

**THE JEWISH LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF
NEW YORK SCHOOL OF LAW**

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIVES

June 9, 2020

The Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA) mourns the loss of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and all those who have been murdered by anti-Black violence and white supremacy. *Baruch dayan haemet*. We stand in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, CUNY's Black Law Students Association, and Black communities worldwide in the fight against systemic racism and racialized violence, and we are committed to bringing all of our support to the powerful, Black-led organizing happening across the country.

We know that anti-Black violence is nothing new, and that these murders are not isolated events. Black people have been subjugated for 400 years, and white supremacy is baked into every layer of our society: from racial disparities in health outcomes and school funding, to the over-policing and criminalization of Black communities.¹ For centuries, our systems and institutions have inflicted trauma and violence upon Black communities, and they continue to do so today.

We join the chorus of voices demanding that the police be defunded, that we divest from the criminalization and caging of Black people, and invest in the infrastructures that keep Black communities safe, healthy, and whole. **We call on CUNY to end its longstanding relationship with the NYPD.**²

As a Jewish community, we know that we have work to do: from fighting anti-Black racism within our own community, to centering the voices and experiences of Jews of Color. We commit to working within our community to demand that our institutions cut ties with law enforcement who are called upon to “protect” and patrol the entrances of our synagogues, shuls, and community centers, and to reimagine the tools and practices we use to keep ourselves safe.³ Recognizing that the struggle for Black liberation has always been intersectional and internationalist,⁴ we also commit to working to dismantle our community's support for the atrocities perpetuated in our name in Palestine, including by ending our institutions' support for

¹https://daily.jstor.org/institutionalized-racism-a-syllabus/?fbclid=IwAR2y46LBf1psoKzR5qtZ3we29dhdKSKTVQo5CYBUFiJNKKEVE_vUKMsuqXo

² <https://www.kingscountypolitics.com/radical-rally-argues-to-abolish-nypd-make-cuny-free/>, https://cdn.muckrock.com/foia_files/CUNY-NYPD_MOU_1.pdf, and <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/NYPDProgram>

³ <https://mjhny.org/new-york-citys-plan-to-address-surge-of-anti-semitic-hate-crimes/>

⁴ https://www.huffpost.com/entry/from-ferguson-to-palestine_b_8307832

the deadly exchanges between U.S. law enforcement agencies and Israeli security forces where worst practices (extra-judicial killings, mass surveillance, suppression of protest) are shared.⁵

We hear the charge from BLSA and others in the Movement for Black Lives: as future public interest lawyers and members of the Jewish community, we pledge to roll up our sleeves and recommit ourselves to racial justice.⁶ We pledge to dismantle the deadly falsehood that safety for some communities requires violence against others, and to reimagine what real safety looks like: a world without police and prisons. We pledge to work towards *Olam Habah*, the world to come, where safety is collective, and is built through solidarity and mutual support.

In solidarity,

JLSA Executive Board 2020-2021

Resources for Jews and Allies

Many of our colleagues have shared educational materials, organizations to support, petitions to sign, and ways to engage in and support the protests, and we encourage our community to utilize those resources. Below are some additional ones, including those specific to our Jewish community:

Listen to Black voices and the demands of Black leadership:

- Movement for Black Lives Policy Platforms: <https://m4bl.org/policy-platforms/>
- Black Lives Matter Guide to Allyship:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CIfMQED_B444Y-K8kAqUOgq8xrSFdSrijFBRnyK6wmz4/edit
- Institutionalized Racism Syllabus
https://daily.jstor.org/institutionalized-racism-a-syllabus/?fbclid=IwAR2y46LBf1psoKzR5qtZ3we29dhdKSKTVQo5CYBUFiJNKKEVE_vUKMsuqXo
- NYPL Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List:
<https://www.nypl.org/blog/2020/06/03/schomburg-center-black-liberation-reading-list>
- Black History Month Library:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bz011IF2Pu9TUWIXVWxybGJ1Ync>

⁵ For more information, see <https://deadlyexchange.org/>. See also <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/update-on-deadly-exchange-campaign/>

⁶ BLSA Statement in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives:
https://lookaside.fbsbx.com/file/BLSA%20Statement%20in%20Solidarity%20on%20the%20Movement%20for%20Black%20Lives.pdf?token=AWyWqtAW1C1JAJA2CDHCgXK-exImZjc91qB9OycXzi7-zckcBnPVyU2ebPKGGxMmOKSm3AhAwcOe0Ifj9L02KWpCBXl_IB5oCgeD1fbc9E_xOUAQzuR9uVCx3_ND6dgdOtx4qdMPhEVSh5firTigHUuzSZy8X0sWOfzRrh2FjVeVA

- *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, Angela Davis' book on Ferguson and Palestine: <https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/780-freedom-is-a-constant-struggle>

Reflect on our role as Jews in the Movement for Black Lives:

- A 1967 James Baldwin essay about Jews, whiteness, and anti-Black racism in the Jewish community: <http://movies2.nytimes.com/books/98/03/29/specials/baldwin-antisem.html>
- Article by Jewish thought leaders on why Jews should support the M4BL platform: <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/american-jews-should-support-the-movement-for-black-lives-platform/>
- Opinion piece about the dangers of having law enforcement at synagogues: <https://www.heyalma.com/as-a-black-jew-im-begging-you-dont-arm-your-synagogue/>
- Resources on anti-racism within the Jewish community: <https://rac.org/resources-embracing-racial-diversity-our-jewish-communities>
- An International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN) statement on racism, anti-semitism, and zionism, made in solidarity with Angela Davis: <http://www.ijan.org/uncategorized/ijan-stands-with-angela-davis/>
- Jews of Color and BLM: <https://www.jta.org/2020/05/31/united-states/believe-us-black-jews-respond-to-the-george-floyd-protests-in-their-own-words>

Support protestors and Black-led organizing

- The Bail Project <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/the-bail-project>
- Law for Black Lives <http://www.law4blacklives.org/>
- Black Lives Matter: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- Movement for Black Lives: <https://m4bl.org/>
- List of other organizations to support: <https://nymag.com/strategist/article/where-to-donate-for-black-lives-matter.html#political-organizations>

Act

- The Deadly Exchange Campaign: <https://deadlyexchange.org/>
- NYC Budget Justice: <https://www.changethenypd.org/nycbudgetjustice>
- Demand the police be defunded: <https://defund12.org/>
- Repeal 50-a: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/17CeBvROXb9u2sOwQCy38y-tXOE71Pb9Abcg6gYLIQRM/edit>
- Jews for Racial and Economic Justice (JFREJ) Freedom to Thrive Campaign: <https://www.jfrej.org/campaigns/freedom-to-thrive>