Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As racial turmoil has gripped the country, we at The Midas Collaborative have been filled with anger, horror, and sadness – as well as continued frustration – that our country still, after 400 years, falls so woefully short of full racial equality. We grieve for the lives and loved ones of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, David McAtee, and countless other victims of race-based police brutality and violence perpetrated by white supremacists, and we share the anger that protestors are expressing across the nation.

Centuries of systemic racism have brought us to where we are today.

We are angered by the violent reactions of police upon citizens engaging in peaceful protest, and appalled by the use of federal government resources to attack protestors. We condemn the violence coming from those tasked with keeping our citizens safe. We stand together with the individuals left behind by an economic system that is grossly skewed toward the already wealthy and an unbalanced justice system that is so blatantly biased against black people.

Black Lives Matter. Policies and systems must change and it must happen now.

It is Midas’ mission to support low- and moderate-income communities through financial education and empowerment. We work predominantly with communities of color, women, and working class families who have been historically oppressed and repressed by our nation’s biased economic systems. We advocate for fairer laws and regulations, including increasing minimum wage and the earned income tax credit, debt-free public higher education, tax increases on the wealthiest, and abolishing predatory debt collection practices and unfair use of credit reports.

Financial education and empowerment threads through all aspects of life, including physical and mental health. The COVID-19 pandemic has vividly highlighted for all the many vulnerabilities of black and brown communities. Midas believes all individuals in the United States, regardless of gender, race, class or disability status, should have equal access to America’s economic and health resources. Our mission remains as important as ever, and we will approach our work with added fervor.

We see you and we support you. We will continue to stand alongside you to fight for racial equality and against systemic racism.

If you would like to learn how you can help in this fight, here are a few organizations leading the charge:

https://www.aclu.org/
https://blacklivesmatter.com/
https://www.naacp.org/
https://eji.org/
https://colorofchange.org/
https://www.joincampaignzero.org/

#blacklivesmatter #wearedonedying #georgefloydprotest #icantbreathe #protest2020

Sincerely,

Kimberly Hirsh, Executive Director and Angela Gomes, Board Chair

The Midas Collaborative | midascollab.org