

API Legal Outreach Demands Justice for George Floyd and Stands In Solidarity with All Communities of Color Against Racial Discrimination

API Legal Outreach (APILO) joins other local and national civil rights organizations' calls for accountability for the Minneapolis police officers, whose violent conduct resulted in the brutal and needless death of George Floyd, an African-American man, and father of a 6 year old daughter. As a community-based social justice organization that was founded upon the principle of equal access to justice under the law for underserved communities of color, APILO recognizes the need for the broader API community to stand in solidarity with our African-American brothers and sisters in our common struggle against racial violence during these particularly challenging times.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer who pressed his knee onto Floyd's neck while Floyd—unarmed and handcuffed—gaspd for air and begged for his life. The tragic death of Mr. Floyd comes just days after Christian Cooper was falsely accused of threatening a woman's life largely because of his African-American heritage; only two months after the mistaken shooting of Breonna Taylor, an EMT worker, in her home by police executing a "botched" search warrant; and only 3 months after the tragic death of Ahmaud Arbery, another unarmed African-American male who was killed by an ex-police officer and his son while Arbery was merely jogging on a rural road. Undoubtedly, these incidents are only sample of the countless incidents of racial violence that are being inflicted upon the African-American community. The fact that these incidents are happening as African-Americans continue to face COVID-19 related fatalities at highly disproportionate rates across the nation further magnifies the racial disparities apparent in this country.

At the same time, API communities are facing a rise in anti-Asian racism as they are being falsely blamed for the spread of the virus. According to the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council's STOP AAPI HATE project, more than 1,900 incidents of hate crimes against Asian-Americans have occurred since mid-March. In the history of our API community we have also faced unjustified killings at the hands of law enforcement and government authorities.

As APILO staff actively work to provide legal advocacy to members of our vulnerable communities in the midst of rising hate incidents, we want to acknowledge that the African American Civil Rights Movement paved the way for our Asian American Civil Rights movements to rise. Since those in power are all too willing to encourage the recent resurgence of virulent racism in this country, the level of danger faced by communities of color has seemingly risen to a level not seen in decades. So, APILO calls for the broader API community, and truly all people of conscience, to stand in solidarity in confronting anti-black racism and demanding an end to police violence against African-Americans along with immediate initiatives to bring George Floyd's killers to justice. We urge our API community and our partners to demand that there be immediate action to ensure justice for George Floyd.

- **Call and demand Minnesota Governor Tim Walz reform the Minneapolis Police Department to stop racial violence against black and African American community: (651) 201 - 3400**
- **Call and demand County Attorney Mike Freeman charge four involved officers: (612) 348 - 5550**