

## MINUTE ON RACIAL JUSTICE

Orange Grove Friends acknowledge our responsibility for addressing the pervasive and systemic racism in our nation and in our own community. We stand in solidarity with FCLCA, AFSC, and FCNL in support of Black Lives Matter.

Our history as Quakers has been mixed: while some Friends opposed slavery and worked for civil rights, others have profited from owning slaves and benefitted from white privilege. We all bear responsibility to educate ourselves about this history, seek ways to be allies of all people of color and others facing discrimination along with those working for racial justice, and do our part to end racism and xenophobia in our midst and throughout our nation. Let us encourage one another to discern what Spirit calls us to do individually and corporately.

Given the egregious legacy of slavery, Jim Crow and ongoing racial injustice, we strongly support reparations for African Americans. We support the Reparations Bill recently passed by the California Assembly that calls for studying how reparations could be implemented in our state. We also support HR 40, a similar Reparations Bill in Congress. It is time for our nation to address the systemic and ongoing economic injustice that has been perpetrated towards African Americans from the time of slavery to the present.

We strongly oppose racial profiling and police violence. We grieve for and lift up people of color who have been killed, beaten, damaged, disparaged or wounded by police in Pasadena and throughout our nation: Jacob Blake, Anthony McClain, Reginald Thomas, Kendrec McDade, Christopher Ballew George Floyd, Atatiana Jefferson, Breonna Taylor, and many others. We also recognize that those perpetrating or tolerating violence are damaging themselves and need prayer and healing. What happens to the “least of us” happens to all of us.

-

While we are pleased that Pasadena City Council supports a police oversight commission and an independent police auditor (IPA), we see this as an important first step and urge Council to support a charter amendment that allow voters to give the IPA real subpoena power. We call for more police accountability nationwide as well. And we urge our elected officials to divert funds and functions from the police to appropriate social programs.

Racism has been a major factor in housing affordability, making it difficult for African Americans to afford to own or rent housing and resulting in permanent displacement of people of color. We therefore support housing justice that will create significantly more affordable and supportive housing units, establish rent control and just cause protections for tenants, prevent evictions during the continuing COVID crisis, and create housing stability for renters and those who are currently unhoused. While we value economic diversity, we recognize the need to end gentrification that results in the displacement of families of color, homeless persons and persons with disabilities.

Because inequities in our health care system has disproportionately affected people of color, as is painfully evident during this pandemic, we strongly support health care for all.

Because our prison system discriminates against people of color, perpetuating involuntary servitude through the prison-industrial complex, we support a restorative justice approach and AFSC's call to end mass incarceration, as well as the end to policies that support the school-to-prison pipeline for youth of color.

We also recognize the need to address racism and white privilege in our own lives and in our Meeting. We unite with Berkeley Friends who have declared: "Systemic racism creates a barrier to living fully into our deepest Quaker values as reflected in all of our testimonies. We seek to bring about a truly inclusive, compassionate, diverse Religious Society of Friends through which our individual lives speak to our collective belonging to one another and Creation. We commit to the work of healing and transforming to make foundational change in our Meeting. We commit equally to the work of dismantling the political and economic structures of racism and opening to acceptance of real beauty in human difference."

**Action:** This minute will be sent to the Peace and Social Order Committee of PYM so it can be posted on the PYM website, FCNL and shared during next year's annual session. PYM will then circulate it among all MMs. It will also be posted on the OGMM website.

During the upcoming year Peace and Social Concerns Committee will organize adult studies focusing on racial justice and white privilege issues in our own meeting.

PSC will also alert the meeting to specific legislation, policies and practices at the local and state level relating to racial justice concerns, so that members of OGMM can take appropriate action.

[This Minute on Racial Justice was adopted by the Orange Grove Friends Meeting at its September 13, 2020 Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business.]