For Immediate Release
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Joint Statement from Gov. Gary R. Herbert, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission, and Multicultural Commission Following the Death of George Floyd

SALT LAKE CITY (June 4, 2020) - On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, Gov. Gary R. Herbert called an emergency joint meeting of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission and the Multicultural Commission. As the Nation mourns with George Floyd's family this day, the Governor, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission and the Multicultural Commission have released the following statement.

> "We are deeply saddened and heartbroken by the brutal and inhumane murder of Mr. George Floyd and the many lives taken before him. Their deaths have prompted the community to pause and reflect how racism and injustice affects everyone individually and collectively in our daily lives, but also to consider how it is uniquely felt by communities of color.

> We grieve alongside their families, friends, community and the nation. Together, we must play a role in demonstrating compassion, dignity, and respect, as neighbors, co-workers, and parents to foster a more welcoming, inclusive, accessible and equitable community and world to live in.

> We are here to make the necessary call for us all to work together, to help one another, to listen intentionally to those who feel unheard, to be braver and better, to create the solution for such a time as this, and commit to eradicate racism from our thoughts, words, deeds and actions. We cannot regulate the hearts of others, but we can surely hold them accountable and continually work to change our own for greater empathy and indignation when we witness harm against another.

Those of us, and all who oppose violence and oppression against any group of people, must be the most committed and vocal advocates for justice.

We know that America's "sin" of racism is still too prevalent. People from marginalized communities who suffer everyday indignities and who now march to protest the deeply rooted historical and systemic oppression are looking to each of us to say in words and actions, "no more."

The time to usher in change and healing is now. The time to learn from our history that tells a tale of a divided nation can guide us to do better and to fiercely work to achieve equity and inclusion in our policies and practices.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission, the Multicultural Commission, and the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs stand in solidarity with Utah leadership, stakeholders, community members and trusted leaders to declare that what happened to Mr. George Floyd is now the catalyst to transform the fabric of America into a tapestry of equity and racial justice for all.

We look forward to advancing efforts for change and creating a Utah where families of all races and backgrounds feel safe, heard, and valued."

Gary R. Herbert, Governor
Spencer J. Cox, Lt. Governor, co-chair, Multicultural Commission
Byron Russell, co-chair, Multicultural Commission
Emma E. Houston, chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission
Simba Maponga, vice-chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission
Nubia Peña, director, Division of Multicultural Affairs

Members of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Commission
Adrienne Andrews
Perry Bankhead
Luna Banuri
Neelam Chand
Dr. Karen Johnson
Caitlin McDonald
Bart Powaukee
Bridget Shears
Eddy Thompson
Sarah Vaughn

Members of the Multicultural Commission
Jess Anderson
Pamela Atkinson
Dr. Marc Babitz
Emilio Camu

Rebecca Chavez-Houck
Jill Flygare
Marcia Garciaz
Mike Haddon
Dr. Nathan Hanamaikai
Dean Hirabayashi
Jill Love
Stacy Miller
Jean Mills-Barber
Dr. Len Novilla
Dr. Tino Nyawelo
Jeremy Peterson
Jon Pierpont
Tami Pyfer
Dr. Kyle Reyes
Satin Tashnizi
Dr. Jacqueline Thompson
Lillian Tsosie-Jensen
Michelle Tuitupou
Ming Wang
Ze Min Xiao

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