

Donald J. Trump, President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

June 9, 2020

Dear President Trump:

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has a long history of working for equality, social justice, and peace. We agree with those who say that without social justice there will not be peace. Uniting the hearts and minds of people will not occur using guns and police batons but with listening to the truth as understood by others and then building trust by establishing common ground for going forward together.

Believing as we do that there is that of God in each of us, we have wept, prayed, and searched our hearts over the realization of the degree to which racism is being allowed to destroy the great vision of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness upon which our nation was founded. We beseech you to not support those who would aspire to turn the great American dream into a horrifying nightmare by striving to maintain the power structure that exists in this country and using revolting policing practices as tools to maintain that power structure.

Realizing that where we put our dollars defines our priorities, we think the time has come for our nation to spend fewer of its resources on policing and the military-industrial complex. Our hearts and our minds tell us that some of these funds could be better used to lift people rather than to knock them down and place a knee on their necks so they cannot breathe. Throughout civilization, we have seen that every great nation has fallen when its aggression and inhumanity have caused other nations and its people to rise against it. The brutal killing of George Floyd and the heartless way that we have treated many people of color does not bode well for this nation to be great again. Quite the opposite, if we continue down the path we are taking, our nation is likely to be cursed with pestilence and agonizing decline.

Sometimes, Quakers use the expression "I will hold you in the Light." This expression often means that we want for others what their God would want for them – social justice, peace, and the pursuit of happiness. We are holding you and all the people of our nation in the Light. We live with the hope that you will speak and act with compassion to ensure that we are a nation of social justice, peace, and healing and that you will strive diligently to move our nation forward in addressing "America's original sin" of racism and repairing the damage of four centuries of that social injustice.

Sincerely,

Blaine L. Keener
Clerk of the Meeting

cc: Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader
Benjamin L. Cardin, U.S. Senate
Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senate
Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
Andy Harris, U.S. House of Representatives
Dutch Ruppersberger, U.S. House of Representatives
John Sarbanes, U.S. House of Representatives
Anthony G. Brown, U.S. House of Representatives
Steny Hoyer, U.S. House of Representatives
David Trone, U.S. House of Representatives
Kweisi Mfume, U.S. House of Representatives
Jamie Raskin, U.S. House of Representatives
Kenneth Stockbridge, Presiding Clerk, Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Friends General Conference
Friends United Meeting
Friends Committee on National Legislation