



JUNE 2020 NEWS

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

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from mac's executive director

Dear MAC Members and Friends:

The killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police officers last week was senseless and brutal, a tragedy that cries out for justice. How is it possible that, in America, a black man's life can be taken from him while his calls for help are not answered, and his killing is recorded as it happens? Unfortunately, that is just a rhetorical question, as we have witnessed this violence perpetrated against Black and Brown people over and over throughout the nation.



I share the outrage of the Black community and those who stand with them in Minnesota and across the country. The cruelty and violence George Floyd suffered does not reflect the standard we demand of those who put on a law enforcement uniform. We can no longer have the discussion about police brutality in the context of "good and bad apples," but must acknowledge that the institution, or "the crate that holds all of the apples," is contaminated. We must also demand that the authorities investigate George Floyd's killing carefully and make sure **ALL** those responsible are held accountable.

We must all understand that the protests we are seeing in our cities reflect the justified frustration and anger of millions of our brothers and sisters who even today experience humiliation, indignity, and unequal opportunity because of their race or the color of their skin. Racism has been tolerated for far too long in our everyday way of life.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said: "Riots are the language of the unheard." To my fellow white people: we need to do a lot of listening right now. This time, we should not fail to hear and act upon what Black people are saying through their pain. We need to finally root out the racial injustice that still infects all areas of American society.

Protests should not be exploited by persons who have different values and agendas. Burning and looting communities, ruining the livelihoods of our marginalized and oppressed neighbors, does not advance the cause of racial equality and human dignity.

Do not allow George Floyd to have died in vain. Let's be sure to honor his life by removing racism and hate from our hearts and renewing our commitment to fulfill our nation's sacred promise — to be a nation that recognizes the worth of **EVERY** human and removes all constructs that prohibit **ANY** person from pursuing life, liberty, and justice for all.

For our members, please see below for information on how to join our MemberConnect on Wednesday, June 3rd, where we will be discussing the killing of George Floyd, the uprising in the Twin Cities, how this affects our work with victims, and how we can strengthen our personal and professional anti-racism work. **All members are welcome!**

In Peace,

Bobbi Holtberg



Minnesota Alliance on Crime
Statement on the Death of George Floyd
at the Hands of
Minneapolis Police Department Officers

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is deeply saddened and angered by the actions of Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) officers that caused the death of George Floyd. On May 25, 2020, a video taken by a witness reveals that Derek Chauvin, a white MPD officer, used excessive force that caused the tragic death of Mr. Floyd, a Black man. The video also shows the willful choice of officers Derek Chauvin, Tou Thao, and other MPD officers on site to ignore Mr. Floyd's cries for help when he was no longer able to breathe comfortably and eventually was rendered unconscious. Mr. Floyd was transported to a hospital and died. The four officers involved have been fired.

This horrifying incident shines a glaring light on the fact that the very institution charged to "Protect and Serve" ALL community members is responsible for perpetrating ongoing violence and oppression against community members who are Black and Brown. Black men continue to die at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department.

MAC opposes the use of all forms of violence and affirms the basic human right of every person to live without fear or the threat of victimization throughout the course of one's life.

MAC seeks a criminal legal system that is fair and accessible to all community members, especially those who are most marginalized.

MAC stands in solidarity with efforts in Minnesota to end all forms of institutionalized discrimination, exploitation, victimization, oppression, and violence.

MAC recognizes that forms of oppression based on race, ethnicity, nationality, and immigration status create a climate of white supremacy and white nationalism that facilitates the use of ongoing institutionally sanctioned violence and victimization.

MAC calls on Medaria Arradondo, Minneapolis Chief of Police, and Jacob Frey, Minneapolis Mayor, to respond immediately with a plan to address the rampant racism that exists within the institution of the MPD and to listen to community leaders who know best how to police their communities in a safe and humane way.

MAC further calls on all agencies investigating the actions of all officers involved to hold them accountable to the greatest degree possible. The entire state and nation are watching, unfortunately again, while decisions are made regarding what the life of a Black male community member is worth. Being Black and Brown should not be a death sentence in Minnesota.

MAC urges our 92 member programs throughout Minnesota to stand together in protest against this incident and against the violence and oppression our state's Black and Brown people face on a daily basis.

