



**MEMPHIS INTERFAITH COALITION FOR ACTION & HOPE (MICAHA) STATEMENT
ON THE SYSTEMIC ASSAULT ON BLACK LIVES**

MAY 29, 2020

In the past few weeks, this nation has seen flagrant and brutal assaults on Black lives and Black bodies exposed in the public sphere. We know that there are more such assaults on our brothers and sisters of color which we never hear about. This is the continuation of brutality pointed toward Black people since the inception of our country. Our hearts are with the people of Minneapolis, Louisville, Brunswick, Georgia, and the rest of our nation.

We are heartbroken. We are outraged. We are tired. We openly and emphatically acknowledge the anger that is rising up in us as we see yet another Black man literally crushed under the weight of systemic racism and oppression. And we must turn this anger into continued action.

Since its inception, MICAHA's coalition has fought for a more just and equitable community. This fight has included working towards building relationships and transparency with local law enforcement in an effort to understand how they train their officers, and, perhaps more importantly, how they intend to hold officers accountable. Several deliberate and consistent sets of actions have been employed to reach a clear set of goals, including, but not limited to regularly scheduled meetings with Memphis Police Department Director Michael Rallings. As a result, MICAHA successfully advocated for public access to the Memphis Police Department's Policies and Procedures. The work continues as we call upon MPD for transparency and enforcement around the issue of body cameras and police training, specifically as to deadly force and bias training.

To honor those Black lives who have needlessly been stolen by racism, choked out by the abuse of power, and ambushed by hate and fear, MICAHA will continue this work. It is as important as ever. We seek to do the work that will bring honor and lasting meaning to the loss of those precious lives.

The only way to peace is justice. The only way to a beloved community is in equity. Let us lift up George Floyd. Let us lift up Breonna Taylor. Let us lift up Ahmaud Arbery. Let us continue to fight for justice and equity for them and let us continue our fight for the greater Memphis community.

“But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.” - Amos 5:24