

ENOUGH

GEORGE FLOYD, BREONNA TAYLOR, AHMAUD ARBERY, FREDDIE GREY,
TREYVON MARTIN, SANDRA BLAND, STEPHON CLARK, OSCAR GRANT,
AND TOO MANY COUNTLESS OTHER SONS, DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS,
SISTERS, MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

"I cannot believe what you say, because I see what you do."—James Baldwin

For over 400 years, we've suffered under the weight of racism in ever-changing form including shackles, sharecroppers' debt, underemployment and criminal punishment. Black Lives Matter is a singular movement focused on permanently removing the weight of racism from the necks of Black Bodies so that Black Lives are free to birth children and clean scraped knees; celebrate accomplishment and walk daughters down the aisle; go out in the day and return home in the evening. The Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association was established to participate in and support a movement such as this because Black Lives Matter and joins that mantra because, if not now, then when.

YOUR HURT MATTERS

"The child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth." –African proverb.

The Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association condones peaceful protesting; the underlying pain and hurt that comes from the destruction of our community cannot be ignored. People of color and allies of the same, are hurting. Hurting from the lack of empathy, belonging, and desired change of the Black experience in America. Simultaneously, black art (cinema and music), bodies, (sports and entertainment), and thought (innovation and political theory) are exploited, rebranded, and embraced as American culture. The flame represents the hurt and the need to be recognized, we are America.

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

"But the elected officials who matter most in reforming police departments and the criminal justice system work at the state and local levels." --President Barack Obama

On June 1st, President Barack Obama published an essay on "How to Make this Moment the Turning Point for Real Change." In his essay, our President wrote, "Ultimately, it's going to be up to a new generation of activists to shape strategies that best fit the times." His call to action implies a responsibility for each of us, including you, the reader. And the WMBA leads by example. The members of WMBA recognize that it is us, those charged with the responsibility of promoting justice and the rule of law, to make a stand for equal treatment under the law for Black people. To fix this problem, it is incumbent upon all of our members to help shepherd in a cadre of black lawyers, police officers, judges, elected officials, and civil rights leaders. Active Black representation in our government is essential for our freedom. Black attorneys like Minnesota Attorney General, Keith Ellison, are well-positioned to help correct the systemic racism in our criminal justice system which criminalizes blackness, gives white skin the benefit of doubt, and habitually undercharges law enforcement officers for their brutality against unarmed Black citizens. Black citizens must insert themselves into the public discourse through voting and civic leadership to effectuate this prerogative. Our freedom must be won with our work, our intellect, and our strength. There is much work to be done. We are not finished.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

“All our silences in the face of racist assault are acts of complicity.” — Bell Hooks

“When I liberate myself, I liberate others. If you don't speak out ain't nobody going to speak out for you.” –Fannie Lou Hamer

Our voices matter even more when forces seek to choke us into silence. Your singular voice—and our collective voice—is crucial now. Our voice, louder and stronger than ever, has caught the attention of likeminded persons globally, resulting in unprecedented solidarity against racism. This is a start, but we have a tough road ahead. The powers that be would love nothing more than to maintain the status quo. Enough. WMBA encourages you to use your platform, however big or small, to effect change in your corner of the world. Most importantly, your vote is a powerful representation of your voice. In November, we will all have the opportunity to change the narrative and trajectory of our country.

With more to come on this issue...

<https://medium.com/@BarackObama/how-to-make-this-moment-the-turning-point-for-real-change-9fa209806067>

<https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/donate>

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