

OCCDL's Statement Denouncing Injustice to BIPOC Communities

We are deeply saddened by the recent disturbing events that remind us of the injustices that have plagued—and continue to plague—our Black community. OCCDL condemns racism, xenophobia, and police brutality in all its forms, including against all Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).

As an organization committed to achieving cultural diversity in Orange County, we cannot and will not stay silent. We stand with our members, affinity organizations, and millions of individuals in mourning the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others, questioning a heartbreaking cycle, reliving past tragedies, and speaking out against racial injustice.

Among our members and as an organization, we have discussed bias and its ramifications. Colleagues and friends have shared their experiences of being targeted, stereotyped, and marginalized. OCCDL started the Social Justice Impact Litigation Series this year to increase awareness, promote active listening, and encourage discussion on issues impacting our diverse communities. These are not easy topics, but we must address them. We strive to do our part to fight against racist behaviors that threaten the health and safety of all Americans. We urge policymakers and other community leaders to join us in promoting racial equality, condemning the fomenting of violence, divisiveness, and bias that have no place in our community, and changing this broken record.

Let us build on our shared humanity with unity and support and strengthen our connections and respect for one another.

June 3, 2020