

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT REGARDING THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

To my valued public servants,

I hope this message finds you safe and well.

We come to public service to make a difference, but anyone would be forgiven for thinking change is hard to come by these days. I know I'm feeling at once futile and frustrated and angry and hopeless.

Centuries of inequality in the United States are manifesting as higher COVID-19 mortality rates for Black and Brown people, as well as older and poor people. Ours is unique among industrialized countries' experiences with the pandemic in an American exceptionalism that we should not embrace. George Floyd's murder was just a hasty version of the more systematic violence that our separate and unequal healthcare and justice systems have exacted on communities of color and poor people for generations. None of these sentiments should surprise anyone who's heard me criticize our culture's definitions of "public goods": Distributing healthcare, justice, and information via price rationing produces and reproduces inequality. This is hardly a novel idea and it doesn't originate with me.

So, what can we do?

First and foremost, be heard. Everyone who can, must vote. Get registered:

<https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>

<https://secure.utah.gov/voterreg/index.html>

Second, if you want to donate financially, the following organizations could use support:

Minnesota Freedom Fund- <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/>

Louisville Community Bail Fund- <https://actionnetwork.org/f.../louisville-community-bail-fund/>

NAACP Legal Defense Fund- <https://www.naacpldf.org>

Southern Poverty Law Center- <https://www.splcenter.org/>

Third, engage your brain. The following is from reading lists I've recently received from some very smart friends. I'm adding these to my own pile:

How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism by Robin DiAngelo

Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Also:

Anti-racism resource center- <http://www.resourcesharingproject.org/anti-racism-resource-...>

Teaching Tolerance Project- <https://www.tolerance.org/.../white-antiracism-living-the-leg...>

List of Anti-Racism Resources- https://docs.google.com/.../1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-Qg.../edit...

Anti-Racism Guide- <https://docs.google.com/.../1hpub-jkm9cLzJWqZSsETqbE6tZ.../edit...>

Fourth, flip over cars and burn things. Wait. No, don't do that. That doesn't help.

Fifth, go all Hawkeye and head downtown to "help the police" with your trusty bow and arrow. Oh wait. Not that either. Not helpful. Not. Helpful.

Stay safe yall.

Sharon

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Sharon Mastracci, Professor
Director of the Programs of Public Affairs
University of Utah
Associate Editor, *Administrative Theory & Praxis*
<http://www.pattheory.net/our-journal/>