



June 4, 2020

Dear Friends of Safe Harbor,

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center is devastated and outraged over the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN, last week. George Floyd was killed ultimately by systemic racism, which disregards the life and humanity of Black people. We say George Floyd's name, along with Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubery, and mourn the otherwise countless victims of over 400 years of racist violence.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said in his Letter from a Birmingham jail, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." As a Child Advocacy Center, Safe Harbor's mission is to listen to children, and to amplify the voice of the unheard. We seek healing and justice for children who have been treated as less-than-human by abusers.

In seeking healing and justice for one, we must seek it for all. The Black children who experience the trauma of abuse must carry that burden on top of the trauma of centuries of racist oppression. We demand justice, and justice must include safety from abuse of all kinds, and the dismantling of the structures that keep white supremacy in place.

We also recognize the law enforcement officers who are anguished in this moment. Safe Harbor partners with sensitive crimes detectives on behalf of children that have been horrifically abused, who work diligently to pursue safety and justice for them. We believe law enforcement should be guardians of our community, not warriors. The guardians of the abused children we work with come to Safe Harbor in humanity and peace.

Safe Harbor commits to continue to address the substantial and often life-threatening inequalities that affect Black children in our city of Madison, and throughout Wisconsin. We will listen, we will advocate, we will be vigilant, we will hold ourselves accountable, and we will continue to elevate the voice of children so that their pleas for justice may be heard, recognized, and acted upon.

To our community, we see you, we hear you, and our hearts break along with you. We believe that Black Lives Matter, and the time for justice is now.

Jennifer Ginsburg
Executive Director