

## **Mississippi Library Association Statement Condemning Racism & Brutality**

The Mississippi Library Association firmly believes in justice, equality, diversity and inclusion in our libraries, our communities and our country. We not only believe in it, we expect it as part of our constitutional rights as citizens and human rights as people. We abhor hatred, racism and brutality in any form. The Mississippi Library Association stands with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), the American Library Association (ALA) and our related state associations in their [condemnation of violence and racism towards black Americans and people of color](#). Our libraries play a critical role in our communities not only as providers of services, programs and resources but as leaders and role models. We must not remain silent nor inactive. BCALA is correct when it encourages us to “be proactive not only when someone in our community is harmed, but preventative in anticipating historically sanctioned violence by participating in local efforts to counter racism and violence against black men and women.”

We encourage all libraries in the state to stand up against racism and brutality. Serve your communities by providing education, resources, booklists and activities that enlighten people who harbor hate and fear against those different from themselves and who use violence to oppress others.