



1600 M Street
Fresno, CA 93721
www.mmcenter.org

STATEMENT REGARDING THE DEATH OF MR. GEORGE FLOYD

With heavy hearts we witnessed yet again another unimaginable loss rooted in racism, violence, and oppression within the Black and African American communities. This type of injustice is not new but we will not stand by while it continues.

For years, the Marjaree Mason Center has used two words, power and control, to describe the root cause of domestic violence within intimate partner relationships. The same behaviors and methods to gain and maintain power and control over another person also fuel racism, violence, oppression and injustice.

In 1979, after the tragic murder of a young African American woman named Marjaree Mason, the YWCA Fresno began its focused journey to support and empower victims of domestic violence. It has taken decades of research, learning from and listening to victims, to understand that domestic violence is not about anger management, substance use, mental health, or socio-economic status, but instead the complexity and trauma associated with experiencing domestic violence; and the offending behaviors that utilize power and control over an intimate partner.

The Marjaree Mason Center stands with our community in advocating for equal rights, racial justice, and the dismantling of systemic oppression. The Center remains committed to intentional and focused learning and addressing the social, economic and health disparities within the Black and African American communities, both within the walls of Marjaree Mason Center and in our service to the community. We pray for the family of George Floyd and all others who have been tragically murdered or targeted from racism and oppression. We see you, we hear you, and we stand with you.

Nicole DiBudo Linder
Executive Director