

Division of Convict Criminology (DCC)  
American Society of Criminology

**Statement against Police Brutality towards Black, Indigenous, and People of Color  
From the Division of Convict Criminology**

Friday June 9, 2020

The Division of Convict Criminology (DCC), stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and strongly condemns the systematic law enforcement violence that has led to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, and numerous other members of Black, Indigenous, and other oppressed communities of color and marginalized groups. The use of violent force by law enforcement is an issue that effects numerous members of society, yet excessive use of force seems to disproportionately be focused on Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Research clearly demonstrates that excessive use of force by law enforcement on historically oppressed people produces a multitude of traumatizing and dehumanizing outcomes. In addition to the physical harm inflicted on individuals and their families, such violence sows a dangerous environment of mistrust between communities and police. Consequently, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color perceive that their lives are not valued by law enforcement.

Current measures to combat excessive use of force, brutality, and racially biased law enforcement actions have clearly not been effective. As such, we call on instructors, scholars, policy makers, and legislators to implement effective evidence-based practices to prevent police violence. We strongly advocate for research-based efforts to prevent police violence including targeted measures to address violence against Black, Indigenous, and people of color everywhere. Such measures would include further accountability and sanctions (such as termination) for members of law enforcement who violate people's human and civil rights through the use of unnecessary and/or excessive violence, mandatory national data collection on any and all incidences of police misconduct and use of force, use of independent prosecutors in officer-involved shootings or incidents of brutality, and changing use of force statutes by limiting and more clearly defining officer discretion in regards to use of force.

We call on members of the criminological community to engage in instruction and further rigorous research of racially biased actions, differential treatment, and the excessive and/or unnecessary use of force by police. In order to be comprehensive in scope and more effective in impact, such instruction and research should include the voices, insights, and perspectives of the system-contacted, oppressed, marginalized, incarcerated, and the formerly-incarcerated. Moreover, to improve research and instruction within the criminological discipline, we as a society must directly and actively confront institutionalized racism in all of its forms. Through a unified effort which marshals all of the social justice resources our society has to offer, we can develop impactful means of eradicating systemic racism and inequality.

References and further reading:

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Statement approved by the Executive Board of the Division of Convict Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. Black Lives Matter and we stand in solidarity,

DCC Executive Board