Humanity - The Burden Is Ours to Bear

Humanity has been tested to the core through the actions played out with the unjust killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and many more black people at the hands of racial bias and police brutality. We condemn the broken systems that oppress and discriminate against black and brown people and inflict racial biases. We condemn the refusal to acknowledge and dismantle the privilege that enables hatred, racism, and violence that has been displayed in a manner that cannot be overlooked.

The failure of our society has caused viral outrage of a lifetime of fear and disappointment living in the soul and hearts of hundreds of thousands of women, especially Black women and women of color. I speak for myself and my experience as a Black wife and the mother of a Black son in saying that I carry a constant worry for my husband and son’s safety if stopped by the police. It is our reality while living in a world where the justice has not always been just and the lives and rights of all citizens are not valued. The agonizing pit in my stomach from my own experience is one that I do not want my granddaughters to inherit as her future.

As an organization, the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis is respected and recognized for our work, investment and leadership. We value racial, economic, religious, educational, and gender diversity in our community. We stand with and by organizations on the frontlines fighting for racial justice across the nation and in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter.

Our call to action is to:
1) educate and engage in community activism,
2) learn about and engage in issues for systemic change,
3) speak out against injustice; and
4) support local organizations that provide community-based solutions to end racial discrimination.

We continue to believe that with the power of hope, love and faith it will give us the strength to unite for the decency of humanity and equality for all. Women everywhere must join hands in solidarity.

“Help me Mama!” was one of Mr. Floyd’s last cries for his dearest love, his mother. She can’t stand up for him now, but we can! All women—black, brown, and white—can speak out and against biases, using our collective power and voices to join the chorus with others and demand systems change. We must work together to eliminate the racism so we never see another black man beg to breathe or be pressed down to his last breath calling upon his deceased mother for help. The burden is ours to bear and we must do our part by working relentlessly to make positive social change.

In Solidarity,
Ruby Bright
President and CEO