



# AIA Central Massachusetts

## Central MA Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA CM) A Statement Against Racial Injustice

The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery have initiated a large-scale public outcry, across the United States and the world, demanding police accountability and racial justice.

These incidents reveal a structural inequity pervasive in our country. Statistics show that people of color are often the object of racism, discrimination, violence, and poverty. According to a Washington Post analysis, black Americans are disproportionately affected by police violence across the United States. Black Americans account for less than 13% of the U.S. population, but black men were about 2.5 times more likely than white men to be killed by police, while black women were 1.4 more times likely to be killed than white women (Forbes, 2020; National Academy of Science, 2019).

In addition to the climate of fear and hopelessness this societal abuse engenders in black men, predatory and dysfunctional healthcare and food delivery systems contribute to systemic poor health among poor and minority citizens.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, stated that Coronavirus has disproportionately affected and killed African American communities. One of the reasons is due to prevailing underlying health conditions among this population. To this point, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) found that children without regard to race or ethnicity (40% were other minorities) living in majority black neighborhoods have higher incidence of asthma than children who live in other neighborhoods. As a result, black and other minority children In the

United States are twice as likely as other children to develop asthma (NBER, 2017, Princeton University, 2018).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “the time is always right to do what is right” and because silence is not an option, AIA CM strongly declares that it is against any form of discrimination, racism, and police brutality, and supports all and every peaceful demonstration in favor of social justice.

AIA CM supports the promotion of human and civil rights, universal respect for human dignity, and unbiased treatment of all persons. As members of a national organization, we are in alignment with the American Institute of Architects policies to champion a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession of architecture to create a better environment for all.

As designers of the environments in which we live, love, work and play, we do so with the intent that they are places where all should be welcomed and comfortable, environments which in return will make us stronger as a country.

Supporting justice and equality for all,  
AIA CM Executive Committee

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[Learn more about AIA's Diversity and Inclusion efforts](#)