



LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS

To Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Statement from Executive Director and Senior Counsel of Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration on the Killing of George Floyd

June 3, 2020

The killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020 at the hands of a police officer, and the apparent complicity of fellow officers in his death, were senseless and indefensible. As leaders of a coalition group of police chiefs, prosecutors, sheriffs, and correctional officials from across the nation, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Floyd family and all of his loved ones. This unnecessary use of lethal force underscores the urgent need for systemic law enforcement reform — ensuring that police practices respect the dignity, rights, and life of every person who comes into contact with police. The quest for racial justice is a core part of making America truer to its constitutional ideals — and improving law enforcement must be a central part of that effort.

We must do better.

As officials who have dedicated our lives to law enforcement, we know it is our responsibility to protect the safety of *all* people if we are to build trust and nurture legitimacy in our communities. While no single law enforcement incident represents a whole agency, it is imperative that law enforcement acknowledge how police misconduct undermines hard-earned public trust. Winning and maintaining that trust is essential to restoring our communities and [ensuring safety and justice](#) for all.

We call on all our colleagues in law enforcement to redouble their efforts to improve the criminal justice system, and to hold ourselves and each other to a higher standard. Law enforcement officers and prosecutors must do everything they can to root out misconduct and unethical behavior — to normalize accountability, address racial disparities in the administration of criminal justice, and promote equal justice under the law. We must recognize a duty to Black men and women, who too often have had adverse experiences with police, resulting in deep distrust of law enforcement. And without the trust of our communities, we cannot effectively serve victims of crime. Proactive engagement with our communities and continual reevaluation of our agencies are critical to improving our nation's safety and security, particularly for those who have received disparate treatment and inadequate enforcement of the law for too long.

Mr. Floyd's death was unnecessary and avoidable. It is incumbent upon all law enforcement to stop the use of unnecessary force, promote equal treatment under law, and ensure that lives are never again ended needlessly by those sworn to protect them.

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