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Statement: Police Force Must Be Defunded to Protect Black Lives, Resist Heightened Fascism Taking Hold in the United States

***** To book an interview, please contact acre@megaphonestrategies.com *****

***Detroit --** In response to escalated police violence against people across the nation demanding justice for the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade and calling for racial justice, Action Center on Race and the Economy ([ACRE](#)) released the following statement:*

“It has been just a week since George Floyd was murdered. It seems like a lifetime,” **said Maurice BP-Weeks, Co-Executive Director of [ACRE](#).**

“The past week was a breaking point in this country. The high-profile police murders, a pandemic targeting the Black community, 40+ million unemployed, and a pending eviction crisis – it was only a matter of time for the levee to break. This current moment, of course, builds on the history of insidious systemic racism, slavery, and brutality on which this country was founded. So much in this moment is unknown, but I know this: We won’t get ANYWHERE until we dismantle these systems of oppression. That’s what the uprisings are all about.

“In the past few days, thousands have taken to the streets in protest. These protests show true bravery – a willingness to fight for a better world even if fighting puts folks at risk for contracting Covid-19. But instead of understanding, or coming to the table to address issues, we’ve seen rapid escalation by the state. Hardline curfews are in place in most major cities, gangs of white supremacists are targeting Black protestors and allies, various policing forces roam the streets in full military gear and the President is even calling to deploy troops to different American neighborhoods.

“The question must be called – who do the police serve? They certainly have not been effective in serving the general public who have been tear-gassed and pepper-sprayed.

“It’s clear that the police are in place to protect capitalism and maintain racial order. They stand ready to evict thousands from their apartments on orders of corporate landlords. If our leaders are looking for who the violent instigators are, they need not be distracted by the President’s signaling about Antifa (literally anti-fascists) or anarchists.

The real violent instigators are the police - hunting, terrorizing, and killing Black people, all while overly funded and siphoning off helpful resources in city budgets.

“The time for nuance is over, so I will make things plain. We stand with all of the brave protestors fighting in the streets for a better tomorrow. We stand against police violence targeting protestors, military, or otherwise. We are Anti-Fascists and, like many others, are repulsed and moved to the streets to oppose it at every turn. And most importantly, if there is any path to making sure that #BlackLivesMatter and that our collective liberation is achieved, the police must be abolished. All of these truths are core to our work.

“In the coming weeks, we at ACRE will continue our work as an organization set on abolition and defunding the police as well as ensuring justice in a number of other areas - not the least of which is the impending eviction crisis. We will not allow white supremacy to stop us, nor will we cower in its face. The time is now.”

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The Action Center on Race and the Economy (ACRE) is a campaign hub for organizations working at the intersection of racial justice and corporate accountability. We provide research and communications infrastructure and strategic support for organizations working on campaigns to win structural change by directly taking on the corporations that are responsible for pillaging communities of color, devastating working-class communities, and harming our environment.