National Social Justice Initiatives

RESOURCE BOOK
Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary  
Official Statement on the Murder of  
- GEORGE FLOYD –

The Knights of Peter Claver condemns the senseless death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis policemen. There is no explanation to justify the actions taken by the police that ultimately led to Mr. Floyd’s demise. We pray that God will grant his family peace and that the Minneapolis community finds healing during this difficult period.

George Floyd.
George Floyd.
George Floyd.

George Floyd was a man, a human, a being. Not a stat. Not just another one. Not to be forgotten.

The Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary echoes the outrage and demands not just for justice, but for true respect of the Dignity of Black Lives. These statements should not have to be made. These demands should not have to be made. These lives should not be lost.

• We call on all who are sworn “to protect and to serve” - to carry out the that very motto.
• We call on all leaders elected to serve - to listen, to act, to legislate.
• We call on all of God’s children created to love – to do just that – love.

The anger, emotions, and outrage must be followed by effective solutions that do more than just penalize murderous actions, but eliminate future ones.

The ink has run dry on writing statements, and it is now time to write laws, to write policies, to write sentences.

George Floyd – let your name be remembered as the murder that sparked effective change.

As the nation’s only historically Black Catholic fraternal order, we are committed to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death and will defend the right to life for everyone, especially the marginalized and under-served. While this most recent example of violent policing is troubling, we must never give up hope in the struggle for justice and the preservation of human life.
The National Social Justice Committee

- MISSION STATEMENT -

The Mission of the National Social Justice Committee is to enhance the collective efforts of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary through its local Councils/Courts towards improving public policies impacting the social and economic environment of our Nation and Church. This national initiative is composed of five areas of focus including Black Lives Matters, Criminal Justice Reform, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking and Racism. Each of these five pillars of the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc.’s Social Justice Initiative has independent subcommittees operating under one collective Social Justice umbrella. The goal and objectives of these committees are to have a global and collective impact on social justice issues by supporting, educating and raising the awareness of our membership on these issues.

Advocate for reform which creates a fair and effective Criminal Justice System in the United States.

The heart represents the love that should exist in each home between spouses, children, the elderly and one another.

The clenched fist represents solidarity and support toward replacing prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism with respect and dignity for all people.

“Hands Up; Don’t shoot” The rallying cry of the Black Lives Matter Movement, which developed in response to unjust treatment of People of Color by Law Enforcement.

Human trafficking is modern day bondage of those most vulnerable in society.


Created by User: KeithTyler
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE -

- Incarceration has increased more than 500% in the last 40 years; currently there are 2.2 million people in prison or jail in the United States. The rate of incarceration is 6,412 per 100,000 black males in the 30–34-year-old age group; a stunning 1 in 16 are imprisoned on any given day.

- Half of the people in federal prison are serving time for drug offenses. This is a direct result of mandatory minimum sentencing policies.

- Tens of millions have some type of criminal record, which can present obstacles to employment, housing, public assistance, education, and family reunification. 6.1 million Americans cannot vote because of felony convictions.

- There are 2,632 people currently on death row in the United States. Of that number, 41.53% or 1130 are African American. The top five Jurisdictions with the most death row inmates are California, Florida, Texas, Alabama and Pennsylvania.

Data sources: Death Row Information Center and the Sentencing Project

- GOALS/OBJECTIVES -

Prison/Reentry Ministry: Individuals who are at risk for incarceration, currently incarcerated or recently released need assistance in entering the main stream society and getting their lives on the right path.

Legislative Issues: Many communities throughout the country are considering issues, laws and regulations of reform in the criminal justice system.

Death Penalty: Every major city has a program dedicated to handling death penalty issues.

- ACTION STRATEGIES -

The non-profit organization, The Sentencing Project, monitors legislative issues affecting the criminal justice system in every state. Check out their website to determine how you can help with spreading the word and networking with others about areas of reform in the criminal justice system in your respective area.
Healing Communities USA, Inc. offers a faith based approach to assisting
the individual and his/her family through the process. Check out their
website to determine whether your church community would be
interested in this approach to providing assistance and reform.

The Innocence Project has been involved in various reform efforts and
legislative initiatives to have the death penalty reformed, providing
assistance to those wrongfully accused or working to abolish the penalty.
Check your local community for this agency if you are interested in
assisting those on death row, in death penalty reform or eradication of
the death penalty.

