

## **Minnesota Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives Statement Condemning State-Sponsored and Police Violence**

June 4, 2020

As midwives and members of the communities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the greater metro area, and the state of Minnesota, we express our deepest sadness and sympathy for the family, friends, and community of George Floyd. George Floyd should still be alive. Further, we acknowledge Mr. Floyd as another of the thousands of loved and valued persons of color killed by racist violence in our state and country.

We recognize that those in our communities and those we serve have endured generations of state-sponsored violence and police corruption and brutality, most recently laid bare by the horrific murder of George Floyd. In recent days, unrest within the community has exacerbated the already large inequities in Minneapolis/St. Paul and those in the most marginalized communities are now without their grocery stores, community clinics and pharmacies, public transit and more. They face this burden on top of a global pandemic and deep economic crisis. People are gathering in massive protests to bring justice for George Floyd, despite the continued threat of Covid-19. As our colleague, Dr. Jamie Slaughter-Acey at the U of MN Public Health wrote: "The fact that people are out there protesting, despite the risks of Covid-19, tells you that the fear of police brutality, racism, is much more terrifying." Racism is a public health crisis and Minnesota ACNM stands in solidarity with the people and communities in which we live and serve. As midwives, we commit to ally with communities of color and to work endlessly to eliminate racial health disparities and institutional injustices perpetrated on people of color.

We believe Black Lives Matter. The leadership of the Minnesota Affiliate of ACNM, the Committee for Equity and Justice, and the Indigenous and Midwives of Color Committee (IMOCC) condemn racism and state-sponsored and police violence against people and communities of color and we will take action in the following ways:

- 1) We will offer anti-racism training for Minnesota midwives and other health care workers in the state (starting fall 2020). We will require MN ACNM Board members, committee, and legislative chairs to participate in anti-racism training.
- 2) We will center the work of the Black and Indigenous midwives in our community. In addition, we will support and lift up those who have created specific programs to support Black families and communities. We will make referrals to culturally-centered resources so that community members can find care that meets their specific needs.
- 3) We will support doulas of color and other Black community health workers in our community and will be deliberate in advocating for sustaining reimbursement for these groups and individuals.
- 4) We will amplify the voices of people of color throughout the lifespan and through the lens of reproductive justice.
- 5) We will continue to examine our own profession that is predominantly white and has its roots in racism and the mistreatment of midwives of color and Grand Midwives as well as

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examine our clinical practices, institutional policies, and our own implicit biases and racism. We will educate ourselves regarding anti-racism and work to be an anti-racist organization.

- 6) We will continue to offer financial support to student midwives of color to attend conferences and will work to support and mentor student midwives of color. We will help to find avenues to fund student midwives of color (MOC) and MOC-led projects. This year, CEJ will allocate its entire budget to student midwives of color. Additionally, we will ensure they have a safe means to report mistreatment and/or harm.
- 7) We call on National ACNM to provide transparent and actionable steps the organization is taking to become an anti-racist organization. The MN ACNM Committee for Equity and Justice of the MN Affiliate will commit to being a resource to National ACNM in this effort.
- 8) We acknowledge that birthing people benefit from care provided by people from their own racial and cultural background. We will work in collaboration with IMOCC to build pipelines for communities of color into the profession of midwifery.

### Local BIPOC resources for donations and support:

DIVA Moms <https://www.facebook.com/DivaMom2018>

Mail checks or gift cards made out to MN Community Care, write DIVA in memo.

DIVA Mom's Program, East Side Family Clinic: 895 E. 7th St. STP, MN 55106 or coordinated a drop-off to us on a day we are on-site. Currently in need of diapers sizes 2-5. Call or text DIVA Line at 651-202-1116 to schedule a drop off time.

