

## **ISHR stands in solidarity with all those calling for racial justice and radical reform**

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**ISHR stands in solidarity with all those in the US and across the world protesting against police violence and discrimination and calling for racial justice and radical reform.**



We are inspired by the leadership and courage shown by those organising peaceful protests to call for change and by the human rights defenders and journalists working on the frontlines to document violations and defend rights. We are appalled by attacks against them by law enforcement officers and public officials.

Journalists and human rights defenders must be safe and free to do their vital work. Indeed, law enforcement officers and public officials are tasked with ensuring their rights are respected - not violated. Attacks against journalists and human rights defenders must be fully and independently investigated and perpetrators held accountable, in the U.S. and everywhere they occur.

The rights to equality and non-discrimination, to freedom of expression, to freedom of assembly and protest, and to defend human rights are all indispensable to fair, safe and just communities in the U.S. and across the world. These rights must be respected and protected. We pledge to work within ISHR and with our colleagues in human rights movements to address issues of racism and systemic discrimination, to promote diversity and inclusivity, and to support human rights defenders, including those working on police brutality, in their demands for justice.

ISHR is committed to highlighting how the voices of the families of those killed by police in the U.S., including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Michael Brown, and the organisations supporting them are driving the UN to call for action to [stop the killings](#) and address [deep-seated racism and inequality](#). This is necessary but not sufficient; we echo the [call](#) of the UN independent human rights experts and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that 'this is a time for action and not just talk'.

This is why we've [joined more than 600 organisations](#), from the U.S. and around the world, in [calling on the UN Human Rights Council to hold a Special Session](#) on the situation of human rights in the U.S.

The international community has a critical role to play in advancing independent, expert inquiry into systemic racism in law enforcement in the U.S., starting with the uprising in Ferguson, Missouri, and the concerns of excessive use of force against protestors and journalists since George Floyd's murder.

*Photo: Flickr / Miki Jourdan*

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