



STATEMENT ON BLACK LIVES

June 6, 2020

Today we stand in solidarity with women and people of color in protest of more than 400 years of racial oppression and violence. The killing of George Floyd at the hands of police requires action. The deaths of Ajmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and so many others require a response. Their lives matter. Black lives matter.

In 2017 over 7 million of us marched worldwide to express sadness and anger and to protest the many inequities women face. Most of us did so with the confidence that we would have their right of assembly and free speech. Today, we are seeing a more imperative anger and sadness that is expressing voices that have been ignored for too long.

The mission of the National Association of Commission for Women is to sustain, strengthen and advocate for women's commissions in their work to promote equality and justice for all women and girls and ensure they are represented and empowered in their communities. In this moment of immense pain and mourning, NACW understands its responsibility to hear the voices of communities of color and to raise up those voices that have been historically marginalized. We recognize that none of us will be able to achieve equality and justice without doing the hard work of deconstructing systems of oppression and privilege. NACW is committed to that hard work. We will continue to seek out opportunities to partner with others to achieve these shared goals. We encourage our members to reach out in their own communities to help ensure that all are included and valued.

Three years ago, we marched in "protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families - recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country." That struggle continues; we are committed to building a society where equality and justice are a reality.