Nurses United stands in support with the Black Lives Matter movement and those protesting against racism. We send our solidarity to the family and friends mourning George Floyd and countless others following their brutal murders at the hands of the police in the US. We support the urgent demands for justice for George Floyd and all black lives lost in the US at the hands of the police.

Police brutality and their institutional racism is a problem across all four countries of the UK as well as in the US. Many have lost their lives following contact with the British police and we remember the names of Sean Rigg, Sarah Reed, Mark Duggan, Sheku Bayoh,Dalian Atkinson, Mzee Mohammed, Leon Patterson, Cynthia Jarrett, Joy Gardner and the many others.

As a grassroots organisation, who are for nurses and by nurses, we take the stance of being actively anti-racist. This means that we will look at ways in which we can end racial inequalities in our lives and our workplaces. We must all acknowledge the disproportionate deaths of black people in custody are not new or incidental. They are the product of the deep levels of systemic and institutional racism that exist in our society.

As Nurses we know that our healthcare is more than whether or not you can see a health professional, but whether or not you have a society which gives you the freedom to be healthy. As COVID-19 has highlighted, racism and health are deeply interlinked. Nurses United are committed to fighting against the racism that exists in our NHS, in our health system and in our society.

[This same racism has caused huge racial disparities in the impact of COVID-19, with Black people 4 times more likely to die of COVID-19 than white people.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890258/disparities_review.pdf) These disparities have affected the nursing workforce. 71% of nurses who have died have been people of colour, compared to 20% of the nursing workforce.

Nurses United acknowledges that Black Nurses and other Black NHS workers face racism on a daily basis. They are [more likely to be bullied and are often refused promotion due to institutional racism](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/wres-2019-data-report.pdf). Throughout the pandemic, Black nurses have had less access to PPE.

We are appalled that this government delayed the release of the Public Health England report into these racial disparities, suggesting they would rather turn a blind eye to racist structures than fight to dismantle them. These issues must urgently be investigated and addressed.

Similarly, the government cannot stay silent as police violence in the US escalates, encouraged by Donald Trump. The Black Lives Matter movement against racial injustice in the UK, in the US, and globally deserves our full support. As nurses we will fight for racial justice and for the fairer society that everyone deserves.

Signed, Nurses United

