



Statement from UNITE HERE Local 274's Executive Board on the Murder of George Floyd and the Need to Organize in Response

UNITE HERE Local 274 condemns the murder of George Floyd and the many other unarmed Black and Brown people who have been killed at the hands of law enforcement.

As a union that is majority Black and Brown, most of us have been watching this happen for so long. We keep waiting for justice to be served to the people who have committed these crimes. Time and again, even with indisputable video evidence, the perpetrators are set free.

We just want our voices to be heard. We want people to listen. We want our city to listen. We want our country to listen. Our elected leaders must listen.

We want equal justice. We want to know that our Black and Brown members will have the same rights and freedoms as our white members. We know that today we do not have equal justice.

Already, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, most of us, Black, Brown and white, are laid off from our jobs for indefinite periods of time with no income. Many of us have still not received our first unemployment check. Many of us were already living on the edge and do not know how we will pay our bills, rent or mortgage or buy food for our families.

The recent publicized incidents of brutality against Black and Brown people further anger us.

We do not condone violence or destruction of property. We do understand the sentiment behind it.

We call on our members to unite. We must stand together and say enough is enough. We must come together with our bodies and voices until we are heard. We will join together, as a Union, in peaceful protest until our voices are heard.

The power of the union is in the unity of the workers. We must be united: Black, Brown and white. It gives the most vulnerable members of our union power to have the support of those with more privilege. If we can be divided by the powers that be, not one of us, no matter our race, will have justice.

We call on every member of our union, white, Brown and Black, to speak up. This is not a time to be silent. We are one. We must speak as one.

Solidarity. Unity. Equality.

Black Lives Matter. Black Work Matters.

We Believe in Philly's Future.