

**REA Statement on the Murder of George Floyd**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**  
**May 25, 2020**

The Religious Education Association condemns the killings of Black men, women, and children in the United States of America by police and vigilantes. We condemn the white supremacy and the anti-Blackness that took seed at the earliest formations of this nation. We condemn the police killings, brutality, and weaponizing of whiteness, white privilege, and power we have seen in U.S neighborhoods, on campuses, and streets. **The taking of Black lives must stop.**

As an international association of religious educators, we are committed to education as a beacon of action and power to change the world. As teachers, we have witnessed this transformational power. We know and believe that faith and education together can change people and bring about justice. We know there is power in faith and education to dismantle systemic and structural racism. We know there is power in faith and education to help us reimagine a new world. A world in which we know, see, and treat everyone as made in the image of the divine.

We are in solidarity with Black scholars and their communities in our midst. We have a responsibility to speak and act. The leadership, scholarship, and lives of incredible Black men and women have shaped our guild from the inside out. We ask our members to look inward at the ways some of us have been complicit through actions and silence. We ask our members to take inventory of the ways some of us have weaponized whiteness and put the burden on the most vulnerable to teach the real histories and racist realities.

We ask our members around the world to attend to Black religious educators' and Black students' voices, lives, and work. This is one way out of many that we can work together to actively dismantle the anti-Black racism rooted in the institutions where we teach, lead, and serve. Internalize and amplify the scholarship of our Black colleagues and mentors. Cite them and make space for them. Teach, share, and center their work.

As an association, we acknowledge that we have more work to do. We commit to striving for change with courage. We commit to dedicating our collective work to purging the white supremacy and anti-Blackness within us and outside of us.

We invite our global membership to join us in reading and saying the names of the Black men and women murdered by the hatred that gave rise to white supremacy and its agents. We bear witness. We remember, and we rage at their loss. **Black Lives Matter.**

**Say their names:**

Clifford Glover (April 28, 1973)

Claude Reese (September 15, 1974)

Randolph Evans (November 25, 1976)

Yvonne Smallwood (December 9, 1987)  
Amadou Diallo (February 4, 1999)  
Sean Bell (November 25, 2006)  
Oscar Grant (January 1, 2009)  
Trayvon Martin (February 26, 2012)  
Eric Garner (July 17, 2014)  
John Crawford III (August 5, 2014)  
Michael Brown III (August 9, 2014)  
Ezell Ford (August 11, 2014)  
Dante Parker (August 12, 2014)  
Michelle Cusseaux (August 13, 2014)  
Laquan McDonald (October 20, 2014)  
Tanisha Anderson (November 13, 2014)  
Akai Gurley (November 20, 2014)  
Tamir Rice (November 22, 2014)  
Rumain Brisbon (December 2, 2014)  
Jerame Reid (December 30, 2014)  
Matthew Ajibade (January 1, 2015)  
Frank Smart (January 5, 2015)  
Natasha McKenna (February 8, 2015)  
Tony Robinson (March 6, 2015)  
Anthony Hill (March 9, 2015)  
Mya Hall (March 30, 2015)

Phillip White (March 31, 2015)  
Eric Harris (April 2, 2015)  
Walter Scott (April 4, 2015)  
Freddie Gray (April 12, 2015)  
William Chapman II (April 22, 2015)  
Alexia Christian (April 30, 2015)  
Brendon Glenn (May 5, 2015)  
Victo Larosa III (July 2, 2015)  
Jonathan Sanders (July 8, 2015)  
George Mann (July 11, 2015)  
Joseph Mann (July 11, 2016)  
Salvado Ellswood (July 12, 2015)  
Sandra Bland (July 13, 2015)  
Albert Joseph Davis (July 17, 2015)  
Darrius Stewart (July 17, 2015)  
Samuel DuBose (July 19, 2015)  
Billy Ray Davis (July 20, 2015)  
Michael Sabbie (July 22, 2015)  
Brian Keith Day (July 25, 2015)  
Troy Robinson (August 6, 2015)  
Christian Taylor (August 7, 2015)  
Asshams Pharoah Manley (August 14, 2015)  
Felix Kumi (August 28, 2015)

James Carney III (August 31, 2015)  
Tyree Crawford (September 1, 2015)  
India Kager (September 5, 2015)  
Lavante Biggs (September 5, 2015)  
Wayne Wheeler (September 7, 2015)  
Keith Harrison McLeod (September 23, 2015)  
Junior Prosper (September 28, 2015)  
Christopher Kimble (October 3, 2015)  
Corey Jones (October 18, 2015)  
Paterson Brown (October 17, 2015)  
Lamontez Jones (October 20, 2015)  
Dominic Hutchinson (October 24, 2015)  
Anthony Ashford (October 27, 2015)  
Alonzo Smith (November 1, 2015)  
Michael Lee Marshall (November 11, 2015)  
Richard Perkins (November 15, 2015)  
Jamar Clark (November 15, 2015)  
Cornelius Brown (November 18, 2015)  
Tiara Thomas (November 18, 2015)  
Nathaniel Harris Pickett (November 19, 2015)  
Miguel Espinal (December 8, 2015)  
Roy Nelson (December 19, 2015)  
Leroy Browning (December 20, 2015)

Michael Noel (December 21, 2015)  
Kevin Matthews (December 23, 2015)  
Bettie Jones (December 26, 2015)  
Quintonio LeGrier (December 26, 2015)  
Keith Childress Jr. (December 31, 2015)  
Janet Wilson (January 26, 2016)  
Randy Nelson (February 8, 2016)  
Antronie Scott (February 4, 2016)  
Wendell Celestine Jr. (February 5, 2016)  
David Joseph (February 8, 2016)  
Calin Roquemore (February 13, 2016)  
Dyzhawn Perkins (February 13, 2016)  
Christopher Davis (February 24, 2016)  
Marco Loud (March 13, 2016)  
Peter Gaines (March 13, 2016)  
Torrey Robinson (March 19, 2016)  
Darius Robinson (April 4, 2016)  
Kevin Hicks (April 5, 2016)  
Mary Truxillo (April 11, 2016)  
Demarcus Semer (April 23, 2016)  
Terrill Thomas (April 24, 2016)  
Willie Tillman (May 9, 2016)  
Sylville Smith (August 13, 2016)

Alton Sterling (July 5, 2016)

Philando Castile (July 6, 2016)

Terence Crutcher (September 16, 2016)

Paul O'Neal (July 28, 2016)

Alteria Woods (March 19, 2017)

Jordan Edwards (April 29, 2017)

Aaron Bailey (June 29, 2017)

Ronell Foster (February 13, 2018)

Stephon Clark (March 18, 2018)

Antwon Rose II (June 19, 2018)

Botham Jean (September 6, 2018)

Pamela Turner (May 13, 2019)

Dominique Clayton (May 19, 2019)

Atatiana Jefferson (October 12, 2019)

Christopher Whitfield (October 14, 2019)

Christopher McCorvey (October 22, 2019)

Eric Reason (November 10, 2019)

Michael Lorenzo Dean (December 2, 2019)

Ahmaud Arbery (February 23, 2020)

Breonna Taylor (March 13, 2020)

Nina Pop (May 3, 2020)

Sean Reed (May 6, 2020)

Tony McDade (May 27, 2020)

James Scurlock (May 30, 2020)

David McAtee (June 1, 2020)

**George Floyd (May 25, 2020)**

**...and the countless names and stories we will never know.**

Signed June 4, 2020,

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