



## Statement on the Derek Chauvin Verdict

This is a step towards justice; this is not justice. George Floyd deserved to watch his children and grandchildren grow up. The Houston, Texas native deserved the opportunity not often afforded to Black people when they encounter law enforcement--to be taken into custody without incident or bodily harm--like other American citizens.

While it's essential that we celebrate this verdict, we can't let it distract us. Derek Chauvin is just one of many officers who need to be prosecuted and convicted. For decades, police have operated with carte blanche and seemingly above the law, as murders of Black civilians have been deemed legal. And these crimes against communities have been upheld by juries. Hence, the term "state-sanctioned violence."

In Los Angeles alone, over 600 citizens have been murdered since 2012. **We join Black Lives Matter LA and so many other organizations in our expectations that the new District Attorney George Gascon will do whatever necessary to prosecute these killer cops employed by the LAPD and LA Sheriff's Department.** We must continue to organize while we demand present and future funding to be moved away from over-militarized law enforcement and into systems of care that keep us safe like housing, education, job training, healthcare, and youth programs. The safest communities are the most well-resourced.

Today's small taste of justice is far from the cup we are due. We are sending love to the family and friends of George Floyd and Black families nationwide who've lost loved ones at the hands of the police. Onward to liberation.