

5 Things White Settlers Can Do Right Now¹

~to combat white supremacist violence~

On the evening of Monday, May 25th, George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police. Video surfaced of a white police officer holding his knee to Floyd's neck for eight minutes while Floyd pleaded with police saying "I can't breathe." Floyd became unresponsive and died shortly after at Hennepin County Medical Center. This brutal killing follows the death of Breonna Taylor in her bed at the hands of police in Louisville, Kentucky, the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in a Georgia suburb, and more recently amidst protests, David McAtee's lynching by police in Louisville, the racist murder of James Scurlock by a white supremacist in Omaha, and the police murder of Tony McDade, a black trans man in Tallahassee. All these murders are part of the centuries of police abuse and violence towards Black people, Indigenous people, and all people of color.

All over the United States, people of color and especially Indigenous, Black, and Latinx people are the most likely racial groups to suffer at the hands of the police. They are by far the most likely to face police murder. Indigenous people are jailed at a rate 4 times the national average. These aspects of violence towards Black, Indigenous, and people of color are part of the interlocking legacy of [ongoing settler colonialism](#) and white supremacy.

In this moment, we know there are thousands of white people who are looking for direction and a way to show up alongside Black communities, Indigenous communities, and communities of color. Welcome. You are needed. Here are a few ways to start showing up — not just in words but in action.

1. Come out as an anti-racist settler and invite others to join you. Be public and vocal about which side you are on, share details of the actions you are taking to make this commitment real, and invite others to join you. Join SURJ to build a mass base of people breaking white settler silence by [signing up here](#) and [share this graphic](#) on your Facebook and social media pages to invite others to sign up as well.
2. Join fights for decarceration and to defund the police. Nationally, we can follow the Movement for Black Lives in their demands to defund the police. [Check out their week of action](#), and follow them for updates. SURJ's National week of action toolkit also has useful resources to check out. Here in Albuquerque, we are working alongside Millions for Prisoners NM in calls to #FreeThemAll from prisons, jails and detention centers. Join us in these ongoing decarceration efforts by getting on our mailing list. Urgently, we are asking that you take a few minutes to make calls to demand the release of Clifton White, who was wrongfully targeted and arrested in retaliation for his and Selinda Guerrero's organizing of recent FreeThemAll and BLM protests. You can find infographics

¹ Adapted from

https://medium.com/@surj_action/5-ways-white-people-can-take-action-in-response-to-white-and-state-sanctioned-violence-2bb907ba5277

with targets to call by going to [Millions for Prisoners NM facebook page](#), or following [SURJ Abq on Instagram](#).

3. Make a commitment to “organize your own” for the long haul. White settler communities are used to uphold the power structure of racism and settler colonialism. When we break away and join movements for justice, this can help tip the balance of power and win real change. For too long, those at the top have relied on the silence of white folks to keep things as they are — and then we all lose. Our work is to organize in our own communities to bring more white people into struggles for justice, and to support the efforts led by people of color. [Sign the Collect Your Cousins Pledge to join in calling white voters in critical battleground states](#).
4. Focus on building our numbers, not being right. To end police brutality, white supremacy, and settler colonialism, we will need to build a movement to get us all free. We need to move people with us — namely people who are conflicted or watching from the sidelines. This means calling in our folks — people in our families, faith communities, neighborhoods, and workplaces — inviting them to join a movement and be on the right side of history. It might feel good to just yell at other white people in the short run. But when we spend time with those who are awakening in this moment and are wanting to show up, as imperfect as they are, that helps us all. This is the work. [\(Read this incredible guide on how to build with your white people who might be spouting problematic opinions!\)](#)
5. Help resource the work of Black and Indigenous-led groups that are fighting for police accountability and abolition. Find and support a local group in your community ([SURJ ABQ’s COVID Rapid Response Fund lists six radical Indigenous, African and migrant led organizations to give to!](#)) or move your money to the front lines in Minneapolis. Make sure folks most impacted have the resources to stay in the streets and dream up the most powerful, transformative pathways forward. Make a donation today to [Reclaim the Block](#) and [Black Visions](#) who are on the frontlines in response to the murder of George Floyd.