

LCWR Condemns Killing of George Floyd

May 30, 2020



We Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) believe that black Americans experience higher rates of poverty, gun violence, maternal mortality, and incarceration than any other group. They also have less access to jobs, education, and opportunities. Adding to the mix is police-killing of unarmed black males and females. As members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), PHJC Sisters from Donaldson, IN, support this statement by LCWR that strongly condemns the police-killing of another black man. Our hearts are breaking as we mourn with the family and friends of George Floyd and with all who have lost loved ones to law enforcement violence, all who live in fear, all whose dignity is threatened. The continued killing of black men and women; the constant harassment of people of color; and the denial of the rights and dignity of our African American neighbors must end now.

Racism is America's original sin. It is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19 that has infected our nation since its inception and unless and until we address it, people of color will continue to die and our nation will never heal. Racism, whether the institutional racism which privileges some at the expense others or the daily acts of hate and discrimination diminishes us all. It denies that most profound truth, that all of us are created in God's image and each of us is entitled to dignity and respect.

As women religious we acknowledge our own complicity in institutional racism; we ask forgiveness of our sisters and brothers of color; and we pray for our nation's healing, and we know that is not enough. It is time for bold, decisive action. We pledge to raise our voices and to act now to end this scourge which has cost us so dearly. It is long past time to dismantle white privilege and rededicate ourselves to building God's beloved community. We urge Hennepin County Attorney, Mike Freeman, to pledge a just and timely adjudication of this tragedy. We call on the people of the United States to work with greater urgency to eliminate the systemic racism that infects the very soul of our nation. We ask God's blessing on the struggle that lies ahead.

LCWR is an association of leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. It has more than 1300 members, representing approximately 80 percent of more than 40,000 women religious in the United States. Founded in 1956, LCWR assists its members to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today's world.