



**UNA-USA**  
United Nations Association of the  
United States of America  
Gainesville Chapter  
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### **Statement of Solidarity for Racial Equity and Justice**

The United Nations General Assembly in a meeting on Dec 10, 1948 proclaimed: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a common standard of living for all people and nations. The document was drafted by representatives with different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds under the leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of President Roosevelt and appointed to the UN mission by President Truman. It has 30 articles including the following. “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.” “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression—.” “Everyone has the right to freedom and peaceful assembly and association.” The Preamble to the US Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

It is apparent that the treatment of minorities in our country, particularly African Americans, does not conform to the rights enshrined in the UN charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and US constitution. Slavery, Jim Crow laws, years of oppression, systemic racism, discriminatory justice system, police brutality, and human rights abuses of African Americans, make a mockery of these documents. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and countless others at the hands of law enforcement personnel have led to worldwide protests, from small towns in America to big cities in the US and the world.

We, the members of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, Gainesville chapter (UNA-USA/Gainesville) stand in solidarity with the African American Community and denounce systemic racism, injustice, police brutality, human rights abuses and the use of force by the law enforcement agencies against peaceful marchers and demonstrators. Our hearts go out to the families of those who have lost their lives. We agree with President Carter that *“Dehumanizing people debases us all; humanity is beautifully and almost infinitely diverse. The bonds of our common humanity must overcome the divisiveness of our fears and prejudices.”*

We encourage people to raise their voices against governmental overreach, injustice, and racial discrimination and use all resources available to them including right to vote to bring about changes in the system, to a more equal and peaceful world.

**NO Equity. NO Justice. NO Peace.**

*Approved by the Board of Directors of the United Nations Association of the USA, Gainesville Chapter and signed by the President, Saeed Khan, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, via video conference*