

# Revised Red Cedar Friends Statement

## DRAFT June 21, 2020

For nearly 400 years, whenever Quakers have listened to God's still, small voice inside, we hear the Truth that there is "that of God" in everyone. For this reason, we reject violence in any form. But the killing of George Floyd on May 25th was not simply an act of violence. Our humanity was called into question as we watched officers of the law representing our society execute an unarmed citizen begging for his breath. It was unbearable. At the same time, it was predictable, since it was merely one especially gruesome demonstration (among daily occurrences) of the White Supremacist culture that is embedded – consciously and unconsciously – in our culture. In fact, other examples continue to emerge as we watch in horror.

Red Cedar Friends Meeting bears witness to these atrocities. We join the grieving and angry protesters and a growing number of organizations, corporations and faith communities in demanding a national re-thinking of how Americans structure our public safety and policing mechanisms so that they include everyone in their care. In particular, our Peace and Social Justice Committee will communicate with our local, state and national elected and appointed officials to:

- call on President Trump to start a truth and reconciliation process, and to disavow the overtly White Supremacist groups that support him.
- request Congressional action on **The Eric Garner Excessive Force Prevention Act** ([H.R. 4408](#)), which makes it illegal for police to use any hold or grip that blocks the throat or windpipe.
- urge Congressional action on **The Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act** ([H.R. 1714](#)) which would stop military hardware from flowing into the hands of civilian law enforcement agencies by ending the 1033 program.
- call on the Department of Justice to reinvigorate its Civil Rights Division and reinstate policies dismantled in the Trump administration such as consent decrees to curb police abuses.
- Urge our elected officials to support and pass The Justice in Policing Act (H.R.712) is the first-ever bold, comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, end racial profiling, change the culture of law enforcement, empower our communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities by addressing systemic racism and bias to help save lives.
- recommend to state legislators the concept of licensing police, to have a mechanism for enforcing standards of behavior and ensuring that police officers fired from one jurisdiction for misconduct lose the license that would allow them to be re-hired in another.

Our testimonies compel us to action. These policies will be a good beginning.