

Since May 25, 2020, when a 46-year-old black American man, George Floyd, died at the hands of the Minneapolis police, mass protests have been held around the world against systemic racism and white supremacy.

In Canada and Quebec, there is a common misconception that we are exempt from systemic racism and white supremacy – which is not true. Anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism thrives in Canada and since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-Asian racism has also reared its ugly head. To deny its existence, is to deny the lived experiences of hundreds of thousand of Canadians.

As an organization that has been advocating equality, social justice, and education for women, for over 60 years, we stand in solidarity with the protesters who are seeking justice due to racialized violence, and we support people’s rights to engage in freedom of peaceful assembly, as proclaimed in Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations General Assembly, 1948)

We encourage our members to actively get involved with this important cause. In addition to attending civil protests and memorials, letter-writing campaigns to local, provincial, and federal politicians are also important. We also recommend that our members listen actively to the voices of those who are affected by systemic injustices, and to collaborate as allies to help share their messages. Donating money or time to local community activist groups is also welcomed.

Recent examples of anti-Black, anti-Asian, and anti-Indigenous violence and discrimination in communities across North America, remind us that we have more work to do to stop the racism and bias that continues to plague our society. The MLUWC wants to be part of the solution.