



City and County of San Francisco

Commission on the Status of Women

Mayor London N. Breed

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Statement from San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women President Breanna Zwart on Racial Injustice

It is hard to put our outrage and exhaustion into words. Against the backdrop of a pandemic disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities, the disease of racial injustice is also present, and most despairingly manifested in the recent executions of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and George Floyd.

The loss of each one of these lives to their friends and families, as well as our communities, are immeasurable.

The overwhelming majority of those who have peacefully flooded the streets of San Francisco and other cities across the nation in recent days have come together to demand long, long overdue change and to bear witness. We think about the countless individuals who have stepped up as leaders, like 17-year-old Darnella Frazier, who filmed the tragic video of George Floyd's murder on her cell phone. She has withstood a barrage of abuse online – because she bravely refused to sit idly by and let blatant injustice and terrorism against black people happen once again without proof for the world to see.

The Commission on the Status of Women stands in solidarity with those who feel unsafe, targeted, unseen, and unheard. We share your pain and we commit ourselves to fighting all discrimination in all forms. We must be anti-racist and take anti-racist action every day and in all ways.

With a renewed sense of even greater urgency, the Commission will continue to advocate for a level playing field for women and girls of color and lift up the voices of our next generation of leaders.

Let us remember that our progress depends in the long run on building and strengthening our

communities – we appreciated the words of activist and artist Michael Render who spoke out in Atlanta this weekend: “[it is time to]... plot, plan, strategize, and organize and mobilize in an effective way.” To which, we should add to his eloquent words - make sure you’re registered to vote and [sign up now to vote by mail](#) in order to ensure your safe access to the power of the ballot as we continue to grapple with the impact of COVID-19.

We demand that others be proximate, bear witness to the hurt and challenges of Black and Brown lives and use your power to take action and change this broken system. We have a lot of work to do. May the memory of George Floyd be a blessing to his loved ones, and a clarion call to action for us all.

#BlackLivesMatter
#GeorgeFloyd
#BreonnaTaylor
#AhmaudArbery

#MikeBrown
#TamirRice
#TrayvonMartin
#SandraBland

#PhilandoCastile
#JordanDavis
#AtatianaJefferson
#TonyMcDade

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