

Maryland Library Association Statement Against Racism

The Executive Board of the Maryland Library Association joins the [Black Caucus of the American Library Association](#), as well as the many voices in our communities, in condemning recent and historic acts of systemic racism and injustice. Many of us became library workers out of a passion for equity, inclusion, and diversity and a real desire to advance these values in our communities. We are all experiencing the impacts of the murders of George Floyd, Ahmed Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless other black lives differently. We also are all experiencing the responses of our nation's leaders, as well as the organizations we support or represent, differently.

But we are not neutral or ambivalent in our response to these unconscionable events. Systemic racism not only undermines our values, it destroys lives and communities. We are united in our belief that Black Lives Matter. We stand with people of color in our communities and in the library profession. We stand with the victims of marginalization and oppression. We call on our members to stand with us in radically opposing all forms of racial oppression, violence, and injustice. Furthermore, we commit to intensifying our work to resolve long-standing equity and opportunity gaps within the library profession.

Statement without action accomplishes nothing. In the days to come, the leadership of the Maryland Library Association will actively engage with our membership to listen, learn, and lead, and above all, to prioritize the Association's role in working to advance justice and reconciliation in our communities.