

We are Friends Meeting at Cambridge www.fmcquaker.org, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge 02138. **Please join in the work of peace and justice by contacting any of the organizations listed below:**

Racial Justice Organizations:

Black Lives Matter - find local chapters at: <http://blacklivesmatter.com>
Boston Ten-Point Coalition - 617-524-4331 - <http://btpc.org/>
Louis D. Brown Institute - 617-825-1917 - <http://ldbpeaceinstitute.org>
Community Change - 617-523-0555 - <http://www.communitychangeinc.org/>
Jobs Not Jail - for a list of local contacts, see the Home Page at: <http://jobsnotjails.org/jnj/>
Union of Minority Neighborhoods, Boston/Jamaica Plain - 617-522-3349 - <http://unionofminorityneighborhoods.org/>
YWCA Boston - 617-585-5400 - www.ywboston.org
YMCA Cambridge - 617-491-6050 - www.ywcacam.org

For more information see:

Color Lines - a daily news site for stories on race, gender, and religious justice and equality, www.colorlines.com
White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, by Peggy McIntosh (Google for PDF version)

Religious Organizations:

American Friends Service Committee: 617-661-6130 www.afsc.org
Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries: 617-244-3650 www.coopmet.org
Episcopal Peace Fellowship: 312-922-8628 www.epfnational.org
Fellowship of Reconciliation: 845-358-4601 forusa.org
Friends Committee on National Legislation: 800-630-1330 www.fcnl.org
Greater Boston Interfaith Organization: 671-825-5600, www.gbio.org
Jewish Peace Fellowship: 845-358-4601 Ext.35 www.jewishpeacefellowship.org
Muslim Peace Fellowship: 215-635-0636 www.muslimpeacefellowship.org
Pax Christi: 617-262-9461 www.paxchristiusa.org

Please Join Us Good Friday Witness For Peace 2016



Protest at 4th precinct police headquarters, Minneapolis. Photo by Tony Webster

Jamar Clark, who was shot by two rookie Minneapolis police officers in November 2015, was one of 330 African-Americans killed that year by police in the U.S. (*London Guardian, U.S. Edition, "The Counted," Dec. 31, 2015*)

*We who believe in freedom cannot rest.
We who believe in freedom cannot rest
Until the killing of Black men,
Black mothers' sons
Is as important as the killing of
White men, White mothers' sons.*

Ella's Song, composed by Bernice Johnson Reagon

Black Lives Matter

What does this campaign mean to you? The Black Lives Matter website emphasizes that it means, "black lives matter, **too.**" The movement demands that—in practical and pragmatic ways—the country affirm the value of black as well as white lives.

People throughout the country have taken to the streets to call attention to racist incidents and to demand major changes in how our society works. Communities of color are disproportionately burdened by police violence; mass incarceration; lack of economic opportunity; the high cost of housing, health and dental care; and polluted water.

The implication of "Black Lives Matter" is that decisions of public policy are too often made with disregard for their impact on people of color.

Consider these statistics:

Black people were killed by police at more than twice the rate of white people in 2015. (*London Guardian, U.S. edition, "The Counted," Dec. 31, 2016*)

Despite being only 13 percent of the overall U.S. population, 40 percent of those who are incarcerated are black. (*Center for American Progress*)

In eastern Massachusetts, Blacks comprise one-fifth of the total population 16 years and older. They make up 55 percent of the total unemployed civilian labor force. (*Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts NAACP, Boston Chapter, William Monroe Trotter Institute*)

This witness is organized by the Friends Meeting at Cambridge (Quakers) with help from residents of Beacon Hill Friends House.



For he is our peace: in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, 2:14

On this Good Friday we stand in silent prayer for an end to the violence of racism. We pray for peace in our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our nation, and our world. We grieve for the violence that occurs in the name of religion and are mindful of the historic use of Good Friday as a day of violence against Jews.

Those of us who are white are often unaware of the ways, both mundane and institutional, that we benefit from a pervasive system of racism and inequality. As anti-racist and feminist scholar, Peggy McIntosh, formerly of Wellesley College, has pointed out:

We do not have to educate our children to be aware of systemic racism for their own daily physical protection.

We can go shopping pretty well assured that we will not be followed or harassed by a store employee.

If a traffic cop pulls us over we can be pretty sure we haven't been signaled out because of our race

As we consider the toll that systemic racism takes on the fabric of our society, we are searching for ways to bring about change. We see the Black Lives Matter movement and other expressions of protest against inequality as channels of change.

We are inspired by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:
Let us hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.