



February 13, 2023

86 –45 Edgerton Blvd.,
Jamaica, New York
11432

President Joseph Biden
Office of the President

Vice President Kamala Harris
Office of the Vice President

Representative Jerrold Nadler
D – New York

Senator Cory Booker
D – New Jersey

Senator Tim Scott
R – South Carolina

Senator Dick Durbin
D – Chair Senate Judiciary Committee

Representative Jim Jordan
R – Chair House Judiciary Committee

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee
D – Texas

Representative James Clyburn
D – South Carolina

Representative Steven Horsford
D – Chair Congressional Black Caucus

Dear Honorable Representatives of the People of the United States of America:

We write to you to advocate for the re-introduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, including the Tyre Nichols Duty to Intervene Provision, to the American House of Representatives and Senate.

We understand this motion has been brought forward twice before and that several attempts at bipartisan negotiations have taken place, with no success. While we applaud your efforts, we urge you to try again and to persist until this crucial piece of legislation can move forward to passage.

There is a moral imperative before you and the entire country. It has been stated that “if we don’t have change at the federal level, we don’t get to the true power of civil rights because we then still end up with a patchwork of changes that don’t make for an equal experience.” (Feb. 6, 2023, The Guardian: Lauren Gambino, “What is the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and is it likely to pass?”) It is clear to us that while the changes that are needed to confront and end racism, both individual and systemic, require a conversion of heart and mind, there are also urgent needs for reform in both legislation and policing practice.

We are the Passionist Solidarity Network, an expression of The Congregation of the Passion, a community of Roman Catholic priests, brothers, sisters, and lay people who have a commitment to the wounded and crucified of this world. The Passionist Solidarity Network reflects the Passionist charism of remembering Jesus Christ's Passion by entering into solidarity with the crucified of today: the Earth, our Common Home, and those who are marginalized, minimized and minoritized by our social, political, and economic systems. It is in this context that we speak out today and urge you to act in memory of George Floyd and Tyre Nichols, and so many others who have been unjustly treated and violated by law enforcement.

It is our express commitment as a Passionist Family to manifest the fullness and beauty of the reality of our multicultural incarnation. We are further committed to a process of consciousness-raising, genuine conversion of heart and repentance for where we have failed, and to the reform of our institutions and society that it compels.

Therefore, it is in this context that we write to you, our brothers and sisters elected to lead, who seek to make this Nation the very best it can be. We submit to you that we can only be our best when we keep all who are victims of discrimination, hatred, and violence before us and recognize that we are one people whose dignity and human rights must be respected and ensured at all times.

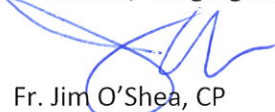
Please use whatever influence and power you have been granted to move this proposed legislation into reality. You will be doing what is right and honoring the profound responsibility you have been given.

Be assured of our prayers and support for your good work.

Sincerely,



Fr. Joseph Moons, CP
Provincial, Congregation of the Passion, Holy Cross Province



Fr. Jim O'Shea, CP
Provincial, Congregation of the Passion, St. Paul of the Cross Province



Michael Nasello
Director, Passionist Solidarity Network