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Women for Afghan Women Resolute in its Solidarity with Black Lives Matter

Women for Afghan Women calls for new strategies to ensure equal access, equal opportunity, and equal rights for communities of color

(New York, NY) June 12, 2020 – The board, staff, and clients of [Women for Afghan Women \(WAW\)](#), the largest Afghan women’s rights organization in the world, stand in solidarity with our Black sisters and brothers in denouncing all forms of discrimination and in the call to liberate this nation from the systemic racism that has stunted us from reaching our full potentials.

The worsening economic insecurity and political polarization in the United States (US) have been compounded by a pandemic that has laid bare the inequities that have led to disproportionately high COVID-19 infection and mortality rates in communities of color. This harsh reality is further amplified by the brutal deaths of Black Americans—[most recently, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd](#)—at the hands of police or individuals who act with impunity and feel immune to the consequences of committing hate crimes.

Today, WAW fully endorses the constitutional rights of all Americans to peacefully protest and applauds the nationwide demonstrations against the systemic racism and police brutality that have long ruthlessly oppressed, incarcerated, and taken countless Black Americans’ lives. As a grassroots organization that endeavors to defend, protect, and empower the rights of Afghan and immigrant women and children, we commit to confronting racism and anti-blackness in the communities within which we work, and commit to even more diversity on our staff and board. We also stand resolutely with the demands of the [#BlackLivesMatter](#) movement to create a more just society and to deploy all our resources to eradicate the root causes of racial and economic injustice in the US and around the globe.

Today, WAW calls on all our elected officials, at the federal, state, and local levels, to develop and implement immediate plans to demilitarize police forces, increase investment in nonviolent response training, and develop and uplift communities where policing has oppressed rather than served and protected.

We call on more investment into marginalized and underserved communities that have long been unjustly profiled and discounted. We call for an immediate reversal of decades of policies that have led to the defunding of public education and economic empowerment programs in communities of color. And we demand equal access to proper healthcare.

To create a just society, free from discrimination, our government and its elected officials must recognize and put into action, once and for all, the only solution and strategy to combat systemic racism, violence, poverty, insecurity, and instability: equal access, equal opportunity, and equal protection under the law for all.

This path forward is our only communal hope to unburden our embattled nation so that we can enjoy the prosperity, peace, and harmony that is every individual’s birthright.

Black Lives Matter.



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Women for Afghan Women (WAW) is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to securing and protecting the rights of disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York, particularly their rights to develop their individual potential, to self-determination, and to be represented in all areas of life: political, social, cultural, and economic. WAW advocates for women's rights and challenges the norms that underpin gender-based violence wherever opportunities arise to influence attitudes and bring about change.

www.womenforafghanwomen.org