



LAW LIBRARIANS' SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON, DC

June 24, 2020

The Executive Board of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC, a Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, recognizes the systemic injustice and racism upon which the United States was founded. We stand unequivocally in solidarity with those who are working to dismantle these systems and commit ourselves to exercising our authority to further these efforts in our spheres of influence.

This month has been dominated by a period of reckoning, reflection, and action at the local, national, and global levels. The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery in conjunction with countless incidents of anti-Black profiling, harassment, violence and ongoing legacies of colonialism and slavery have ignited a movement that demands not only recognition of the harms perpetrated against the Black community for centuries, but also meaningful commitments to change.

Libraries may be seen as neutral spaces, but we know better. Access to information and access to justice are inextricably linked. Our commitment to education, learning, and knowledge necessarily combats ignorance, intolerance, and injustice. By empowering each other and our respective communities, we have the capacity to hold others (and ourselves) accountable. Discomfort, insecurity, and fear cannot be used as excuses to maintain the status quo. Let's be clear: inaction, silence, and complacency have led us to this period in our history. Ongoing ambivalence will not only continue to perpetuate these harms, but white and non-Black individuals will also continue to benefit directly from these racist systems at the expense of Black communities.

There is a place for everyone to contribute to these efforts. For those who are new to these topics, humility, listening, and learning will be paramount. Next steps can include a number of activities ranging from marching and engaging in difficult conversations with members of your community to donating and volunteering. You don't need to do it all, but you must do something. The LLSDC Board has outlined the preliminary steps we are committed to taking at this time, and invite you to join us in these efforts. Our plan can be found online and will be updated throughout the year.¹

We welcome your thoughts and feedback as we lean into these difficult conversations, because Black Lives Matter. Today, tomorrow, always.

¹ <https://tinyurl.com/y6v42pza>