HERE Statement of Solidarity

This past week has been devastating, with the murder of George Floyd painfully following so many others who were also victims of state-sanctioned violence. Systemic racism and white supremacy need to be stopped. We stand in solidarity with activists, organizers, and communities working together to make change.

HERE is an anti-racist organization which strives to create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive home in which all people have fair access to the resources they need to realize their visions. We acknowledge structural inequities that exclude individuals and communities from opportunities based on race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, class, age, and geography, and strive to counter those inequities in our work.

This is the time for our community to come together and take action for justice. To stand shoulder to shoulder with Black communities and individuals to work towards liberation. We have developed an <u>open source list</u> of ways in which you can connect and act, including:

The Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) was created as a space for Black organizations across the country to debate and discuss the current political conditions, develop shared assessments of what political interventions were necessary in order to achieve key policy, cultural and political wins, convene organizational leadership in order to debate and co-create a shared movement wide strategy.

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) is a national network of over 150 groups organizing in white communities for racial justice. SURJ works to undermine support for racist policies, practices and culture in the white community as part of a multi-racial movement for liberation. Here is their recently published: <u>5 actions white people can take</u>.

You can also make donations to organizations that are dedicated to moving this work forward:

<u>Black Visions Collective</u>

<u>Communities United Against Police Brutality</u>

<u>NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund</u>

<u>Reclaim the Block</u>

In 2005, HARP artist James Scruggs created *Disposable Men*, exploring the horrific history of American medical apartheid and government sanctioned killings of black men. It is heartbreaking but necessary that we continue the conversation today. "I fully expected the phenomenon of African American man as a disposable man, as a man who is greatly feared by policemen, would dissipate. As you know, it has not," he said last Friday, when he spoke about the project as part of our livestream. We urge you to listen to his story.

People in power have relied on white silence to keep these systems in place. But we cannot be silent any longer. Together, we can act for justice for all people.

#BlackLivesMatter #EndtoWhiteSilence #SayTheirNames