

Stand with protesters, hold police accountable, work for systemic change

Statement from Quakers for Racial Equality,
of Atlanta Friends Meeting

Quakers for Racial Equality stands with those who are grieving and protesting over the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and many other African Americans. We support the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) statement condemning police violence and calling for systemic change that prioritizes investing in young people, health, education, and transformative justice. In Georgia, along with thousands across the country, we mourn Ahmaud Abernathy, and call for justice in a case where the white men who killed him were not even arrested for two months. As Quakers, we believe in the equality and worth of every person. Nobody should need to fear getting killed while jogging because of the color of their skin or getting incarcerated because of a racist complaint. Yet black families regularly experience the fear that their loved ones could be harmed because of endemic racism. We stand with those protesting the racism laid bare by the killings of black people, police brutality and disproportionate incarceration of black people, disparate health and economic impacts on people of color, and continued devaluing of black lives. We are greatly concerned that excessive force by police toward protesters exacerbates tensions and causes further harm. We are deeply disturbed by the militarization of police and use of military troops.

Lasting change requires a long-term commitment to undoing systemic racism and the removal of unjust policies, practices, and laws. We call on our local, state, and federal representatives and leaders to replace violent policing practices and policies with ones that promote police accountability, standard codes of policing behavior, and equitable treatment of all. We urge local, state, and national leaders to demilitarize law enforcement and to prioritize funding for promoting care and building communities.

We recognize that undoing racism is up to all of us, not just law enforcement officials or elected leaders. Quakers for Racial Equality commits to addressing racism in ourselves and our predominantly white institutions through education and advocacy, and to working in multiracial coalitions for an equitable and racially just society.

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<https://www.afsc.org/newsroom/afsc-condemns-police-killing-george-floyd-and-police-violence-against-protesters>

The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace and humanitarian service.