

UDALL CENTER

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The Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and the Native Nations Institute (NNI) stand in solidarity with those seeking justice for George Floyd, Dion Johnson, Dalvin Hollins, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and every Black person's life who has been ripped away from their family by the unrestrained actions of institutional racism, including the discriminatory use of force by law enforcement. As allies, we know that Black lives also suffer from the racism ingrained in our governmental and institutional systems. The United States of America was founded on the genocide and erasure of our collective ancestors, which is ongoing. The anger and violence spilling into the streets is a result of centuries of violent oppression that has gone unchecked for too long.

We are committed to holding this democracy accountable for the equitable representation, protection, and promotion of all Black lives. As Indigenous staff, we call upon our Indigenous communities to examine our own perpetuation of anti-Blackness and the harms that inflicts our Afro-Indigenous/Black Native relations. As White, Latinx and other identifying staff we commit to confronting our own racist biases, both hidden and overt. Collectively, we commit to taking tangible steps to disrupt anti-Blackness in our communities and to change how we support Black peoples, communities, and initiatives.

We must listen and educate ourselves on the racist treatment felt by Black lives and engage in a dialogue of change. As a unit and as individual researchers, we commit to citing Black authors, incorporating Afro-Indigenous narratives, and developing research partnerships with Black scholars to assist in breaking down research silos.

Hundreds of years of injustice and colonization have led to the change we demand today. We hold our organization, the Udall Center and its NNI, accountable to specific actionable items as well as propose individual actions that we personally commit to enacting. We understand and affirm that our collective actions, as an organization and as individuals, must be better.