



Black Lives Matter Statement from Diversity & Inclusion Committee of LLAGNY

New York City, like many other cities throughout the US, has had various protests following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died in Minneapolis police custody. Unfortunately, as we also saw in a few instances peaceful protestors were visibly attacked by the NYPD. LLAGNY's Diversity & Inclusion Committee wishes to denounce the unjust, violent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other Black people at the hands of police officers. Although as law librarians we are known to seek peace and quiet in most of our respective libraries, this is not something to be quiet about. As law libraries and law librarians we research the law, educate, enlighten, and in many ways empower our patrons to fight ignorance, intolerance, and injustice.

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee of LLAGNY stands in solidarity with the activists, communities, and other organizations uniting against the epidemic of racism, racial bias, police brutality, and hate-fueled violence targeting minority communities, especially the Black community. We call on all of our LLAGNY members to take a stand however they can, professionally and personally, against racism, bigotry, police misconduct, and state-sanctioned violence.

Linda E. Johnson, President & CEO of New York's Brooklyn Public Library states,

"... this moment, as we grapple with the profound trauma of 400 years of injustice and the existing, rampant inequities in our nation, we are reminded of how much work needs to be done. As [Ibram X. Kendi](#) pointed out ...of the best ways to dismantle racism is by reading. (Indeed, as I write, there are over 700 holds on Professor Kendi's book, [How to Be An Anti-Racist](#) and accordingly, we are purchasing more copies.)..."

To implement meaningful change, we need to evaluate our libraries' policies, practices, and procedures for biases, both conscious and unconscious, and inequalities, and create initiatives to help promote racial diversity. We will be working with the LLAGNY board to determine ways that we can improve diversity in the law librarian profession and educate our members on diversity inclusion and cultural competence.

LLAGNY's Diversity & Inclusion Committee Members

Errol Adams, *Chair*

Stacey Pilson, *Board Liaison*

John Campbell *Member*

Mary Godfrey-Rickards, *Member*

Kurtie Sannon, *Member*

Judith Simms, *Member*

Olivene White *Member*