

SCIC SOLIDARITY STATEMENT



**SOUTH COAST
INTERFAITH COUNCIL**
SERVING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1953

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As the **South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC)** is committed to equality and justice, we, the board of directors, are horrified by the acts of white supremacy perpetrated on our black brothers and sisters in recent days. The SCIC is a multi-faith organization representing many of the world's religions. Each of our religions upholds the sanctity of life. Our faiths teach us to love thy neighbor, treat all others as we wish to be treated, and to not stand idly by as the blood of another is shed. Covid-19 isn't the only virus our country is fighting; we are also fighting the virus of racism.

It's time to meaningfully recognize that this country was built on the backs of black people. Policing was initially created to control black people during slavery and the subsequent period of Jim Crow. The list of black men, women and children murdered by police no longer fits on a t-shirt; it's too long to call out without a prepared list. As people of faith, we can no longer ignore that which does not directly affect us. We must call out the systems and policies that have enabled white supremacy to continue to fester in our police departments, criminal justice system and all other American institutions.

We call on our communities and institutions to engage in internal and public dialogue addressing race, plurality and inclusion. The SCIC is a willing partner for those who seek to offer opportunities for education and dialogue. As a nation, we must each begin to identify and name our biases, the implicit and the explicit, in order to build meaningful partnerships between communities. Only then, will we be able to move forward towards the peace and love humanity deserves. Only then, will we be able to move forward towards the peace and love humanity deserves.