Chosen Vessels Midwifery Services: Chocolate Milk Club

<https://www.chosenvesselsmidwiferyservices.com/>. Donate:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/got-chocolate-milk/donate> or on Cash App:

\$chosenvesselsmidwife

Roots Community Birth Center <https://www.rootsbirthcenter.com/>

Donate: Venmo: @projectmotherpath

Minnesota Healing Justice Network <https://www.minnesotahealingjusticenetwork.com>

Minnesota Indian Women's Center <https://www.miwrc.org/>

Isuroon <https://www.isuroon.org>

Migzi <https://www.migizi.org/>

Black Visions Collective <https://www.Blackvisionsmn.org/>

Other important resources:

Black Mamas Matter Alliance <https://Blackmamasmatter.org>

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SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective <https://www.sistersong.net/>

A People's Project Evaluating Policing: MPD150 <https://www.mpd150.com/>

Communities United Against Police Brutality <https://www.cuapb.org/>

White Coats for Black Lives (National) <https://www.facebook.com/whitecoats4Blacklives>

Showing Up for Racial Justice Minnesota (SURJ MN) <https://www.surjmn.org/>

Black Birthing Bill of Rights

[https://thenaabb.org/index.php/black-birthing-bill-of-rights/?fbclid=IwAR0q6yj9L\\_zHgZJvMex\\_awV8GcFo0QCDs2imdb2M78pRRD5YmogW\\_1ucqXk#:~:text=The%20Black%20Birthing%20Bill%20of.that%20engages%20in%20maternity%20care.&text=The%20Bill%20of%20Rights%20al so,needs%20of%20Black%20birthing%20people](https://thenaabb.org/index.php/black-birthing-bill-of-rights/?fbclid=IwAR0q6yj9L_zHgZJvMex_awV8GcFo0QCDs2imdb2M78pRRD5YmogW_1ucqXk#:~:text=The%20Black%20Birthing%20Bill%20of.that%20engages%20in%20maternity%20care.&text=The%20Bill%20of%20Rights%20al so,needs%20of%20Black%20birthing%20people)

BMMA Advancing Holistic Maternity Care for Black Women Through Policy

<https://blackmamasmatter.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/BMMA-PolicyAgenda-Digital.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0tY-a0QnBMQIE13Zpsjmo02k0ddkFPe4dX23vnAUw-OhP88Bzc-Vj4-AU>

BMMA Toolkit

<https://blackmamasmatter.org/resources/toolkits/>

Battling over Birth: Black Women and the Maternal Health Care Crisis in California

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_8112XV6aXBWHpTWI8zQUtEa1U/view?fbclid=IwAR0In057yOZSCDk5OGLx9gJoe89x4dvG0BHglgQ-9MJ7-FkWHdGIZxmUS1w](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_8112XV6aXBWHpTWI8zQUtEa1U/view?fbclid=IwAR0In057yOZSCDk5OGLx9gJoe89x4dvG0BHglgQ-9MJ7-FkWHdGIZxmUS1w)

List from [Reclaim the Block](#) (this list is frequently updated and can be found here: [bit.ly/fundthecommunity](http://bit.ly/fundthecommunity)):

- [African Career, Education, and Resource \(ACER\)](#) - A nonprofit organization that engages African immigrants living in the north and northwest suburbs of Minneapolis.
- [African Economic Development Services](#) - A Business Relief Fund to meet the needs of local African immigrant businesses. The Business Relief Fund is a forgivable loan to keep small businesses open and continue contributing to the community.
- [Al Maa'uun](#) - Al Maa'uun is a nonprofit with deep roots in North Minneapolis, serving thousands of households each year with food and critical supplies.
- [Birth Revolution](#) - With these funds we will create accessible trainings for birth workers, provide free training for BIPOC, and pay our elders and educators a living wage for the knowledge they pour into us all.
- [Black Immigrant Collective](#) - The Black Immigrant Collective amplifies and makes visible the voices of Black immigrants in Minnesota.
- [Black Women Speak](#) - Gathering Black Women in Minnesota to share our experiences in order to heal, find joy and move toward liberation on our own terms!

