

BLACK LIVES MATTER

We at the Bread Peddler condemn the excessive use of force by the Minneapolis Police on George Floyd on May 25, 2020. George Floyd is just the most recent victim in a long history of morally repugnant, systemic oppression of a dignified people by a white-dominated, classist society. The recent worldwide protests are a unified call for action, a cry for help, and a sign that we as a nation need to do better by the ones we call our neighbors. Silence against this oppression has never been justified- not when our forefathers brought a foreign people with them to work as slaves in their new colonies, not when the Jim Crow Laws ravaged the newly acquired rights of the first generation of free Black Americans, not when Martin Luther King Jr. led the greatest peaceful movement in our nation's history, and especially not now. We live in an unprecedented time with the privilege of having the most extensive collection of information in human history available to us at the touch of our fingers. We call upon you to use this miracle of technology to educate yourself, learn the stories of the countless Black and Brown men, women, and children who have been victimized by our society, listen to their testimonials not just with your ears but open your heart to their pain. If you are not convinced by personal testimony, then familiarize yourself with the statistics, the videos, the vitriol spouted by hate groups; it is a choice to remain ignorant in the face of insurmountable evidence. This is not an abstract suffering, it is an ongoing, present struggle for equality that has marred our history for far too long.

For those seeking to make a difference in improving the lives of our Black and Brown neighbors, we ask you for three simple actions:

First, support George Floyd's family's call for increased scrutiny on our local police forces. The International Association of Chiefs of Police pledges the oath "I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust." Far too many times have we witnessed that oath violated by individual officers, and there is no excuse for the abuse of power by a taxpayer funded, heavily armed, and far-reaching organization. It is time for us to hold them accountable and stop allowing the disgusting actions of these officers to steal our loved ones and spread fear among our neighbors.

Second, call your congressional representatives and voice your support for House Resolution 40. If you are a White American, there is nothing you can do to fully understand the discrimination one can receive based on the color of your skin. The pain associated with a history spent in chains, beaten and humiliated for centuries, only to be treated as second-class human beings by so many in our world, can never be fully healed. H.R. 40 seeks to be the first step to bridge the gap between a nation and its historically oppressed. It will be a non-biased government study to research the direct effects of the atrocities committed against the Black peoples and will recommend the exact steps that local and national governments can take to begin repairing the trust of all those affected by systemic oppression.

Third, live vigilantly and courageously. Whether it is a person being bullied in your local cafe, or a person spreading hate on Facebook or Twitter, do not be afraid to speak out against oppression in all its forms. We as a nation have a choice to make, a choice to be better, to make things better for our fellow man, and to be a generation that our children can be proud of. Your vote in this upcoming Presidential and Congressional elections will be the most important in recent history, it is your prerogative to either further derail our chance for a peaceful, equal nation, or to rid us of the madness that the last four years has wrought. Change of this magnitude is slower than what is just, but we must persevere, keep taking the baby steps, and keep fighting our way to a more perfect union.

Eric Garner - John Crawford II - Michael Brown - Ezell Ford - Dante Parker - Michelle Cusseaux - Laquan McDonald - George Mann
Tanisha Anderson - Akai Gurley - Tamir Rice - Romain Brisbon - Jerame Reid - Matthew Ajibede - Frank Smart - Natasha McKenna
Tony Robinson - Anthony Hill - Mya Hall - Phillip White - Eric Harris - Walter Scott - William Chapman II - Alexia Christian
Brendon Glenn - Victor Manuel LaRosa - Jonathan Sanders - Freddie Blue - Joseph Mann - Salvado Ellswood - Sandra Bland
Albert Joseph Davis - Freddie Gray - Darrius Stewart - Billy Ray Davis - Samuel Dubose - Asshams Pharoah Manley
Felix Kumi - Keith Harrison McLeod - Junior Propser - Lamontez Jones - Paterson Brown - Dominic Hutchinson - Anthony Ashford
Alonzo Smith - Tyree Crawford - India Kager - LaVante Biggs - Michael Lee Marshal - Jamar Clark - Richard Perkins
Nathaniel Harris Pickett - Benni Lee Tignor - Miguel Espial - Michael Noel - Kevin Matthews - Bettie Jones - Quintonio Legrier
Keith Childress Jr - Janet Wilson - Randy Nelson - Antronie Scott - Wendell Celestine - David Joseph - Calin Roquemore
Dyzhawn Perkins - Christopher Davis - Marco Loud - Peter Gaines - Torrey Robinson - Darius Robinson - Terrill Thomas
Sylville Smith - Kevin Hicks - Mary Truxillo - Demarcus Semer - Willie Tillman - Alton Sterling - Philando Castile
Terence Crutcher - Paul O'Neal - Alteria Woods - Jordan Edwards - Aaron Bailey - Ronell Foster - Stephon Clark - Antwon Rose II
Botham Jean - Pamela Turner - Dominique Clayton - Atatiana Jefferson - Christopher Whitfield - Christopher McCorvey
Eric Reason - Michael Lorenzo Dean - Breonna Taylor - George Floyd - David McAtee