



AAPD Statement in Solidarity with Racial Justice Organizers

Statement by the American Association of People with Disabilities, in solidarity with the community after the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many other Black victims of racist violence.

Our communities are in pain. This pain is not new. We have once again witnessed the ruthless murder of Black lives across our country. Black people shot and killed while jogging, murdered in their homes, and suffocated on camera. At the same time, the black disability community is grieving tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters who have died due to COVID-19, as the virus has caused higher rates of death of Black people, whether living in their communities or in congregate settings.

In the disability community, one of our consistent rallying cries has been “Our lives are worth living.” And we know that Black Lives Matter. As a community, we must work together to make sure that Black lives are not cut short by racist violence or government inaction.

As an organization dedicated to building the power of the cross-disability rights movement, AAPD acts on its obligation to work alongside racial justice organizers and advocates. AAPD encourages community members to take action and support and amplify the efforts of organizations working to advance racial justice and end police violence such as the [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#), [Color of Change](#), or [Campaign Zero](#). Additionally, and importantly, we also encourage community members to donate to bail funds in support of those actively fighting for racial justice. The [National Bail Fund Network](#) has a list of local bail funds. These funds will also be available for people who remain in jail because they cannot post cash bail: people who we know are disproportionately black and disabled.

We further encourage community members to contact their local, state, and federal legislators and urge them to swiftly [enact necessary reforms](#) to protect the lives of Black Americans.

Our community will never experience the inclusive and just society we seek until we end the racism that permeates American life.

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The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) is a convener, connector, and catalyst for change, increasing the political and economic power of people with disabilities. As a national cross disability rights organization, AAPD advocates for full civil rights for the over 56 million Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power,



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independent living, and political participation. To learn more, visit the AAPD Web site:
www.aapd.com.