- RESOURCES/POTENTIAL PARTNERS/COLLABORATIONS -

Other Available Resources: The Council of State Government Justice
Center (CSG), National Institute of Justice, National Reentry Resource
Center, Brennan Center for Justice

Recommended Reading: The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander; Just
Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Recommended Partnerships: NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law
Enforcement Officers), NAACP, Urban League

COUNCILS/COURTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Educate themselves, their parishes and broader community on the
  above issues.
- Develop service projects and other programs concentrating on
  criminal justice reform.
- Partner with an organization involved with criminal justice reform.

Please let us know if you have developed a program within your
community, send pictures, fliers and other information documenting
your efforts.

If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact us via
the information provided below.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE -

Domestic violence is violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It may be termed intimate partner violence when committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same-sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners.

Domestic violence can also involve violence against children, parents, or the elderly. It takes a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid throwing that results in disfigurement or death. Domestic murders include stoning, bride burning, honor killings, and dowry deaths.

- GOALS/OBJECTIVES -

- Educate the membership, parish and broader community on recognizing the situations and how to appropriately address domestic violence in their ministries.
- Develop Resources (Local and National)
- Devise Tool Kits of Workshop Ideas and Materials assisting local Councils and Courts with implementing educational programs and other projects.

- ACTION STRATEGIES -

Program Elements for 90-minute Workshop will include such topics as:
- Defining Domestic Violence: Facts and Myths
- Identifying the need for Clergy and Parish Staff education about Domestic Violence
- Catholic Teachings on Marriage
- Roots of Abuse and How to Help
- Understanding the Cycle of Abuse
- Scriptural context for pastoral care of abused and abuser
What (one) action can your Court/Council or parish community do to help now?

- Posters and Palm Cards with hotline contacts and local shelters
- Intercessions and Prayer
- National Council of Catholic Women dedicate the 1st Saturday of each month as a day of prayer for victims/abusers.
- Collect items for women, children and seniors that may currently be living in shelters.
- Volunteer to assist The National DV Hotline with its annual fundraising event as holding a “Unmask Domestic Violence,” Masquerade Ball.

- RESOURCES / POTENTIAL PARTNERS / COLLABORATIONS -

National Council of Catholic Women; Catholics For Family Peace; United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Local Battered Women Shelters and Hotlines; Local advocacy groups that provide legal assistance; National Black Catholic Congress

www.nbcccongress.org/ministries.html

EDUCATE YOURSELF:

- www.catholicsforfamilypeace.org/
- www.ndvh.org
- www.WomensLaw.org
  - Provides state by state resources and legal needs
- www.thehotline.org
  - Assists with needs including tips for safety plans
- www.nccw.org

Report suspected child abuse to the State’s Department of Children and Families (DCF), anonymously if preferred.

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RACISM

- SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE -

Racism is a serious problem in the United States and globally. The Catholic Church has been affected by limited mind-sets and racial division. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love one another. However, we have been blindsided by our history and cultural dominance.

Today, there are still those of the mindset that the issue of racial injustice is social rather than moral. In the dialogue on racism, the Church is moving in a slow advance. However, the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary have been inspired by the recent Pastoral Letter on Racism to move forward on this issue of racism with a new sense of urgency. Councils and Courts must address racism in ways that will move people to become more active in the dialogue an eradication of racism.

- ACTION STRATEGIES -

Racism in America Awareness Day: September 9, 2019
(St. Peter Claver Day)

Let’s Begin the Discussion! Councils and Courts are asked to organize an activity to start the conversation regarding Racism in America.

• The USCCB is asking all of their bishops to strongly encourage priests in their dioceses to focus their homilies on September 9 on racism and the works of St. Peter Claver as he cared for the slaves.

• On September 9, 2019, the USCCB will celebrate a Mass to honor St. Peter Claver. The homily will focus on racism and the works of St. Peter Claver. The Mass will be at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC at 5:15pm. Our Claver brothers and sisters in the DC area are being asked to attend and serve as lectors and ushers. We are also encouraging Clavers who can travel to DC to attend this Mass. There will be a reception after the Mass.

