

# Statement from the Memphis Muslim Community

## Response to George Floyd Murder

June 5th, 2020

As Allah SWT instructs us in Sura Al-Nisa, verse 134, "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives."

The Muslim Community of Memphis stands in solidarity with the Black community and extends our support to the family and friends of George Floyd and the countless others whose lives have been taken and impacted by systemic and institutionalized racism. Our community will continue to stand against all forms of injustice and inequality in this country, as it is our collective responsibility to fix a broken system and dismantle institutions that harbor injustice and systemic racism in every community including our own. Our faith compels us to uphold these values.

As a community, it is critical we find ways to support and elevate the platform of those who fight against racial injustice in this country. In the manuscript "Remember This House," the late James Baldwin wrote, "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced." It is through these words we will continue to find guidance, as we work to fulfill our obligation to support others in the fight for equality. We aim to ensure that there is a place for every member and every part of our community and will continue to fight for inclusivity and justice in everything we do.

Following the advice of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in changing our own condition and removing racism within our midst, we will facilitate the following initiatives in our community.

1. We plan to organize regular community-wide anti-racism programs.
2. We will conduct additional programs aimed at raising awareness of the history of Islam and Black liberation dating back to the 1600s.

3. We will conduct annual Black History Month programs in the month of February.
4. We encourage people to donate their time and money to local Muslim-led initiatives that address issues disproportionately affecting people of color (i.e. locals food pantries, Muslim Clinic, etc.).

In conclusion, we would like to end with a quote from the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him:

"Whoever of you sees an evil act, let him change it with his hand (i.e. for people in positions of authority, or through volunteering and donating); and if he is not able to do so, then let him change it with his tongue, and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart and that is the weakest of faith." (Muslim)

**All Islamic Centers in the Memphis Area have supported this position:**

**Masjid Al-Mu'minun  
Masjid Al-Muslimeen  
Masjid Al-Noor  
Masjid Ar-Rahman  
Masjid As-Salam  
Masjid At-Taqwa  
Memphis Islamic Center  
Midtown Mosque**

Sincerely,  
Memphis Islamic Center