

IGLYO statement in support of antiracist uprisings in the United States

A Statement

IGLYO stands united with black people, people of colour, indigenous people and allies, who are resisting and uprising against systematic racism and police brutality in the United States, sparked by the killing of George Floyd.

As we enter Pride Month, we remember and celebrate a key moment in the global LGBTQI rights movement, in which members of the community - in particular trans women of colour - stood up against similar police violence and brutality during the Stonewall Riots. While LGBTQI rights have made significant progress, until all of us within the LGBTQI community are safe from violence and discrimination as a result of our skin colour, race or ethnicity, we must stand united against such hate.

We recognise that the current events are both a result of and a response to the systematic racism and xenophobia, affecting black people and people of colour in the United States and many other parts of the world. We believe that systematic racism and xenophobia must be met with a systematic and intersectional response, so that no one is left behind.

It is important to highlight that this should not be framed solely as an issue affecting black people in the United States. In the past years, the institutionalised and systematic racism and xenophobia within many countries of the Council of Europe region have become increasingly evident. In particular, the European Union's migration policy has led to the death, enslavement, exploitation, criminalisation, detainment, torture and deportation of countless black people and other ethnic minorities, amongst whom are LGBTQI+ migrants.¹

The current riots and uprisings further expose the urgent need to strengthen LGBTQI organisations' work on multiple and intersectional discriminations that affect many of us within our community. Through this, it is fundamental to significantly increase our efforts in addressing the racism still too often present within LGBTQI spaces and communities.

As the current uprisings were sparked by the tragic death of George Floyd and the many who died before him at the hands of racism and police brutality, we mourn and stand united with their families as they grieve.

¹ See for example Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reports concerning the human rights abuses of migrants in Libyan detention camps and at the Greece-Turkey borders. Reports last accessed 1st June 2020: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/01/21/no-escape-hell/eu-policies-contribute-abuse-migrants-libya> , <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/01/libya-renewal-of-migration-deal-confirms-italys-complicity-in-torture-of-migrants-and-refugees/> , <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/04/greece-turkey-asylum-seekers-and-migrants-killed-and-abused-at-borders/>

