



The Global Institute
of Lansing

GIL Statement on Death of George Floyd and Racial Injustice July 10, 2020

The following statement is made on behalf of the GIL Board of Directors

Since the beginning of June, the national spotlight has been on the death of George Floyd and protests across the country on racial injustice faced by people of color. The tragic death of Mr. Floyd is inexcusable and is a poor reflection of our society that has allowed systemic issues of racial injustice to continue. We acknowledge the hurt, pain and fear experienced by our community members, their families and the country at large related to the recent instances of violent racism that have resulted in the murder of Black Americans. We strongly reject and denounce all acts of racism and stand together in condemning anti-Blackness and police brutality directed towards Black Americans.

As an education organization, our mission is to provide educational services to adult refugees so that they can earn a high school diploma. We are proud to be in Lansing, Michigan, a community that has a rich history of welcoming refugees. Our message has been, and will continue to be, that we are gracious and happy to have refugees here. Refugees enrich our communities and make Lansing a better place.

As people of color, our students are also subject to racial injustice. Lansing isn't perfect and although we have an amazing community, it does not prevent these instances from happening. Just like we can never fully understand the experiences that brought our students to the United States as refugees, many of us do not know what it is like to live as people of color in America.

Bearing witness to such injustice and violence toward Black Americans, we ask that all members of the GIL community recognize the impact the recent events may be having on our classmates, colleagues, students, community members and friends so that you can offer support and stand with them in efforts to eradicate these injustices. We want our students to know that we are here for them, to help, listen and assist in any way that we can during these challenging times. We play a large role in Lansing being a Welcoming Community and our efforts will never stop.

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