



BUFFALO LAW REVIEW

Once again, we watch in excruciating detail as a Black person loses his life at the hands of those pledged to protect and serve. Not only does police brutality continue to exacerbate structural racism, but it also exists as a longstanding public health crisis that compounds the unique threat COVID-19 poses to Black communities.

The killings of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Nina Pop, George Floyd, David McAtee, and many others are painful and frightening reminders that racism is alive and well. For too long, in the words of our friends in BLSA, “Blackness has been criminalized, and the events of the last few weeks have only reminded us of that fact. The killings of Black men, women, children, and trans lives demand that our voices are heard, and justice be served.”

Because silence is not an option, we, too, will speak out, loud and clear, again and again. We, too, demand an end to white supremacy, to racism, to transphobia, whether overt or subtle, and to the long, blood-stained catalogue of instances of police brutality. As an organization committed to effecting legal change, the BLR is uniquely situated to nudge the law in a direction where instances of hate-driven law-enforcement cannot flourish.

The law, however, cannot change hearts. The struggle for justice also requires our sacrifice, our determination, our intellect, and our compassion—qualities that each of us possess. As a first step, small but symbolic, we ask that you join us in using your voice to fervently denounce systemic racism, transphobia, and other types of bigotry, in whatever form it presents itself.

We also invite you to support the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. For over 80 years, the LDF has battled racism through advocacy, education and litigation. More information can be found here: https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=16305

Finally, we ask that you take the opportunity to reflect and examine your own biases, and to listen and learn from others who have experienced acts of senseless hatred or discrimination first-hand.

Together we can be a safer and more inclusive community. Together we are stronger.

Sincerely,

The Editorial Board &
The Director
Buffalo Law Review