[PDF version of this statement.](#)



Efforts of the Minnesota Department of Corrections to Reduce the Population of Incarcerated Offenders

MINNESOTA ALLIANCE ON CRIME

The dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic are evident and further exacerbate racial and socio-economic disparities. Nationwide, the COVID-19 infection rate in jails and prisons is about 2.5 times higher than in the general population. Current incarceration rates are untenable for the health and safety of incarcerated individuals, correctional officers and staff, and communities surrounding correctional facilities. While unprecedented, the pandemic has increased our urgency to address the crisis of mass incarceration in the United States.

In conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Corrections' release or early release of incarcerated persons, Minnesota must make a simultaneous investment in policies, practices, and social supports that make communities safer. Individuals who have been incarcerated must have the ability to meet their basic needs. Cultivating safety in our communities is made all the more challenging when people are released from prison without housing or a pathway to housing, without a job or pathway to income, and without healthcare or accessible transportation. Ensuring the most basic human needs are met is the best way to increase public safety.

Any investment in reentry support to prevent future public safety risks must be accompanied by a similar commitment to increased, ongoing financial support to community-based services and local supportive resources. Decisions for release from incarceration should be based on risk of re-offense, rather than the highest ranked offense.

In our call for early release of incarcerated individuals from Minnesota's correctional facilities, MAC demands financial and structural support for the following conditions to support public safety:

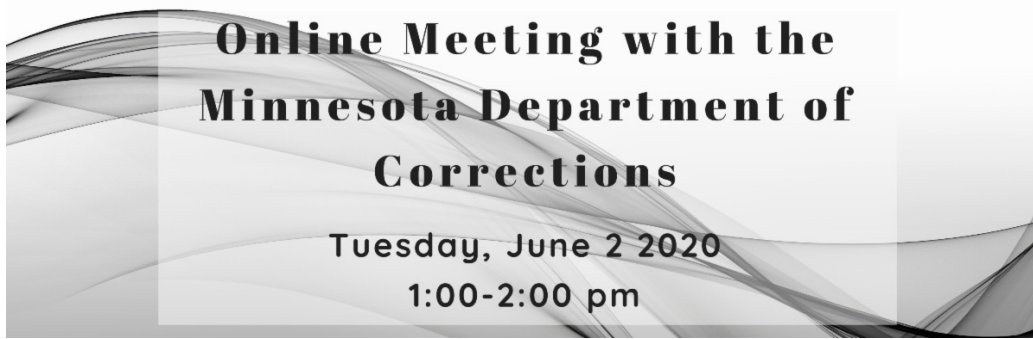
- **Shifting from crime to risk:** Recommendations for release should be based on assessment of risk to the public or to a specific individual rather than, and regardless of, the highest ranked offense.
- **Robust victim notification:** Victim/survivors must be notified in advance of the release of the incarcerated individual and they must receive a release date. Notification must include multiple forms of contact, beyond a letter via mail. Notification must occur regardless of registry in HAVEN, the DOC notification database.
- **Improved conditions for incarcerated individuals:** For incarcerated individuals where release is not feasible, basic consideration must be given to their health/safety needs. All remaining incarcerated individuals must have access to testing, proper medical care, free access to soap and PPE, free access to phone calls and tele-visits to connect with family members and others who would normally visit, and the ability to practice social distancing without lockdown.

We must act swiftly to expand our responses to increase safety and reduce harm. As advocates working to improve the systems response to all victims of crime, the Minnesota Alliance on Crime holds the firm belief that change is possible and safety is attainable as we strive towards a just and equitable society.

MAC will continue to work with the Department of Corrections to ensure crime victims receive timely notification so they can plan for safety; and MAC will continue to bring the disparity and impact of the mass incarceration crisis to the forefront of our conversations with our member programs and stakeholders.

[PDF version of this statement](#)

This statement was written with the shared guidance of [Violence Free Minnesota](#)



Many Minnesota victim service programs and county attorney's offices have had questions for the Department of Corrections during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to your questions, please join the Minnesota victim services coalitions - Minnesota Alliance on Crime, Mending the Sacred Hoop Coalition, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and Violence-Free - for an online meeting with Safia Khan, government relations director at the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Safia will discuss with the DOC's response to COVID-19, early release of offenders due to the pandemic, victim notification, and considerations for victim advocacy, and more.

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm.

Please pre-register with MNCASA by Monday, June 1, 2020.

[Click Here to Register](#)



Are you feeling isolated working from home? Is your office a whirlwind of change at the moment? Are you overwhelmed by news of COVID-19? Are you having a lot of feelings right now? Do you just need to talk and laugh with others in the Minnesota victim service field?

If any of the above resonate with you, **all members** of the Minnesota Alliance on Crime are invited to a weekly free gathering on [Zoom](#) to share, network, vent, laugh, and **connect** with your fellow members and MAC staff.

