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# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission



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## Maryland Lynching Commission Condemns Modern Day Lynchings and Calls for Justice

**Annapolis, MD (June 1, 2020)**- The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MD LTRC) condemns the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the scores of Black lives that have been cut off as a result of the pervasive disease of racism. We also applaud and support the citizens who have channeled their sorrow, disgust and rage into peaceful protests and civil disobedience in Minneapolis, Louisville, Brunswick, Baltimore, and across the United States.

Let this moment be a clear indication that every day more people from all backgrounds understand and empathize with the trauma of being Black in the United States. These same people are raising their voices to unapologetically reject and demand the destruction of this toxic system of oppression. The MD LTRC is diligently committed to honoring the more than 40 Black men and women who were lynched in Maryland between 1854 and 1933. We are just as diligently committed to illustrating how the legacy of these brutal acts persists in the continued racial profiling of and police brutality against Black people and offering strategies for how we begin the necessary healing of our wounds from 1619 until today. That is our charge, and that is our fight. There is no more time to waste...the progress comes now.

“Noted civil rights leader Ella Baker’s prophetic words ring true to this day,” advised MD LTRC Vice-Chair Dr. Charles L. Chavis, Jr. “‘Until the killing of black men, black mothers’ sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of a white mother’s son, we who believe in freedom cannot rest until this happens.’ I echo Baker’s words and want to be clear that well before ‘COVID-19,’ racism was America’s, and the world’s, original pandemic. The shock and disgust that White people are expressing during this time are important, but we pray that this disgust remains when the cameras leave and the dust settles, as Black and Brown communities continue to fight against the less visible forms of racism that are at the root of America’s infantile democracy. The Black and Brown people of this country can no longer wait. America can no longer wait.”

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