



Statement: Groundwork Collaborative Echoes the Demand to End Police Brutality, Anti-Black Violence and to Dismantle Structural Racism

“We at the Groundwork Collaborative express our deep and abiding solidarity with people across the country who are standing up, speaking out, and fighting back against police brutality, systemic racism, white supremacy, and the deep-seated anti-Blackness that remains a stain upon our nation, and which is quite literally killing the Black citizens of this country.

“This is a deeply painful moment. The righteous anger and protests that have been ignited across the country are a necessary and justified reaction to the long-standing brutality and state-sponsored violence that Black Americans are dealt at the hands of police and unchecked power. What’s happening now is a public manifestation of generations of anguish and suffering felt by so many of us for our entire lives, and which is rooted in our nation’s centuries-old history of racial discrimination, intimidation, and oppression.

“George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Dominique Clayton, Atatiana Jefferson, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner — and the latest killing of David McAtee — are just a few of the names of Black Americans whose lives were snuffed out, families devastated, and communities torn apart because they committed the ‘crime’ of being Black in America.

“‘I can’t breathe’ were George Floyd’s final words before a police officer unjustly murdered him while other officers stood by and watched. They were also Eric Garner’s last words. This is not a singular incident, but a cruel and tragic pattern of disregard for Black life. And those words, ‘I can’t breathe,’ have again become a rallying cry as we demand an end to the systemic racism and oppressive power structures that are killing Black people and making a mockery of the stated ideals of this nation.

“Economic oppression and systemic disinvestment in Black communities go hand-in-hand with over-policing and the public investment in systems that harm Black communities. We cannot rebuild our economy, our politics, or public institutions without dismantling white supremacy and the power structures that uphold it. We are reminded in this moment how urgent our work is



to build an inclusive economy, policies, and public investment that works not against us, but for us all.

“Our hearts go out to the many families who have had to endure the tragic loss of their loved one, Black communities across the country reeling from this pattern of mistreatment, and every protester who has been arrested or harmed while taking action to fight racism, standing up for our American brothers and sisters, and demanding urgently-needed change.”

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