

UWMS Statement on Racial Equality and Justice

The recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and so many others before them, serve as tragic reminders of how systematic racism remains far too prevalent in our society. In addition, other behaviors like the frantic 911 call by Amy Cooper demonstrate the endemic nature of racist behavior that all so easily could lead to tragedy. The pain that these injustices inflict, especially to members of our African American communities, appears to be constant and endless. We all must strive towards racial equality and social justice in our daily interactions.

The Upper Westchester Muslim Society (UWMS) condemns in the strongest possible terms all these injustices and we stand with our African American communities and all people of conscience calling for racial equality and justice amid these latest incidents of tragic and unnecessary loss of life.

We are all sons and daughters of Adam and deserving of respect and compassion. Nearly 1400 years ago, in his last sermon, the Prophet Mohamed (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) declared that:

“...an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also, a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over a white – except by piety and good action.”

These few but powerful words form the basis of racial and ethnic equality for all people, for all time. We are all equal in the sight of God and can elevate ourselves only through good deeds and good character. We ask that people of all faith and people of no faith recognize that one's race, language, faith, or gender should not be used to target or cause pain. We mourn the lives lost, but we remain hopeful that the future will, God willing, be more equitable and just for all people. May God increase compassion and justice among the people of the United States and all people of the world. May He guide us to live by the words of Prophet Mohamed's (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) last sermon and deal justly with one another. May He give mercy and patience to the families of all those who have lost their lives to injustice.