



The Children's Mental Health Campaign (CMHC) grieves for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and countless others who have lost their lives to police brutality. We stand with protesters and Black communities all over the country combatting the structural racism, hatred, and oppression that infiltrate every aspect of the systems on which we are meant to rely. This is *not* a new reality but one that Black communities have had to continuously navigate and which has continued to distort and corrupt society.

Black Lives Matter. As a coalition, we are dedicated to advocating for change at the systemic level and recognize that advocacy must begin with acknowledging privilege. Some of us expect our governments and institutions to hear our voices and represent our interests. However, we know that racists and systemic racism in America have sought to silence the voices emanating out of Black communities for centuries. When voices are silenced, pain and trauma go unacknowledged, and justice is not served.

Today, we reaffirm our mission to elevate and bolster these voices and the voices of some of our most vulnerable: children.

The collective racial trauma experienced by Black communities leaves an indelible mark on children who develop and grow while carrying these traumas.

As a voice for children's behavioral health, we will advocate for all of Massachusetts' children with the sense of urgency required in addressing racial injustice.

We hope that the present spotlight on police brutality and racial injustice will lead to lasting systemic change. If you are looking for a way to get involved, there are many ways to engage in racial justice work. First, you can reach out to your [state legislator](#), [register to vote](#), and [respond to the Census](#). When reaching out to your legislator, we encourage you to visit organizations like [Campaign Zero](#), who have created a set of urgent policy actions that all lawmakers should take in ending police violence.

If you would like to support some of the local organizations doing this work, you can find a short list below, as well as a list of available resources for having a conversation with children about racial equity and social justice. We've chosen resources from trusted organizations but only you know what is appropriate for you and your family.

We pledge to continue doing our part to listen, learn, and advocate.

Local/State Level Organizations

[Massachusetts Bail Fund](#)

[ACLU Massachusetts](#)

[Wee the People](#)

[Black Lives Matter Boston](#)

Having Conversations with Children

[How do I talk to young children about racial injustice?](#)

[Sesame Street Racism Town Hall --This Saturday \(6/6\)](#)

[Zero to Three: Using Your Power as a Parent](#)

[PBS: Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News](#)

[USA Today: George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. What do we tell our children?](#)

[The Trevor Project: Supporting Black LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#)

[Embrace Race: 31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance](#)

[Resources for Starting and Deepening Anti-Racism Work](#)