives and continued police brutality. We agree with the Washington State Labor Council, "We must root out white supremacy within all of our institutions, but in particular within law enforcement."

We demand justice and will collectively raise our voices to call for it in our Union, in our workplaces, in the halls of congress, and in the streets.

We will not stop fighting for economic, social, and racial justice.

In Solidarity,

Helen Angell
Committee Co-Chair

Emmanuel Flores
Committee Co-Chair

Valarie Peaphon
Union Representative

If you are looking for ways to actively support this resistance work please consider making a donation to one of these local groups at this time:

Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County: <https://blacklivesseattle.org/bail-fund/>

Northwest Community Bail Fund: <https://www.nwcombailfund.org/>

Book recommendations to educate yourself on matters of race and history:

How To Be Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi
The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
Between The World And Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
Empire of Cotton by Sev Beckert
The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein
When They Call You A Terrorist by Patrisse Khan-Cullors

All members of OPEIU LOCAL 8 are invited to join our monthly Race, Equity and Social Justice Committee meetings held on the second Thursday of the month at 6pm. Email us at OPEIU8@OPEIU8.ORG for more info.