Wednesday, June 3, 20 Discussion:

We will discuss the killing of George Floyd, the uprising in the Twin Cities, how this affects our work with victims, and how we can strengthen our personal and professional anti-racism work.

Please note that to increase your safety and privacy, all registrations now are handled through the Zoom website and all registrations are personally approved by MAC staff members.

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from Noon to 1:00 pm.

[Register Today!](#)



Please mark your calendars to join the Minnesota Alliance on Crime for the 2020 Annual Meeting on September 10, 2020 from 10:00 am to noon. The event will be held online to ensure the health and safety of everyone during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Annual Meeting will provide members the opportunity to learn more about the strategic work MAC staff and board are currently engaged in and provide direct feedback that will shape MAC's initiatives moving forward. Members will also ratify changes to MAC's bylaws and vote on the presented slate of candidates for the Board of Directors.

We also will hold 2020 Capacity Building Training online. There will be several exciting speakers/trainers joining us!

Please stay tuned for more information and registration.



National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net Project: Free Evidence Collection App

DocuSAFE, a Documentation and Evidence Collection App, is a free app from NNEDV that helps survivors collect, store, and share evidence of abuse, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, online harassment, and dating violence. Survivors can document abuse by logging individual incidents, including any photos, screenshots, or video documentation of threatening messages, harassing social media posts, unwanted repeat calls, or online impersonation, among other abusive behaviors. [More info and download here.](#)

National Center for Victims of Crime: Victim-Centered Criminal Justice Reform Hub

The National Center is excited to announce a [new website](#) focused on victim-centered justice reform as part of our work on the [Safety and Justice Challenge](#). The website, which launches on June 1, 2020, will serve as a resource hub for materials related to victim-centered criminal justice reform. The multimedia web content will provide information essential to developing an approach to justice that both better serves victims and reduces misuse of jails,

National Resource Center for Reaching Victims: Older Victims of Crime Trainers and Education Forum

This new online forum, hosted by National Resource Center for Reaching Victims partner [National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life](#), is a peer-to-peer exchange where victim service programs, service providers, and other educational professionals can communicate together, network, explore, share ideas, and solicit tips and tools to use in future trainings. [Register for the forum here.](#)

Standpoint, Volunteer Lawyers Network, and PRIDE The Family Partnership: Legal Clinic for Survivors

We are hosting a legal clinic on **August 14th 2020 from 12-4 pm** at PRIDE The Family Partnership offices, **4123 E. Lake St., Minneapolis**, for folks who have criminal records relating to abuse or violence they've experienced. Clients who attend the clinic will meet with attorneys and advocates about criminal expungement eligibility and, if eligible, criminal expungement petition drafting. Please note, participating in the clinic does not guarantee attorney representation during the criminal expungement hearing but there will be follow-up help and support offered to folks who plan to complete the filing and hearing process.

We have attached a checklist to help you and your clients prepare for the clinic with explicit instructions on how to collect their necessary criminal history records. Additionally, advanced registration to attend the clinic can help your clients with: transportation, language assistance, collecting court records, ensure special accommodations, etc. Click on the following links for more info: [Clinic Fact Sheet](#) | [Clinic Checklist for Clients](#) | [Client RSVP.](#)

upcoming trainings & webinars

news about july 2020 fundamentals in victim services

a two-day training for new crime victim
advocates & staff

minnesota alliance on crime



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Minnesota Alliance on Crime will not hold the Fundamentals in Victim Services training that was scheduled for July 23-24, 2020 in St. Cloud.** We are very sorry to need to cancel the event.

Because we do not know at this point when it will be safe again to hold a large, in-person training, MAC staff and our regular Fundamentals in Victim Services trainers are currently working together to transform the in-person training into a live, internet-based training. As soon as our plans have finalized we will announce dates and open registration. We hope you and/or your staff will join us.

Please know that MAC is your partner in training and if you have any questions or need training resources, [contact Danielle Kluz](#) any time. We want to be of assistance to our members in any way possible!

employment opportunities

Resources for job seekers:

[Association of Minnesota Counties Jobs](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Legal Services State Support Positions Available](#)

[Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Job Board](#)

[Minnesota County Attorney's Association Job Bank](#)

contact us

As always, if you have any suggestions for MAC, we welcome your input!

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about the minnesota alliance on crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.

For more information about MAC, go to www.mnallianceoncrime.org.

To join our coalition of crime victim service programs, [click here](#).