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- **[\\*\\*Black Women's Wealth Alliance](#)** - *This is a collective group of Black women working to advance the economic status of the Black community through strategic and impactful wealth building as Minnesota's first Black Woman Owned Specific Public Benefit Corporation.*
- **[Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha](#)** - *CTUL is a worker-led organization where workers organize, educate and empower each other to fight for a voice in their workplaces and in their communities.*
- **[ChicagoLakeDental](#)** - *The clinic is one of a handful of critical access dental providers in the southside community, providing dental care for undeserved, underprivileged, children and uninsured patients. Donations will be used to help the dental staff and their families and rebuild the clinic.*
- **[Defend Glendale](#)** - *A grassroots campaign of residents organizing to prevent the privatization of public housing in Minneapolis. The objective is to ensure zero displacement, eliminate systematic gentrification, protect, and build more public housing, and minimize racial and economic inequities in Minneapolis and Hennepin County.*
- **[Division of Indian Work](#)** - *Division of Indian Work's mission is to support and strengthen urban American Indian people through culturally-based education, traditional healing approaches, and leadership development. We provide many services to the community but the most relevant one right now is our food shelf.*
- **[Du Nord Riot Recovery Fund](#)** - *Du Nord Craft Spirits is a Black-owned distillery with a building that was damaged. They've "received a tidal wave of love and support from across the nation and many have asked how they can help... Therefore, Du Nord is establishing this fund to support black and brown companies affected by the riots."*
- **Femme Empowerment Project** - *Venmo @femmeempowermentproject. Skill shares and discussions led by and for QTIBPOC femmes in the twin cities. Creating space for cultural resiliency, healing and ancestral wisdom. Currently organizing supplies and medic trainings.*
- **[Isuroon](#)** - *Isuroon is a grassroots nonprofit organization working to promote the well-being and empowerment of Somali women in Minnesota and beyond.*
- **[Joyce Preschool](#)** - *emergency fund for families who had to evacuate their homes near Lake Street last week, and who are now coming back to a devastated neighborhood with no grocery stores within walking distance.*
- **[Juxtaposition Arts](#)** - *JXTA is a teen-staffed art and design center, gallery, retail shop, and artists' studio space in North Minneapolis. Since the uprisings in Minneapolis began, JXTA has played a critical role in building community alternatives to the police, led by Black, POC and other youth who are already building the abundant and just future they envision.*
- **[Lake Street East African Worker Recovery Fund](#)** - *Business owners have raised millions to rebuild, but workers have no recourse until then. The Awood Center is raising money to provide aid to hundreds of workers until they can return to their jobs.*
- **[Latino Community on Lake Street](#)** - *fundraiser for Latinx owned businesses on Lake Street.*

