



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Voqal's Statement on the Conviction of Derek Chauvin

Longmont, CO, April 21, 2021 — We welcome yesterday's guilty verdict against Derek Chauvin. And we once again extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of George Floyd. This verdict is an important step towards justice – towards a long-overdue reckoning with the epidemic of police brutality in this country.

However, despite this positive step, it doesn't change the fact that George Floyd was murdered by the very police charged with protecting him and those like him. Or that this type of injustice continues to be committed against Black and Brown individuals across the country. Further, one just action following so many unjust actions does not solve the systemic injustice that exists in this county.

So, while we are grateful some accountability was served in this case, we know true justice will not be possible until the white supremacy that perpetuates so many of the institutions in our society is dismantled. Repeated acts of violence against Black people at the hands of police must stop. Persistent threats to the lives and livelihoods of people of color at the hands of the very people sworn to serve and protect must stop.

In our role as a philanthropic institution, we will fiercely combat racism in all its forms. We will continue our own difficult journey to becoming a multicultural, anti-racist organization. We will continue to support community-led organizations and individuals that are working tirelessly to create true systemic change and tear down the many forms of oppression that continue to plague this country. We will look for opportunities to transform our own sector. And we invite you to join us and to hold us accountable.

We are grateful to local groups in Minnesota, like [Black Visions Collective](#) and [TakeAction Minnesota](#), and national organizations like the [Movement for Black Lives](#) and [Color of Change](#), who have worked tirelessly over many years to expose these injustices and to shift public narratives and public will to do something about it. It is vital we all continue support their work and follow their lead in reimagining the criminal justice system and rethinking public safety.

The road ahead is long. Let us take a deep breath and acknowledge while nothing will bring George Floyd back, a jury unanimously decided that his life mattered. And then

we get back to work building a racially just and equitable country where these types of atrocities are no longer commonplace.

Voqal is a national collaboration of EBS (Educational Broadband Service) licensees that work to advance social equity by creating an educated and engaged public. Voqal makes grants and impact investments, expands internet access and digital equity, offers fellowships, and protects the public airwaves. Our efforts focus on the education and enrichment of all, not just those who are well-off socially, economically, and politically.