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June 3, 2020

From: Michelle Scazero, Communications Director  
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## **Local Women Religious Stand in Support of the LCWR Condemnation of Racial Violence**

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and our local religious communities, strongly condemn the police-killing of another black man on the streets of our nation. Our hearts are breaking as we mourn with the family and friends of George Floyd and with all who have lost loved ones to law enforcement violence, all who live in fear, all whose dignity is threatened. The continued killing of black men and women; the constant harassment of people of color; and the denial of the rights and dignity of our African American neighbors must end now.

Racism is America's original sin. It is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19 that has infected our nation since its inception and unless and until we address it, people of color will continue to die and our nation will never heal. Racism, whether the institutional racism which privileges some at the expense of others or the daily acts of hate and discrimination, diminishes us all. It denies that most profound truth, that all of us are created in God's image and each of us is entitled to dignity and respect.

As women religious we acknowledge our own complicity in institutional racism; we ask forgiveness of our sisters and brothers of color; and we pray for our nation's healing, and we know that is not enough. It is time for bold, decisive action. We pledge to raise our voices and to act now to end this scourge which has cost us so dearly. It is long past time to dismantle white privilege and rededicate ourselves to building God's beloved community.

We call on all people everywhere to work with greater urgency to eliminate the systemic racism that infects the very soul of our nation. As we work toward healing relationships in our own community, we recognize the necessity of a holy recommitment to both the dignity of each person as a creature of God and to the transforming power of hope.

We ask God's blessing on Northwest Ohio and our nation during the struggle that lies ahead.

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**Local Women Religious Stand in Support of the LCWR Condemnation of Racial Violence**  
**Page 2**

Sincerely,

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