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THE LATINO POLICY FORUM PLEDGES SOLIDARITY WITH THE BLACK COMMUNITY

The Forum invites organizations and community members to add their signatures in solidarity. To do so, contact Roberto Valdez at rvaldezjr@latinopolicyforum.org.

The Latino Policy Forum and the undersigned respectfully pledge solidarity and allyship with the Black community at this watershed moment. To our Black brothers and sisters: Your pain is our pain, and your struggle is our struggle.

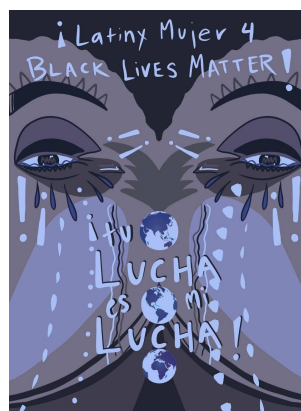
Black lives matter. The Forum grieves for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and for all the lost lives and destruction caused by structural racism.

At this moment, a valve is being opened. What's being released is hundreds of years of pain, frustration, and anger resulting from stolen Black lives. It's pent-up rage that has festered over the course of our nation's history, a history marred by systemic inequality and the marginalization of Black people.

We must not lose focus on the source of this anger, which in recent days has manifested in both peaceful protesting and violence. Peaceful protest is essential to democracy, and the criminalization of such protesters is yet another form of oppression.

The solutions to structural racism and systemic inequality are complex. We need real solutions aimed at the roots of this illness. It cannot be healed by further militarizing society or with more punishment. We must invest in equitable resources for every individual and community if we are ever to make true progress towards peace and reconciliation, to build a sustainable path to a healed and strengthened world.

The Latino Policy Forum pledges to continue building a foundation of trust alongside our Black brothers and sisters in our collective work towards a compassionate, just, rebuilt society.



Artwork by Veronica Giraldo-Puente