



June 2, 2020

Statement from Patrick Bresette, Executive Director of CDF-TX

The Texas office of the Children's Defense Fund has worked tirelessly for 20 years to make sure every child has a level playing field, particularly children of color. At the very heart of our work is our commitment to dismantling the systemic racism and inequality that plague the lives of millions of black and brown children across our country. We are horrified by the violent killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade and other Black Americans which show that our fight against institutional racism and white supremacy is far from over. For the good of our children, it's time for change and we invite everyone to join Black Lives Matter and other groups supporting peaceful protests across our country.

Eliminating systematic racial injustice is not someone else's fight. Solving it must matter to all of us and not just as a moral imperative. The fight itself can bring out our best selves. If we succeed we can begin the path toward a more productive and peaceful society. For all of us who believe that a fair and just society is the best for ourselves and our children, it is the issue and the fight of our lifetimes. It is not someone else's fight.*

Lastly, I want to share the words of our founder from an essay she wrote five years ago, after Charleston; as true today as it was then.

"I hope this latest chapter in America's pervasive history of domestic terrors against millions of Black citizens victimized by slavery and Jim Crow terrorism, denied full citizen rights throughout our history, relegated to subhuman three-fifths status in our Constitution and treated like beasts of burden to fuel our unjust economic system can be squarely confronted. Until the United States sees and cures its profoundly evil birth defects of slavery, Native American genocide, and the exclusion of all women and non-propertied men of all colors from our electoral process, these birth defects will continue to flare up in multiple guises to threaten our Black community's and everyone's safety, our nation's future, and render hollow our professed but still inadequate commitment to ensuring equality for all." Marian Wright Edelman from America - What do We do After Charleston, July 2, 2015.

With hope and solidarity,

Patrick Bresette
Executive Director
CDF-Texas

*Thanks to my friend and social justice warrior John Bouman for this reminder