



Statement on Police Violence and Racism

As a disability justice organization, ABLE NH is with all who have experienced racism and rights violations both systemic and singular. When oppression affects one of us, it affects us all. ABLE NH is a disability rights organization that understands people with disabilities are members of every marginalized group.

America is yet again facing the vast disparities that exist in our justice system. The murder of George Floyd by a police officer is unfortunately an all too common tragedy. Police brutality subjugates Black and Brown people, perpetuating an unequal justice system.

Racism is a disability issue. Data indicates that as many as 50% of people killed by law enforcement each year are people with disabilities – specifically, people with disabilities who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or LGBTQ+. We are too well-aware of the disproportionately Black, Indigenous, Latinx, or LGBTQ children with disabilities who are restrained, secluded, or who die in schools that have criminalized student behavior. ABLE NH is deeply frustrated by the tragic and disproportionate loss of life that COVID-19 has taken on these same communities as a result of structural racism, including much higher rates of incarceration and centuries of inequitable and systemic health policies.

The disability rights movement must renew its commitment to dismantling all forms of systemic oppression. Intersectionality is the path to creating a just and equitable world.

ABLE NH's core values are in alignment with those who are protesting, those who reject violence and are demanding justice. We are in solidarity with our partners across the civil and human rights community who are calling for reform as part of the process of ending systemic racism.

ABLE NH will continue its works with partners to address the intersection of race and disability in the Granite State. We call on state elected officials and government to drive systemic change in police departments, schools and our healthcare system wherein policies and practices allow racism to operate unchecked.

The everyday lived reality for people of color and members of other marginalized groups is one of being under valued and disrespected. ABLE NH will continue to work with partners across NH to embed principles of equity, inclusion and dignity for all citizens especially our sisters and brothers working to dismantle racism.