

White Activists Solidarity Statement on Ferguson

We are speaking up publicly and raising our collective voices of grief and outrage regarding the senseless and brutal deaths of Michael Brown and Kajieme Powell, the two latest victims of ongoing and state sanctioned police brutality in our community.

The Anti-Racist Collective of the Justice Institute is a local group of white activists that do anti-racism organizing work and in-depth political education. We are old, young, queer, Jewish, Christian, atheists, union members, people living with disabilities, and city and county residents. But we come together today as a united voice against the bigoted and racist dialogue that has permeated the white mainstream media, online discussions, and kitchen tables across our region.

We have participated in actions and support work in Ferguson under the leadership of and with accountability to radical Black leaders since the shootings including; getting people out to marches, doing jail support, raising money for Black organizers, co-facilitating direct action trainings, donating money for food and expenses, and having discussions on racism and white privilege with our white family members, friends, and co-workers.

Standing in solidarity with the Don't Shoot Coalition we call for:

- Robert McCullough to immediately step down and a special prosecutor to be appointed so a transparent and independent investigation can be conducted into Michael Brown's death,
- An expanded Department of Justice investigation into patterns of civil rights violations across all of North County.
- An end to ongoing racial profiling across North County as documented by annual Missouri statistics.
- Accountability for police practices and policies, including effective civilian review regarding shootings and allegations of police misconduct in Ferguson, and St. Louis city.
- Ongoing initiatives to ensure that local law enforcement departments represent the communities they serve.
- An investigation into the death of Kajieme Powell and changes in police practices toward our mentally ill citizens in need

White privilege has acted as a shield and an excuse for us to turn the other way, to go on with our lives, and to blame people of color for their conditions. Instead, we need to examine the systems of oppression that have been created to only benefit the elite few in our society and join the movement evolving in our community that supports social and economic justice for everyone.

The Anti-Racism Collective

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