

NASW-NYC Statement on President Trump's Executive Order on Police Reform

June 19, 2020

The NYC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-NYC) has always been inspired and motivated by the collective organizing power of our profession. The values of our profession are rooted in social justice and challenging systems of oppression. We are guided by a Code of Ethics, that calls upon the profession to honor its foundation of service and advocate on behalf of social justice, the dignity and worth of each person, and the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence. As such, we proudly support and actively engage in opportunities to amplify the Black Lives Matter movement and lift up those who have been exponentially impacted by white supremacy and systemic racism.

The movement speaks to the heart of the social work profession and while this heart is heavy, given the violence and disparities that continue to unfold before us, it is also hopeful and committed to leveraging this moment in time to bring down the walls of oppression, disparity and systemic bias that has plagued our country for centuries. As social workers, we are engaged in a multitude of settings, many of which, are spaces that are oppressive to people of color. It is our responsibility to challenge such systems, become ushers of equity, and be ever mindful that anything less is to collude with such systems.

The NASW-NYC Chapter has not endorsed the President's recent Executive Order on police reform. [We have, though, been working in partnership to secure recently passed landmark legislation on police reforms that unveil officer records, end the use of barbaric restraining measures and require stronger demographic data collection and sharing.](#) These along with other reforms are a step in the direction of holding the law enforcement community responsible for the pervasive abuses and systemic racism proliferated for years.

On the national level, NASW has taken a [position](#) that the Trump Administration's executive order (EO) on police reform is inadequate to respond to this long standing crisis as it does not mandate national use of force guidelines, ban chokeholds or greatly curtail no-knock warrants nor does it attribute African American' risk for bodily harm or death during a police encounter to systemic racism.

Today, the 155th anniversary of [Juneteenth](#), a holiday to commemorate the full emancipation of enslaved Black people in the United States, the National of Association of Social Workers, New York City Chapter recognizes that the fight for equity and the dismantling systemic oppression continues. As an association, locally and nationally, we will continue this work and the work required of us as individual social workers and a profession to dismantle and abolish systemic racism.

In Solidarity,

NASW-NYC Chapter