

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”

BUT

From the beginning of these “United States” Blacks were considered to be only 3/5^{ths} of a citizen for representation in this country.

It is time for America to erase that legacy and actually live the words of the Declaration of Independence!

The Earl Carl Institute joins many around the world who remember and say the name of George Floyd. We stand in solidarity with those who express concern, outrage and condemnation of the unjustifiable killing of yet another African American at the hands of law enforcement. The killing of George Floyd, a son, brother, father, and fellow human being, by Minneapolis police officers reminds us once again of the racism that continues to exist among us and strengthens our resolve to work diligently with other like-minded individuals and organizations to seek and demand systemic change.

We shed tears in pain, anger and frustration. After so many incidents that relegate African Americans in this country as less than animals, our young brothers and sisters still deal with the vestiges of slavery and the perceptions that have persisted throughout the history of this country. Our young men are treated like savages and our young women are perceived as hypersexual, loud, aggressive, and lacking innocence. George Floyd was lynched with knees rather than a rope as he cried out to his mother—some of the last words she will ever hear him speak.

Enough is Enough! It is all too much! Emmitt Till, Oscar Grant, Michael Brown, Eric Gardner, Alton Sterling, Tamir Rice, Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Maya Hall, Alexia Christian, Kayla Moore, Miriam Carey... and the list goes on. In 2019, Black people were 24% of those killed by the police despite being only 13% of the population. 99% of killings by police from 2013-2019 have not resulted in officers being charged with a crime. This country is now facing what happens when people have nothing left to lose. We must unite across race and gender in our cries of outrage and our search for solutions. The Earl Carl Institute will continue its fight to address disproportionality, disparity and cruelty towards our neighbors, friends, communities, citizens and fellow human beings.

We applaud and support the peaceful protestors. It is through youth that we will see change happen. We call on everyone to vote and demand change. We need everyone to recognize biases and call them out. Call on your elected officials to create laws and systems for accountability. As the death of Mr. Floyd taught us, the only chance to seek justice for police actions may be by video so record, record, record!

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law on the campus of Texas Southern University. Our mission is to empower underserved and disenfranchised communities by addressing systemic social issues through legal representation, research, education and advocacy. We will never give up the fight against systemic racism! **“Be the change you wish to see in the world”** (Mahatma Gandhi). Become a part of the movement, visit www.earlcarlinstitute.org.