• The Racism Committee should convene a meeting when national issues of racism are detected to determine if the issue should be brought to the attention of the Supreme Knight to make a statement to be published nationally.
• Organize an event to discuss Racism with members of the majority race during November--Black Catholic History Month
• Organize events during the Month of February--Black History Month--to discuss Racism
• Listening Sessions with Bishops in all Dioceses.
• Collaboration with other national organizations to organize discussion opportunities regarding racism.
• Conversations with young people regarding the importance of voting to protect their rights and racism connection to slavery.
• Immigration - minister to our brothers and sisters being affected negatively by recent immigration policies. Be an ear to listen to their concerns.
• Identify and create resources that will engage people in the dialogue on racism
• Host discussion workshops on "The Racial Divide" and "Open Wide our Hearts: The Enduring Call To Love"
• Walk in My Shoes Field Trip for Pastors, Parish Councils, Finance Councils, Diocesan Pastoral Centers
• Race Survey- Implicit Association Test
• Youth Empowerment Workshop/Retreat etc.
• Host a Black Catholic History Breakfast or Lunch or Wine-Cheese Chat

- RESOURCES/POTENTIAL PARTNERS/COLLABORATIONS -

• Webinars on Racism by the National Black Catholic Congress and the Catholic Apostolate Center
• View the DVD *Cracking the Code*
• World Trust, through film and dialogue, ignites courage and expands capacity to create a world free from racism
• U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Responding to the Sin of Racism*
• Local Chapters of the N.A.A.C.P. and Urban League
• Race Survey – The Implicit Test
• American Civil Liberties Union, Immigrants’ Rights Project
• Immigration Policy Center of the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)
• National Lawyers Guild, National Immigration Project
• Catholic Legal Immigration Network

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DIGNITY OF BLACK LIVES

- SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE -

Historically people of the African Diaspora and specifically African Americans in America have been systematically marginalized, abused and persecuted in this country. All aspects of American culture and US governmental, public, private, law enforcement and judicial policies are informed by the bias that suggest Black Lives are somehow less than others. The result is unequal educational, occupational, housing, cultural and economic opportunity. One of the most alarming issues of this socialized narrative is the continued unprosecuted murder of African Americans by law enforcement officers.

- BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT -

In 2013, three radical Black organizers—Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi—created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called #BlackLivesMatter. It was in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s murderer, George Zimmerman.

Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. It is an affirmation of Black folks’ humanity, our contributions to this society, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression. Black Lives Matter is an international activist movement, originating in the African-American community, that campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people. – www.BlackLivesMatters.com

- GOALS AND OBJECTIVES -

• Provide educational information on the Black Lives Matter Movement
• Engage Church leadership about Black Catholic Community perspectives and concerns
• Provide ongoing updates on national legal, civic, political and advocacy developments
• Disseminate resources to provide advocacy programming
• Coordinate international and national KPC Dignity of Black Lives efforts
• Provide resources for units and parishes without Black Lives Matters Chapters
- ACTION STRATEGIES -

The Black Lives Matter Sub-Committee continues to work to bring social justice to the forefront of the KPC service agenda. In doing so, we are also working to ensure the protection of our Knights and Ladies while they address this extremely important but equally volatile topic. Our initial efforts are to provide educative information while creating guidelines and best practices for safe and effective engagements for our members, the community and law enforcement. Only after these policies are in place will we encourage members to participate on any local level activities in the name of The Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver.

- Petition government officials and policy makers about Black Lives Matters issues as racial profiling, excessive use of force, and unwarranted stop.
- Collaborate with similarly focused organizations
- Identify and aggregate resources for membership to implement effective programming
- Promote positive law enforcement engagement
- Provide information of how to minimize negative law enforcement interaction
- Advocate equity in law enforcement practices
- Support sensitivity and diversity training of law enforcement officers
- Engage and train the community in utilizing their civic rights to address issues of misconduct and abuse
- Be a voice for victims of law enforcement abuse
- RESOURCES -

**APPS**
- Black Lives Matter Mark Yourself Unsafe (iPhone)
- Cop Watch (iPhone)
- Mobile Justice app (based on location)
- Know Your Rights (Android/iPhone)
- PoliceAbuse.com (Android/iPhone)
- ACLU Blue (Android/iPhone)
- Police Detector (Android)

**PODCASTS**
- By Any Means Necessary Podcast
- ViewPoint with Bakari Sellers
- People’s Party with Talib Kweli
- You Had Me at Black

- READING LIST -
- All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
- Another Day in the Death of America by Gary Younge
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- Citizen by Claudia Rankine
- The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin
- The Fire This Time by Jesmyn Ward
- Freedom is a Constant Struggle by Angela Y. Davis
- From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE -

The United Nations defines human trafficking as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons by improper means for an improper purpose including forced labor or sexual exploitation (National Institute of Justice: https://www.nij.gov/)

The different forms Human Trafficking can take:

- Forced Labor is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally
- Sex Trafficking occurs when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to cause a commercial sex act with an adult or minor
- Child Soldiers are lured from their homes with promises of making money in factories or at farms.

