



**The National Lawyers Guild, NYC Chapter issues the following statement on the recent murders of Black community members by police:**

The National Lawyers Guild NYC stands with our communities to mourn the murders of George Floyd of Minneapolis, MN, Breonna Taylor of Louisville, Ky., Tony McDade of Tallahassee, FL, and the other nonstop incidents of white supremacist violence in the United States. We continue to condemn and recommit to ending the flagrant disregard of Black life by all arms, agents, and systems of the state. The NLG stands in solidarity with those who continually protest police brutality against community members and protestors, and demand justice and accountability.

In New York City, the Police Department's systematic and consistently escalating practice of brutality and negligence against protesters who are exerting their First Amendment rights is nothing new. For over sixty-five years, the New York City chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild has participated in the struggle against oppression in all its forms, including police brutality and all manifestations of white supremacist violence. Today, our Chapter pledges an unyielding commitment to racial, economic, and procedural justice. We condemn the dehumanization, torture, and murder of all marginalized people-- in particular Black and brown people--, by state violence, including the police department.

The last few days have seen an uncountable outpouring of planned and spontaneous demonstrations. The staff and volunteers of the NLG NYC have been working nonstop to provide First Amendment protection and mass defense support that constitute the core of our mission.

As lawyers, law students, and legal workers we have committed to the end that human rights shall be regarded as sacred. Our work in this field is to use legal and constitutional structures as a tool to protect the people from repression, ensuring that laws will be fairly applied and equally enforced. In America and across the globe, every day that we permit these systems of surveillance, harassment, and punishment to persist, we fail the people and institutions we swore to serve. The NLG does not offer empty words and rhetoric.

We are working overtime to support our communities and partner groups with practical and material actions and to dismantle systems of white supremacy that have persisted for too long.