



**Statement on Racial Justice from the  
Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, Inc.  
June 26, 2020**

We, the board of directors and staff of the Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance, are saddened and outraged with the recent and ongoing senseless deaths of unarmed black men and women. We recognize Rayshard Brooks, George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, and many others.

We stand by peace and justice. We are all in this together. Let us all call on decision makers to figure out how we got to this point. Change has to start at the top.

Black lives matter. Our lives matter. They didn't have to wrestle George Floyd to the ground and put knees on his neck.

Enough's enough.

We hold the police accountable by speaking up and speaking out and saying 'we demand justice'! We need justice for black people. Hire black people, advocate for more funding for schools, special education and jobs.

We demand that our voices be heard! We need to voice our needs and wants to legislators and companies. We encourage people with disabilities to learn about the power of self advocacy.

We at the Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance hereby reaffirm our commitment, energy and intent to work in collaboration with our Alliance partners and those we serve to actively fight against racism and oppression. We commit to actively support, empower and include diverse people of color voices in our work to advocate for a more inclusive society.

#BlackLivesMatter, #saytheirnames

In Solidarity,

Tavarus Wesley- Board Chair, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

James Cansler- Board Vice Chair, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

Tara Ahern - Project Director, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



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