



Unite with Annapolis Pride to End Racism and White Supremacy

June 1, 2020

Annapolis Pride condemns the murder of George Floyd and seeks justice for black communities across the country. We stand firmly with protestors as they speak out against senseless acts of hate and racism. It is time for us to inspire action and societal change towards a better future.

In our pursuit to create a more friendly, inclusive, and vibrant community where all people thrive, Annapolis Pride has joined hundreds of LGBTQ+ Organizations to Combat Racial Violence by signing on to a letter committing to make "explicit commitments to embrace anti-racism and end white supremacy, not as necessary corollaries to our mission, but as integral to the objective of full equality for LGBTQ people."

Annapolis Pride has made a lot of progress in two short years and is looking forward to continuing to support the LGBTQ+ community in Annapolis. June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month and is a time when we celebrate our successes towards creating a more inclusive and equal community and reflect on the work that still has to be done. This June is the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall uprising, riots against state-sanctioned violence and brutality towards the LGBTQ+ community and a pivotal point that many consider the beginning of the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement.

As we celebrate Pride Month we urge all of our supporters to stand with the protestors and let everyone know, just as the LGBTQ+ community did 51 years ago at the Stonewall Inn, that enough is enough. Black Lives Matter. [Register and Vote!](#)

An Open Letter From LGBTQ Organizations Condemning Racist Violence

LGBTQ Organizations Unite to Combat Racial Violence

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor." Those words, written over 30 years ago by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, remind us that indifference can never bridge the divide of hate. And, today, they should serve as a call to action to all of us, and to the Movement for LGBTQ equality.

This spring has been a stark and stinging reminder that racism, and its strategic objective, white supremacy, is as defining a characteristic of the American experience as those ideals upon which we claim to hold our democracy — justice, equality, liberty.

- We listened to the haunting pleas of George Floyd for the most basic of human needs — simply, breath — as a Minneapolis police officer kneeled with cruel indifference on his neck.
- We felt the pain of Breonna Taylor’s boyfriend as he called 9-1-1 after plainclothes Louisville police kicked down the door of their home and shot her eight times as she slept in her bed.
- We watched the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery by white vigilantes in Brunswick, GA, aware that they evaded the consequence of their actions until the video surfaced and sparked national outrage.
- We saw the weaponizing of race by a white woman who pantomimed fear in calling the police on Christian Cooper, a Black gay man bird-watching in Central Park.
- We have heard and read about the killings of transgender people -- Black transgender women in particular — with such regularity, it is no exaggeration to describe it as an epidemic of violence. This year alone, we have lost at least 12 members of our community: Dustin Parker, Neulisa Luciano Ruiz, Yampi Méndez Arocho, Monika Diamond, Lexi, Johanna Metzger, Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, Layla Pelaez Sánchez, Penélope Díaz Ramírez, Nina Pop, Helle Jae O’Regan, and Tony McDade.

All of these incidents are stark reminders of why we must speak out when hate, violence, and systemic racism claim — too often with impunity — Black Lives.

The LGBTQ Movement’s work has earned significant victories in expanding the civil rights of LGBTQ people. But what good are civil rights without the freedom to enjoy them?

Many of our organizations have made progress in adopting intersectionality as a core value and have committed to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. But this moment requires that we go further — that we make explicit commitments to embrace anti-racism and end white supremacy, not as necessary corollaries to our mission, but as integral to the objective of full equality for LGBTQ people.

We, the undersigned, recognize we cannot remain neutral, nor will awareness substitute for action. The LGBTQ community knows about the work of resisting police brutality and violence. We celebrate June as Pride Month, because it commemorates, in part, our resisting police harassment and brutality at Stonewall in New York City, and earlier in California, when such violence was common and expected. We remember it as a breakthrough moment when we refused to accept humiliation and fear as the price of living fully, freely, and authentically.

We understand what it means to rise up and push back against a culture that tells us we are less than, that our lives don’t matter. Today, we join together again to say [#BlackLivesMatter](#) and commit ourselves to the action those words require.

