



June 2, 2020

## Statement on the Murder of George Floyd: A Call for Accountability

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful*

The Qur'ān states, “Believers, stand firmly for justice, even if it is against yourselves, your parents, or those close to you.” [4:135]

**Black Lives Matter. Justice delayed is justice denied.** The Islamic Center of Connecticut (ICCT), located in Windsor, is deeply troubled by the ongoing structural and perpetual police brutality against African-Americans engulfing the United States. On May 25th 2020, George Floyd was killed by officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Chauvin knelt on Floyd’s neck for almost nine minutes and suffocated him. Along with the rest of those protesting the murder of George Floyd, the ICCT is calling for the arrest and prosecution those further involved in this brutality, including the officers who stood by and allowed this murder to take place.

Just last year, African-Americans were 24% of those killed despite being only 13% of the population. The irony of these brutalities is that black people are 3 times more likely to be killed than a white person in this country--all the while they are 1.3 times more likely to be unarmed when they are killed. As humans, Muslims, and Americans, this is unacceptable beyond any reasonable doubt.

Similarly, the ICCT recognizes that Muslims communities have much work to do in rooting out the racist tendencies present therein. We have a duty to abolish the anti-black sentiments that reside in the consciousness of our communities. As Muslims, it is our obligation to make sure that our communities are open and welcoming to African-Americans. We are duty bound to hold each other accountable through using holistic language, purifying our tongues of racial slurs, and going beyond tokenized forms of Black inclusion in our communities through simply the mention of Black companions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or inviting a Black Muslim speaker to our mosques.

Right now, there is a pain deeply etched into the soul of our nation and in the hearts of millions protesting throughout the United States. Standing together requires standing up for one another, and recognizing the fear, hurt, and outrage rightly provoked by the killings inspired and perpetrated in the shape of police brutality.

If we do not stand for the oppressed, Allah will take us to account on the day of judgment for our inaction. We cannot, in good conscience, as Muslim-Americans pray for the oppressed throughout the world, all the while forgetting our brothers and sisters right at home in America. May Allah heal our nation, our hearts, and bring justice—and then peace to our communities, Āmīn.