



Statement on George Floyd, June 2, 2020

The National Council of Jewish Women Milwaukee, Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Milwaukee Jewish Federation stand with the African American community and communities of color, including Jews of Color, in condemnation, mourning, and resolve. Leaders throughout the Milwaukee and national Jewish communities echo our outrage with the systemic racism that allows repeated senseless killings. Together we embrace a shared focus on reform so that no family, and no community, should have to endure the pain and anguish laid bare by the horrifying killings of people like George Floyd, Joel Acevedo, and so many others. Together, we can and must be stronger than hate.

“Our hearts break for Mr. Floyd’s family and friends. We are also devastated for our friends and neighbors in the African-American community, including Jews of color. Your pain is our pain.” - **Steve Hunegs, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas**

“Black Lives Matter. The arrest of one involved officer on third-degree murder charges is a necessary step towards accountability for George Floyd's death, but ultimately all officers who were present and did nothing to intervene must be brought to justice” - **Sheila Katz, CEO of The National Council of Jewish Women**

“We share the grief and anger that has led to protest across the country including here in Milwaukee, just as we share the responsibility for addressing its root causes.” - **The Milwaukee Jewish Federation**

“If positive change is to come to this country, we must see this as ‘our pursuit of justice.’ I am asking you to go beyond being the type of person who loves your neighbor as yourself. Rather, love your neighbor as you would your children, your husband, your wife, your mother and your father.” - **Rabbi Noah Chertkoff, Congregation Shalom Milwaukee**

“We call upon our government and law enforcement agencies at every level to institute sweeping reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice. We pledge to join forces with the black community and other Americans to see through these changes to law enforcement, end systemic racism, and work for a more just American society.” - **The Jewish Council for Public Affairs**

Together we will persist at being present and listening to our black and brown brothers and sisters. This is the first of many steps we will take to build a more just community for all.

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