



WHRC Solidarity Statement
June 2, 2020

As a diverse group of cisgender and transgender women committed equally to the HIV response and to social justice, the Women's HIV Research Collaborative (WHRC) strongly condemns anti-Black racism. We denounce the systemic state and vigilante violence that has unjustly targeted marginalized groups, particularly the Black community. We mourn the senseless murders of our Black friends, neighbors, and colleagues, including Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Adrian Medearis, and others who were killed by those charged with protecting us.

As we know all too well, racism is a destructive force that infiltrates all aspects of our lives. The timing of these deaths—in the midst of a global pandemic that has disproportionately impacted Black people and other communities of color—highlights the devastating toll of racial disparities caused by generations of inequity. The current state of affairs in the US signals a sordid history that has contributed to a pervasive social crisis. Dismantling it requires each and every one of us to reflect and take action to create a healthier, safer, more just society for all.

In many ways, we are all being called on at this very moment to use our individual and collective experience, wisdom, and passion to formulate a better world. As such, we cannot forget that HIV does not operate in isolation. To stop HIV, we must also work to end structural racism, transphobia, misogyny, homophobia, and the entire syndemic ecosystem that has sustained the HIV epidemic for nearly four decades. We have compiled this [Helpful Resources List](#) to support you.

We must remember to take care of ourselves during this time too. Please know that we understand, and we're in solidarity with all of you who are working so hard to make our world more just and fair. We honor the lives and the work of the many people in our community who are laboring for justice, urging policing reform, and/or providing emotional and structural support in a variety of critical ways.

In the prolific words of Audre Lorde, "There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives."

Stay strong, stay in touch, and thank you for all you do in support of the WHRC.

-WHRC Leadership