



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICIANS, INC.

NAM's Statement on the Death of George Floyd

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) wishes to express its deepest sympathy to the family of George Floyd and to honor the sanctity of Mr. Floyd's life. NAM stands in solidarity with those who decry the systemic racism and police brutality that led to the killing of George Floyd as well as countless other unarmed black men and women over the last decade and throughout the history of America.

NAM was founded in 1969, one year after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sparked widespread protests throughout the nation, similar to the ones we are seeing today. Indeed, NAM's founding was a direct result of the marginalization of black people within the professional mathematics community, which then and now serves as a microcosm of the society in which we live. Over 50 years since NAM's founding, despite the lessons of the civil rights movement, we still see systemic racial inequities in education, economic prosperity, criminal justice and public health. Today, it should be clear to us all that the consequence of ignoring these racial inequities is dire.

We understand the determination, as well as the palpable frustration and exhaustion, that is being expressed through widespread protests and demonstrations across America in recent days. The history of the civil rights movement in America teaches us that sustained organized protest by means of civil disobedience can lead to positive change. Yet, it also teaches us that demonstration alone has never been sufficient to eliminate or reverse institutional racism against black Americans. We can hear the call of young Americans for leadership, engagement, organization, commitment and action.

And so today, NAM reaffirms its commitment to social justice, equity and inclusion for all persons, especially African Americans and those groups who have been historically underrepresented in the mathematical sciences. We recognize institutionalized racism as the root cause of the inequities that lead to the underrepresentation and marginalization of black and brown people in the mathematics community and in American society at large. We recommit ourselves to the task of standing against racism in all its forms, both implicit and explicit, and to advocating for anti-racist policies and practices in our institutions.