

June 1, 2020

To God we belong and to Him we shall return.

On Monday, May 25, 2020, we heard the words reverberate through the world, "I can't breathe," as another beautiful soul was lost to senseless violence. The Islamic Society of Tulsa extends our deepest condolences to the friends and families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and all of the innocent victims. During this time, as a community, we take a step back to reflect on the ongoing subjugation that has been committed on our black brothers and sisters since the inception of our nation. The Islamic Society of Tulsa condemns this unabated systemic violence and stands in solidarity with the communities who have known this oppression for too long.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said: *"None of you fully believes until you love for your fellow (human) brother/sister what you love for yourself"* and *"Spread peace and you will receive peace."* Our nation is in desperate need of respect, justice, peace, and love. It is clear that this violence is not simply the work of a few but is deeply rooted. Structural oppression and institutional racism are threats to our community and the soul of our society, impeding our nation from living up to its ideals. The Islamic Society of Tulsa clearly and explicitly stands against all forms of racism, specifically anti-black racism and oppression, both structural and social.

To our black brothers and sisters in the community, we know we need to do better. We know that there is a lot of work to do that you have been bearing the brunt of alone for far too long. We hear you and we are committing ourselves to change and growth, exemplified by our Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). We must also sincerely come to terms with the reality that there are various types of racism deeply embedded in our community. We must commit to working with relevant organizations and utilizing resources to equip our members with the tools to combat racism in all of its forms.

As a community, we commit to standing firm against oppression and building a fair, just, and equitable society for all of us.

IST Shura

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