- GOALS/OBJECTIVES -

To become a beacon of Hope connecting lives through prayer, awareness & education by partnering with other community organizations to address and eliminate the dilemma of Human Trafficking.

- ACTION STRATEGIES -

The Human Trafficking Sub-committee members are addressing five (5) pathways to provide awareness of Human Trafficking.

- Education - encourage survivors of trafficking or law enforcement officials dealing with human trafficking to speak at your meetings/events.
- Mentoring - to keep at risk youth from being trafficked.
- Extend training and education to teen girls involved with the Junior Daughters to equip them with the tools to remain safe from the evil criminal enterprise of Human Trafficking.
- Provision - of items needed at homes for trafficking survivors.
- Advocate - by contacting your legislators and voicing your support for laws that protect our young from being trafficked.
- Pray - to end Human Trafficking. (on the 11th of each month and/or daily)
- RESOURCES / POTENTIAL PARTNERS / COLLABORATIONS -

• Go to NCJTC website for training and resources with Child Sex Trafficking National Criminal Justice Training Center
  o Website: www.ncjtc.fvtc.edu

• The Center for Children and Families
  o Website: www.standforhope.org

• The Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAHT)
  o Website: www.usccb.org

• The National Black Catholic Congress.
  o Website: www.nbccongress.org/ministries.html

• Sisters of Mercy Ending Human Trafficking
  o Website: www.sistersofmercy.org/get-involved/advocate-for-social-justice/ending-human-trafficking/

• National Council of Catholic Women Anti-Trafficking Project
  o Website: www.nccw.org/commissionscommittees/

• U.S. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign
To report suspicious criminal activity to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tip Line

Call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline NHTH, call 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to Be Free (233733).

If your council/court members are not already participating in events to prevent human trafficking, please consider at least the pathway of prayer.

Please know, brothers/sisters that Prayer is the most important part of the awareness to end human trafficking.

If you have developed a program within your Council/Court concentrating on Human Trafficking or are working with an organization involved with Human Trafficking, please let us know.

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LIST OF POTENTIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

The following list of organizations have been identified as possessing similar social justice agendas. Supporting, partnering and developing collaborative programming with these entities enhances our organization's vision and mission, particularly in the area of Social Justice.

The following have already been discussed as potential partners: NOBLE, NAACP, Urban League, Innocence Project, The Sentencing Project, and Healing Communities, Inc.

- National Pan Hellenic Council - Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Zeta Phi Beta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Iota Phi Theta, Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Kappa Alpha PSI, and Phi Beta Sigma.
- National Organization of Black Social Workers
- National Association of Black Journalists
- Association of Black Psychologists
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women & Men
- Jack & Jill of America
- National Black Law Students Association
- National Congress of Black Women, Inc.
- National Bar Association - organization for Black lawyers
- National Black Women’s Justice Institute
- Black Women’s Health Imperative
- SisterLove, Inc.
- Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (SBS) and Associates (ASBS)
- Coke A Cola Great Scholarship
- Entergy
- Frito Lay
- NBA/NFL Association
- National Association of University Women (NAUW)
- National Black Nurses Association
- American Heart Association
- National Sickle Cell Association
- Sisters Inc.

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Committee operates solely under the auspices of the Supreme Knight and the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver National Boards. It is extremely important that all our members adhere to all KPC National Guidelines and Constitutional restrictions designed to protect our Order and the Catholic Church. At no time do we want any of our efforts to reflect negatively on our Order, our membership or the Catholic Church. Guidelines and Best Practices are being developed to protect individuals and units from criminal and civil liability as well as sanctions from the Church and the Order. Always get documented prior approval from the National Office before engaging, participating, hosting or partnering in any event as a member of the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver. Please remain mindful that only the Supreme Knight or his representative can speak on behalf of the Knights of Peter Claver Inc.

The seminal effort of the National Social Justice Committee is to provide educational opportunities and effective resources to our membership. In doing so, our members are able to better inform themselves and others while becoming advocates for social justice. To this end, we aim to create more tolerant, informed, caring and safe communities for all people.

The National Social Justice Committee looks forward to receiving reports of your endeavors towards building a just and equitable America. Please feel free to contact either the Co-Chairs of the National Committee or Co-Chairs of any of the Sub-Committees for information regarding the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver’s Five Pillars of Social Justice.

Yours in Christ,

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Download The KPC Social Justice Resource Book and Make a Contribution to Support Our Efforts Today!

www.kofpc.org/sj

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