



June 2020

To colleagues, partners, and associates,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today about another instance of violence inflicted on an African American man in America. George Floyd, a 46 year old African American, who moved to Minneapolis for a better life, died after a police officer held his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck. As a black woman with a 29 year old son, I am gravely concerned.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. We have witnessed multiple senseless killings and violence against people of color in the United States, including most recently, Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick and Breonna Taylor, in Kentucky who was shot and killed when police entered her home in March.

Floyd, Arbery, and Taylor are not statistics but rather they are Americans and the latest individuals who lost their lives because of what they look like. Acts of racial bias and violence are deeply troubling, and we must come together to condemn racism that enables such tragedies.

At CHNCT, we know all too well about the longstanding economic injustice against people of color and their communities. We have seen this clearly during the Coronavirus pandemic; communities of color (Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury) were and are more vulnerable and more harshly affected than other communities.

Five or so years ago, former President Barack Obama wrote that, ***"When incidents like this occur, there's a big chunk of our fellow citizenry that feels as if because of the color of their skin, they are not being treated the same. And that hurts. And that should trouble all of us. This is not just a black issue. It's not just a Hispanic issue. This is an American issue that we should all care about. All fair-minded people should be concerned."***

At CHNCT we recognize that what we do each day can positively impact the lives of many persons of color in Connecticut. Our mission speaks to what we do so well, improving the health of underserved and vulnerable populations by providing access to high quality and comprehensive healthcare.

Please join me in support for the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, as they come to terms with their new reality.

Sylvia B. Kelly
President & CEO