

## Resistencia Statement in Support of Black-Led Uprising and Police Abolition

Right now we are called by Black-led uprisings all over the United States in response to the recent police murders of Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Manuel Ellis and more, to imagine a world without policing, and move towards that reality. Time and again, we mourn the deaths of Black people whose lives are stolen through state sanctioned and vigilante violence. Time and again, police demonstrate themselves to be violent forces designed to support white supremacy, property, and the status quo. In Resistencia, we know the moment for reform has passed - we can't make "better" racist police and we can't make "better" racist immigration detention centers. We defend Black Lives by upholding and supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led movements to defund police; abolish prisons; and redistribute land, resources and wealth to enable community controlled solutions to health and safety.

When we say police, we also mean immigration enforcement like ICE and CBP. The police and prison systems are integrated with the US detention and deportation system. These systems intersect in their viciousness and their carelessness with human life, especially Black and Brown lives, and their racist brutality. As one organizer currently detained inside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma (NWDC), WA, puts it, "They make our lives harder, those of us that are Black or Latino and each one of us are suffering. We are a lot of Latinos and Black folks that are detained and can be deported at any time. And that causes suffering with our families. But ICE doesn't care. This is the system that exists today. I understand what George Floyd's family is saying. This has to stop."

Black immigrants, both undocumented and with status, are disproportionately targeted for both criminal and immigration enforcement. Black noncitizens make up 20% of those facing deportation on criminal grounds despite being just 7% of the noncitizen population. Anti-Blackness in the criminal justice system is replicated and reinforced within the immigration enforcement system. Even so, the immigrant rights movement often falls prey to the "we are not criminals" sloganeering that throws Black folks struggling to end criminalization under the bus. At Resistencia, we continue to resist divisions between "deserving" and "undeserving," "innocent" and "criminal," "good" and "bad." When discussing the anti-Blackness within immigration enforcement and policing, organizers who are detained at the NWDC call for solidarity inside and out, "This is the grounds right now, we have to stand together. It doesn't matter we are in here and you guys outside."

When we say end detention, we don't just mean closing the cages at NWDC. We mean ending the entire system that arrests, locks up, and banishes people, whether it's into detention centers or jails and prisons. When we say "Free Them All," we mean *everyone* because we know prisons and cages enact violence on poor, Black, Indigenous, People of Color, immigrant, queer, trans, and disabled communities rather than creating greater collective safety. By "Free Them All," we mean that our communities can create safety that doesn't rely on cops and

cages, and our society can find ways to address harm without relying on racist policing and incarceration.

We believe another world that defends Black Lives and redefines safety beyond cops and cages is possible. We invite all to join us in supporting the following:

- Calls to defund and disband the police in Seattle and elsewhere, and to redirect funds to community-controlled programs and services for health, housing, and safety.
- Calls to release all protestors because there is no one right way to protest, and fierce, Black-led resistance in the streets creates openings for defunding of police and more.
- Efforts to demand justice for Manuel Ellis, who was murdered by Tacoma City Police in March 2020.
- Continued calls for the City of Tacoma and State of Washington to do everything in their power to “Free Them All” from the NWDC, the Pierce County Jail, and more.

In defense of Black Lives,  
La Resistencia