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- [Little Earth Residents Association](#) - Food and safety needs for residents of Little Earth of United Tribes.
- [Memorialize The Movement](#) - In the coming weeks, organizations will take down the plywood covering their windows, and while the fight for justice will continue, some of the art from this movement will be lost. We are on a mission to change that. Years from now, we want this artwork to be present, so we're raising funds to help the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum & Gallery preserve this art in an exhibit.
- [Migizi Communications](#) - MIGIZI Communications advances a message of success, well-being and justice for the American Indian community. Support them rebuilding after fire.
- [Minneapolis Sanctuary Hotel](#) - This isn't a hotel anymore, this is a community resource made possible by George Floyd. George Floyd was a shelter worker at the largest homeless shelter in Minneapolis. He supported and advocated for people experiencing homelessness while he was alive, and this Sanctuary will be a part of his legacy.
- [Minnesota Healing Justice Network](#) - We provide a supportive professional community and mutual aid network for wellness and healing justice practitioners who also identify as IBPOC (indigenous, black, or people of color).
- [New Mindsets, New Media, New Leaders, and Narratives \(N4\)](#) - youth-led organization that applies community mobilization to heal and transform society. We combat social stigmas related to race, gender, culture, intelligence, and health utilizing artistry and activism.
- [Northside business support](#) - support businesses on Minneapolis's Northside that have been impacted by recent demonstrations.
- [Oasis of Love Inc. And Agape' 24 hour Child Development Center](#) focuses on combatting the challenges of domestic violence, and is now a distribution center for donations in North Minneapolis.
- [Pimento Relief Fund](#) - We're partnering with Pimento to provide black business without insurance relief after white supremacists set them on fire during the protests.
- Powwow Grounds - send via paypal to [angelswann2021@gmail.com](mailto:angelswann2021@gmail.com) - Native-run cafe, currently providing meals to elders, protectors and community, purchasing medical supplies, fire supplies, cooking supplies.
- [PPNA - Renters Support Fund](#) - operated by the Minneapolis Renters' Coalition, a group of residents, community organizations, and neighborhood organizations committed to supporting renters in our community.
- [Public Functionary - #CREATIVESAFTERCURFEW](#): Public Functionary's team is working in collaboration with independent artists and muralists who are organizing in response to the Minneapolis uprisings and the murder of George Floyd. They are mobilizing resources to directly support a BIPOC-led effort of artists and allies using mural making as a form of narrative messaging, healing, rebuilding and remembrance.
- [Rebuild & Heal Immigrant Business in MN](#) - Rebuild Heal Collaborative MN is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Latino Economic Development Center.
- [Redeemer Center for Life](#) - We are a Black-led non-profit in North Minneapolis and our mission is to act as an agent of hope and transformation to preserve a vibrant

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*community in the Harrison neighborhood & broader North Minneapolis. Our primary programs include 26 affordable housing units, youth leadership programs, workforce development opportunities, like our social venture bike and coffee shop - Venture North. We also have community engagement projects like our At Home in Harrison artist cohort, Fairview Health Commons at the Living Room, and a community garden!*

- [Southside Harm Reduction](#)- Southside Harm Reduction Services works within a harm reduction framework to promote the human rights to health, safety, autonomy, and agency among people who use substances.
- [Spiral Collective](#) - A volunteer full-spectrum reproductive options and support group comprised of doulas, birth-workers, and passionate reproductive justice advocates. based in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, occupied Dakhóta territories.
- [TC KIDS Mental Health](#) - Supporting the mental health of BIPOC youth impacted by the murder of George Floyd.
- [Twin Cities Coalition for Justice for Jamar](#) - A coalition formed after the murder of Jamar Clark by MPD to continue the work and gather people around the fight against police crimes. TCCJ4J has been active on the frontlines after the murder of George Floyd.
- [Unicorn Riot](#) - A decentralized media organization that has been live-streaming uprisings.
- [Until We Are All Free](#) - Non-profit organization working towards the liberation of incarcerated men and women and help them fulfill their roles as human beings in society, contributors to art, financial liberation, community development, culture ambassadors, mothers. This is a program of The Center for Cultural Power.
- [Village Arms](#) - was created in direct response to the over representation and disparate treatment of African Americans across the child welfare service continuum. We hope to dramatically reduce the disproportionate number of African American children in out of home placement and lessen the impact this has had on our community.
- [West Broadway Business and Area Coalition](#) - WBC in partnership with Northside Funders Group will direct all donations to support Northside businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19 and the recent uprising.
- [Women for Political Change](#) - Holistically investing in the leadership and political power of young women and trans & non-binary individuals throughout Minnesota.
- [Young People's Action Coalition](#) - is an intersectional high school and middle school student led group that organizes to improve Minneapolis Public Schools and build community and power around such campaigns as getting cops out of schools.
- [ZACAH](#) - provides emergency financial assistance to folks who are on the brink of experiencing homelessness or already are. They are currently engaged with organizers at Powderhorn Sanctuary to support those who have been displaced and need help with finding/putting a security deposit down for low income housing, access to crisis shelters, county assistance, job applications, debt relief and direct cash payments.