

Elected Human Relations Committee

Position Statement on Murder of George Floyd



The Elected Human Relations Committee of the International Association of Fire Fighters stands with those who are peacefully protesting for the fair and equal treatment of black lives — and all minorities throughout the United States and Canada — following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hand of law enforcement.

Police brutality and violence will not be condoned and will not be tolerated, nor will violence against peaceful protests — something afforded to every American by their 1st Amendment rights and every Canadian under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

We strongly condemn the senseless violence against members of law enforcement, fire fighters, and first responders; we condemn the blatant destruction of property and looting occurring throughout many communities across our great nations, as it only serves to distract from the real issues of inequalities faced by many of our members, their families and those we proudly serve.

It wasn't long ago that the fire service was on the wrong side of history in the sixties. The IAFF has been dedicated to progressing fair and equal treatment within fire and emergency services since 1988 when the members, by convention resolution, created the Civil Rights Committee. Over the past 32 years, the Committee has expanded to focus not only on black lives, but on women's issues, veterans' issues, disability issues and issues faced by the LGBTQ+ communities as it transitioned into the Elected Human Relations Committee that it is today.

Every member of our great union deserves the right to be treated with fairness and equality, irrespective of race, gender, sex, religion, creed, disability or sexual orientation. These same rights should be afforded to all and by all.

The IAFF EHRC hereby strongly condemns the murder of George Floyd, strongly condemns the practice of systematic institutional racism and vigorously condemns violence against Black Americans and all people. The IAFF EHRC commends the many law enforcement officers who are partners with, and not abusers of, the communities that they serve. Recognizing that the labor movement itself was founded out of protest, we also express our solidarity with those who have peacefully protested the murder of innocent people of color and who are advocating to end the social and economic injustices caused by racism throughout this nation and the world.

The IAFF Elected Human Relations Committee strongly recommends that all affiliates of our great union take similar action in condemning all bigotry, intolerance and racism everywhere.
