



## **A STATEMENT ON RACISM AND THE SENSELESS MURDERS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR**

### **“THE TIME IS NOW FOR A MORE JUST SOCIETY”**

*June, 2020*

National Medical Fellowships' vision is to empower and support aspiring physicians and health professionals underrepresented in medicine to contribute to the health of our nation. We envision a diverse healthcare workforce that has the leadership, commitment and cultural competency to achieve health equity for all.

As leaders of National Medical Fellowships, Inc. (NMF), we condemn the unjustified, and merciless killings of Black and Brown men, women, boys, and girls by law enforcement, hate groups, and vigilantes. Like others in this country and around the world, we are deeply saddened by the murder of George Floyd. His name has been added to the endless list of senseless killings that include Rayshard Brooks, Ahmaud Arbery, Walter Scott, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Sean Reed, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and countless others.

This is not a just world, and unfortunately, the deaths of these sons and daughters, mothers and fathers were not aberrations. For the past 401 years, the "I Can't Breathe" cry has been the last gasp of Black and Brown people who have been subjected to discrimination and systemic mistreatment by the police who ironically are sworn to protect them, and a government that has yet to truly live up to its creed that all men and women are created equal. These are the same Black and Brown people who are also subjugated to unfair economic, social and educational policies, and to health inequalities that have kept a knee on our "necks". After 401 years, people of color still can't breathe.

All children need to know that they are safe, valued, and that our society will protect and provide equal access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity, regardless of race, gender, or zip code.

NMF was founded in 1946, with a mission to increase opportunities for Black physicians' specialty training when most hospitals in the U.S. were still segregated. Over the past seven decades more than \$40 million in need-based scholarships and other support have been

provided to more than 30,000 under-represented minority health professional students. We are committed to continuing to support these students and to improve equity in healthcare. Today, as in 1946, justice and health equity should be a reality for all without prejudice or oppression for all people of color.

In responding to the continuing cries for justice following the death of Mr. Floyd and many others, NMF has recommitted to eliminate health inequities.

We at National Medical Fellowships, along with our 30,000 alumni, with increased fervor and commitment resolve to continue the fight to eliminate discrimination and systemic racism.

We at National Medical Fellowships stand united with others in the effort to eradicate systemic racism and achieve health equity across the racial and economic spectrum. We firmly believe that Black Lives Matter as do the lives of all people of color. Acknowledgement of this truth will strengthen us all.

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