



Resolution Condemning Police Violence Against Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Protestors, and Journalists

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) is deeply saddened by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and far too many other People of Color who have been killed as a result of police brutality and systemic racism;

Whereas we are in solidarity with the statements of The Black Caucus of The American Library Association (BCALA) and Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA), and affirm our earlier statement condemning violence and racism towards Black people, Indigenous people, and all People of Color¹;

Whereas we recognize "that institutionalized inequities based on race are embedded into our society and are reinforced through social institutions" (ALA Policy B.3.2 Combating Racism) and we condemn the systemic racism and violence that Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color experience on a daily basis in our inequitable society;

Whereas the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, produced by the Freedom of the Press Foundation, has tracked over 400 incidents of violence, arrest, and destruction of equipment against journalists covering protests²;

Whereas the First Amendment promises freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government, all of which are essential freedoms of our democracy and vital components of intellectual freedom;

Whereas we condemn the violence that protesters and journalists across the country are facing while exercising their First Amendment rights-the former raise their voices to demand justice, and the latter seek to document and share history as it is being made: both have been subject to gratuitous attacks from police;

Whereas ALA has pledged to "[s]upport anti-racism work within the broader society by monitoring, evaluating and advocating for human rights and equity legislation, regulations, policy and practice" (ALA Policy B.3.3 Combating Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination); and

Whereas the "The Universal Right to Free Expression: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*" states that ALA "opposes any use of governmental prerogative that leads to intimidation of individuals that prevents them from exercising their rights to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas. We urge libraries and librarians everywhere to resist such abuse of governmental power, and to support those against whom such governmental power has been employed"; now, therefore, be it



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. calls upon its members to support initiatives to end police violence against Black people, to combat the systemic racism that infects our society, and to speak out against all attempts to restrict First Amendment rights.
2. calls upon federal, state, and local governments to uphold, preserve, and respect the constitutional rights of protestors, of journalists, and of all people who want to make their voices heard and to share their words and ideas with the rest of the world and future generations.
3. directs ALA staff to expeditiously publish and distribute this resolution to all ALA members through appropriate channels of communication

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 23, 2020, ALA Virtual Council Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracie Hall", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director and
Secretary of the ALA Council

References:

ALA OIF: "[Protecting Privacy in a Pandemic: A Resource Guide](#)" - May 8, 2020